



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 *Beanboy*

Bean loves comics—both reading them and drawing them. His favorite comic book character is the superhero H₂O. With enough water, H₂O can double in size. Bean buys every new issue of the comic book on the day it comes out. In Lisa Harkrader's book, *Beanboy*, we meet Bean when he has just bought the newest issue of H₂O. Sam, a boy Bean knows but doesn't like much, grabs Bean's new comic book and throws it into a puddle of water. All this makes Bean almost late to pick up his younger brother Beech at the bus stop. Bean runs all the way to the bus stop. He is worried about what might happen if he isn't there when Beech gets off the bus. Beech is 9 years old, and he goes to a different school from Bean. Bean is in the 8th grade and in High School. He takes care of

his brother in their apartment each day until their mother gets home from work. Their mother also takes college classes at night.

Bean gets to the bus stop just in time, and walks home with Beech. Beech doesn't like going up the stairs to their apartment. He likes to sit down backwards on the stairs, and push himself up, one step at a time. Bean used to try to talk Beech into walking up the stairs, but now Bean just waits. It isn't easy to get Beech to change his mind about something.

When Bean and Beech finally get inside, Beech wants Bean to read the new comic book to him. Beech can't wait to find out what happens in the new story. Bean wants to let the comic book dry out first. He is afraid the wet pages will tear. But Beech keeps asking, so Bean reads the comic book to him, and some of the pages do get torn. Bean doesn't really mind though, because he can't believe what he finds on the last page of the new comic book.

The new comic book has a big announcement. There will be a contest to see who can come up with the best sidekick for H₂O. The prize will be a full college scholarship. The new sidekick will be in every H₂O comic book from that time on. Winning the contest becomes Bean's new goal in life.

Bean really wants to join the school Art Club. But it meets after school. Someone else would have to take care of Beech on those days, and that would cost money. Bean thinks his mom would pay for it, but then she would worry about the extra expense. He knows his mom worries about leaving him to watch Beech so often. And would a babysitter be patient enough to wait while Beech scooted up the stairs sitting down backwards? You can find out more about Bean and Beech, and a sidekick for H₂O in *Beanboy*. You will probably enjoy the comic book drawings in the book as well.

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

1. **Characters:** *Who* is this story mostly about?
 - A. Bean
 - B. Beech
 - C. Bean's mom
2. **Setting:** *Where* is the main character when the story begins?
 - A. walking home from school
 - B. at the comic book store
 - C. babysitting Beech
3. **Problem:** What *problem* does the main character have?
 - A. The main character wants to buy the new issue of H₂O.
 - B. The main character wants to win the H₂O contest.
 - C. The main character wants to get a babysitter for Beech.

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. The new H2O comic book announces a big contest.	B. Bean's mom says that he can't join the school Art Club.	C. Beech scoots up the stairs backwards on his bottom.
D. Bean runs all the way to Beech's bus stop.	E. Bean's new comic book gets torn.	F. Bean lets the new comic book dry out before he reads it to Beech.
G. Bean worries about Beech staying with a babysitter.	H. Bean and Beech live in an apartment.	I. Sam throws Bean's new comic book in a puddle.
J. Sam says he is sorry for getting Bean's new comic book wet.	K. Bean thinks about joining the school Art Club.	L. Bean's mom decides to quit her job.

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 Bean might win the H2O contest, and help his mom besides?

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### Answer Key

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

|                                                                       |                                                                   |                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A.</b> The new H2O comic book announces a big contest.             | <b>B.</b> Bean's mom says that he can't join the school Art Club. | <b>C.</b> Beech scoots up the stairs backwards on his bottom.               |
| <b>D.</b> Bean runs all the way to Beech's bus stop.                  | <b>E.</b> Bean's new comic book gets torn.                        | <b>F.</b> Bean lets the new comic book dry out before he reads it to Beech. |
| <b>G.</b> Bean worries about Beech staying with a babysitter.         | <b>H.</b> Bean and Beech live in an apartment.                    | <b>I.</b> Sam throws Bean's new comic book in a puddle.                     |
| <b>J.</b> Sam says he is sorry for getting Bean's new comic book wet. | <b>K.</b> Bean thinks about joining the school Art Club.          | <b>L.</b> Bean's mom decides to quit her job.                               |

- 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 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I                     | D                     | C                     | A                     | K                     | G                     |

6. Accept any reasonable answers. For example, because of the title of the book, maybe Bean draws himself as H2O's sidekick, and wins the contest.