

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.

When Calvin turned 12 years old, his parents decided that he was finally old enough to take the bus by himself. Amesbury, the city where he lived, wasn't too big or busy, but there were always lots of cars on the streets. For this reason, Calvin's family usually tried to take the bus so they didn't have to drive in all the traffic! Normally, Calvin's mom or grandmother rode the bus with him on the way home from school. Now that he was 12, though, they decided he was mature enough to do it alone.

Calvin's mom gave him a little map that had all the bus stops in the city. They looked at the map together, and she explained where they lived, where school was and where his best friends lived. She also reminded him how the five different bus lines worked, but Calvin said he already knew this part!

The next morning, Calvin gave his mom a hug goodbye and took the #5 bus to his school. He had done the route hundreds of times, and it was easy. He even knew the bus driver, Larry.

"Have a good day!" Larry called to him as he got off the bus across from his elementary school.

Later, after a long day of school and soccer practice, Calvin got back on the bus to go home. He was surprised to see a new bus driver when he boarded. Usually, Larry was there to drive him home too, but today there was a driver who he didn't recognize. After saying hello and paying his fare, Calvin sat down in his usual seat: six rows from the back and by the window. Then he started watching the world go by as he headed toward home.

He must not have realized that his eyelids were growing heavy... because thirty minutes later, he woke with a start and realized he had missed his stop!



“Last stop, coming up!” the new bus driver announced.

Calvin looked out the window and saw a park that he did not recognize. There were lots of families with kids playing on the grass. In the corner, he noticed two police officers who were sitting on a bench with cups of coffee. “Thank goodness,” Calvin thought to himself. Then he slung his backpack over his shoulder and got off the bus.



“Excuse me,” Calvin said as he approached the two police officers. “I’m sorry to interrupt, but I missed my bus stop and I have no idea where I am!”

“Don’t worry,” one of the police officers said. “I’m Officer Matt and this is Officer Kate. That’s what we’re here for. Do you know your home address?”

“Yes! 7 Crest Road,” Calvin replied. “My grandma should be waiting for me.”

“That’s not very far,” Officer Kate said. “It’s only about 10 minutes away. We can give you a ride home.”

Calvin walked with the two police officers back to their police car. He couldn’t figure out if he felt nervous, excited or embarrassed to be riding with them! He did know, though, that he felt thankful that they were there to help.

“Should we put on the siren?” Officer Kate asked with a wink. “You’ll get home faster that way!” She then showed Calvin where the siren button was in the car, and she let him push it! As the siren whirred and cars pulled off to the side, Calvin felt pretty special.

“Alright, that’s enough of that!” Officer Matt said. “Normally, we only use the siren for real emergencies. Right now is thankfully not one of them!”

Five minutes later, the police car pulled up outside Calvin’s house.

“Here you go!” Officer Matt said. “Next time, Calvin, remember to get off at your right stop!”

“I will. I promise!” Calvin said. “Thank you, again, for all of your help.”

Then he grabbed his backpack, hopped out of the car and ran up the steps. He knew his grandma would ask him why he was late, and he sure hoped she wouldn’t be upset when he explained what had happened.

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?
Around the city of Amesbury
2. Who are the main characters in this story?
Calvin, Calvin's Mom, Officer Kate, Officer Matt
3. What is the story's problem?
Calvin falls asleep on the bus and misses his stop! He winds up getting off at a park at the end of the bus line.
4. How is the problem solved?
Calvin finds two police officers who give him a ride home.