

Story elements: Characters, setting & plot

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Story elements are the main parts of a story.

They include the characters, setting, events, problem and solution.

Read the story below and then answer the story element questions.

Life hasn't been the same for Willow over the past few months. Willow and her best friend, Annie, used to be inseparable. They were in the same fourth-grade class and did everything together. Then Annie had to move unexpectedly in the middle of the school year because her dad got a new job. It came without much warning, and before Willow knew it, her best friend was gone.

All of a sudden, Willow realized that Annie was the reason things used to be fun. It was Annie who made her giggle and Annie who used to think up creative games to play. It was also Annie who had lots of other friends and, because of that, Willow got to play with other children too. When Annie moved, though, it seemed like everything changed. She felt invisible all of a sudden, and she missed her best friend.

One day at recess, Willow was sitting on a bench watching the other kids play. When she turned to look at the clock on the side of the school, she noticed a piece of paper taped to the school's brick wall. It seemed like there was a message written on it, so she got up to take a closer look.

What she found was a piece of paper that looked like it was torn out of a notebook. On the top, someone had written "Ways to Make the Day Better" in marker. Below was a list of three ideas, each written in different handwriting:

1. Share a funny joke.
2. Go outside.
3. Make up a secret handshake with someone.



"Huh, I like the idea of this," Willow thought to herself.

Over the next week, Willow checked out the list every time she was at recess. Each day, more ideas had been added, but she still didn't know who was doing it!

Finally, after a couple of weeks of sitting alone at recess and watching the list grow, she had an idea. After checking with the art teacher and gathering some supplies, she got to work. She spread a big blanket on the blacktop at the beginning

of recess and then used the waterproof paint and paintbrush to carefully begin her mural.

“How to Brighten Your Day,” she carefully painted at the top of the wall. As she painted, some of her classmates came over and asked her what she was doing. When they heard, they grabbed a paintbrush and started helping. Before she knew it, almost everyone in her class was helping create the mural! Some students worked on writing the words, some brainstormed more ideas and others painted designs. They worked together every day that week, making sure the mural was the best it could be.

On Friday afternoon, they stepped back to admire their completed project. Willow couldn't believe how much she had accomplished in one week... not only had she painted a new mural, but she had made friends, too!

1. What is the setting (timing and place) of this story?

2. Who are the main characters in this story?

3. What is the story's problem?

4. How is the problem solved?

Answers

1. What is the setting (timing and place) of this story?
This story takes place at Willow's elementary school, during recess.
2. Who are the main characters in this story?
Willow, Annie and their fourth-grade classmates
3. What is the story's problem?
Willow is lonely after her best friend, Annie, moves.
4. How is the problem solved?
Willow uses a piece of paper that she finds as inspiration for a mural. As she paints, her classmates join in to help and Willow is able to make friends.