

# FINDING THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A STORY

Student name  Class  Date

The following chart can be used to focus on and record some of the most common and important elements of a story. As a Word document, it can be completed by computer, saved and printed as needed.

**Story Title:**  **Author**

**1. CHARACTERS:** All stories have characters that the author presents in the story. These are the easiest elements to locate. Characters may be people, animals, or objects, or even places that the writer uses to tell the story. As you read, write the names of the characters found in the story. **Circle the character's name that seems like the lead or main figure in the story.**

Character's name	Tell something that the author has written about this character and his/her/its role.
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**2. SETTING:** Writers, to add interest, always let readers know where and when the story takes place (for example, what period of history, or seasons of the year). Sometimes the writer gives so many details it seems to paint a picture you can see in your imagination. These details are called the "setting" of the story. Writers always let the reader know where and when the story is written. Look for clues that the writer gives about the setting.

Facts/details that show <b>WHEN</b> this story happened	Facts/details that tell you <b>WHERE</b> this story took place	Facts/details that tell the feeling or mental state = <b>the tone</b> in the
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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**3. PLOT:** Every story has ongoing events, plus actions by characters. A writer usually starts a story by introducing characters and problems that they face. The sequence of main actions (in the present, past, future) by characters, as they respond to and solve problems through time, is called the plot.

1. Write down the main problem of this story.

2. How did this problem get fixed?

**4. THEME/MAIN IDEA/MEANING:** A main idea may be a big situation facing the characters (such as a war, or a journey to discover new land), and how they reacted. Or, a main idea can be a lesson learned in reading the story. **Sometimes a single sentence tells the story's main lesson.** Examples: In the story of the Three Little Pigs, the lesson is that those who prepare carefully will be safe through all kinds of dangers. Another way to **tell the lesson** is: when a person only plays and wastes time, someday he will be very sorry for not preparing wisely for the future.

**What is the MAIN idea or the meaning of the story?**

Find three facts that prove this idea is important?

1.

2.

3.

## ABOUT THE TITLE:

How did the title influence your understanding of the story?

What other meanings could the title have for this story?