



Story elements

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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Stories have a beginning, a middle, and an ending.

The beginning of a story tells you *who* the story is mostly about, and *where* the story mostly takes place.

The **characters** are *who* the story is mostly about.  
The **setting** is *where* the story mostly takes place.

The middle of a story tells you the *things that happen* in the story.

The **events** are the *main things that happen* in the story.

The **plot** is *all of the events* in the story. The plot usually includes some kind of *problem*.

The ending of a story tells *how the problem is solved*.

The **problem solution** is *how the problem is solved*.

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Think about these **story elements** as you read the introduction to a book you might like to read.

Introduction to *Hotel for Dogs*

Hotel for Dogs is a funny book written by Lois Duncan. It doesn't start out funny, though. Bruce and Andi's family has just moved to a new town. Bruce is in sixth grade, and Andi is in fourth. They are staying at their aunt's house until their parents find a new house. Bruce and Andi aren't very happy about this because their dog Bebe can't stay at Aunt Alice's house with them. Aunt Alice is allergic to dogs.

On the first day at Aunt Alice's house, their aunt introduces Bruce and Andi to Jerry, who lives next door. Jerry is Bruce's age, and he has a dog named Red Rover. Later that day, Bruce and Andi see Jerry and Red Rover again, in Jerry's front yard. Jerry is pushing Red Rover to try to make him pull a wagon. Bruce runs over to Jerry and tells him that Red Rover will not like him if he keeps treating him that way, but Jerry tells Bruce to mind his own business. Jerry

shoves Andi out of the way and starts to leave. He calls Red Rover to come with him. But Red Rover just moves over closer to Bruce.

Bruce and Andi miss Bebe. When Andi walks home from school each day, she pretends that Bebe is walking along behind her. One rainy morning, Andi sees a cute little white dog sitting on Aunt Alice's porch to keep dry. She picks up the little dog and pets it. She wishes she could keep it. When she comes home from school that day and goes to her closet, there on the floor is the little white dog. And three tiny puppies! Andi doesn't know what to do. She knows the dog can't stay in Aunt Alice's house. She is afraid if she tells Bruce he will tell their parents, and then the dog and her puppies will have to go.

Finally Andi decides to tell Bruce, and he helps her keep the secret. They find a house nearby with no one living in it and take the little dog and its puppies there. They make a nice bed for the dogs, and every day they take them food, and play with them. They are also careful to keep the house clean. Then Red Rover runs away from Jerry, and shows up at the house where Bruce and Andi are keeping the little white dog and her puppies. They let Red Rover stay there too. The house is becoming a regular dog hotel! Before long more dogs are added, and Bruce and Andi let two friends in on the secret. The addition of these two friends is a big help, but things just keep getting crazier and crazier. To find out more about all that, you'll have to read *Hotel for Dogs*.

Now let's think about the **story elements**.

1. **Characters:** *Who* is this story mostly about?
 - A. Bruce, Andi, and Aunt Alice
 - B. Bruce, Andi, and Jerry
 - C. Bruce and Andi

2. **Setting:** *Where* are the characters when the story begins?
 - A. at school
 - B. at Aunt Alice's house
 - C. at a hotel

3. **Problem:** What *problem* do the main characters have?
 - A. Jerry is mean to Red Rover.
 - B. Aunt Alice is allergic to dogs.
 - C. Jerry is rude to Bruce and Andi.

Events: What are the *main things that happen* in the story?

Some of the following are main events in this story. Some are small details, and some did not happen in this story.

4. Circle the 6 main events in this story.

A. Jerry leaves, and calls Red Rover to come with him.	B. Andi tells Bruce about the little white dog and its puppies.	C. Jerry helps take care of all the dogs at the dog hotel.
D. Bruce and Andi's family has bought a new house near Aunt Alice.	E. Andi finds the little white dog and its puppies in a closet.	F. Bruce and Andi let Red Rover stay at the dog hotel.
G. Andi pets the little white dog.	H. Aunt Alice introduces Bruce and Andi to Jerry.	I. Bruce and Andi tell all their friends about the dog hotel.
J. Bruce and Andi find a house for the dog and her puppies.	K. Jerry's dog is named Red Rover.	L. Bruce tells Jerry he shouldn't hit Red Rover with a stick.

5. Put the main events in the correct order. Write the letter of the event from the boxes above in the correct order in the boxes below.

1 st event	2 nd event	3 rd event	4 th event	5 th event	6 th event

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6. **Problem Solution:** How is the *problem solved*?

The *problem solution* is not included in this introduction to the book. What is a possible way that Bruce and Andi could get themselves out of this crazy situation that started because they couldn't keep a dog at Aunt Alice's house?

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## Answer Key

1. C
2. B
3. B
- 4.

|                                                                           |                                                                        |                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A.</b> Jerry leaves, and calls Red Rover to come with him.             | <b>B.</b> Andi tells Bruce about the little white dog and its puppies. | <b>C.</b> Jerry helps take care of all the dogs at the dog hotel.    |
| <b>D.</b> Bruce and Andi's family has bought a new house near Aunt Alice. | <b>E.</b> Andi finds the little white dog and its puppies in a closet. | <b>F.</b> Bruce and Andi let Red Rover stay at the dog hotel.        |
| <b>G.</b> Andi pets the little white dog.                                 | <b>H.</b> Aunt Alice introduces Bruce and Andi to Jerry.               | <b>I.</b> Bruce and Andi tell all their friends about the dog hotel. |
| <b>J.</b> Bruce and Andi find a house for the dog and her puppies.        | <b>K.</b> Jerry's dog is named Red Rover.                              | <b>L.</b> Bruce tells Jerry he shouldn't hit Red Rover with a stick. |

- 5.

| 1 <sup>st</sup> event | 2 <sup>nd</sup> event | 3 <sup>rd</sup> event | 4 <sup>th</sup> event | 5 <sup>th</sup> event | 6 <sup>th</sup> event |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| H                     | L                     | E                     | B                     | J                     | F                     |

6. Accept any reasonable answers. For example, Jerry might find out that Red Rover is staying at the dog hotel, and realize that he shouldn't have been so mean to his dog. He helps Bruce and Andi find good homes for all the dogs.