

THINKING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Video: Grunge: The Making of an Adventure

*Narrative Story Structure
(story map)*

Christine loves writing! She just received the latest edition of the magazine, *Kid Writers' World*, where young authors can publish their pieces. As she was flipping through the pages she came across a story called, *Farmer Joe and the Rabbit Riddle*. Loving riddles, Christine was curious about the short story published by a young author like herself! As she read, *Farmer Joe and the Rabbit Riddle*, she noticed that it was a wonderful example of narrative story structure.

Now it's Your Turn! Read *Farmer Joe and the Rabbit Riddle*. Create your own *Think Aloud* and Graphic Organizer.

Then compare your thinking with Christine's Think Aloud.



Before You Read:

Think about what you may already know about gardens and rabbits. Think about what you've learned about story elements including characters, setting, goal, problem, events, and solution. Share your thoughts with your family and friends.

While You Read:

Ask your parent, brother, sister, or friend to read this story with you. See if together you can determine the key elements the author used as a framework for the story. You may want to highlight the elements. (You may use any color available to you.)

After You Read:

- Think about how you can retell the story from the story you read.
- Discuss your ideas with your family or friends. Together, create a collaborative Think Aloud about how you used Narrative Story Structure to determine the characters, setting, goal, problem, events, and solution. Share your *thinking* with each other.

The Story: *Farmer Joe and the Rabbit Riddle* appears on page 2.



Farmer Joe And The Rabbit Riddle

Every day, Farmer Joe weeded and watered his garden. He gave particular attention to his carrots. "These are sure to win first place at the county fair!" he said.

One morning, he noticed tracks in the soft earth. He saw nibbled carrots yanked from the ground. Farmer Joe scowled. "A rabbit has found my garden!" he said. "Well, a good fence will keep him out!"

Farmer Joe gathered boards, wire, and stakes, and built a sturdy fence. "Ha!" he said, wiping his forehead. "See if any rabbit crunches my carrots now."

The next day, Farmer Joe whistled on his way to the garden. He entered through the garden gate, and that's when he saw it.

More nibbled carrots.

"How did that happen?" cried Farmer Joe. "There must be a hole in my fence."

Farmer Joe searched, but found no holes in his fence. "That's strange," he said. "But rabbits are tricky varmints with tricky ways."



Farmer Joe paced back and forth as he figured out his next move. Finally, he had an idea.

"I'll build a moat!" he said. "That's what a king did to protect his castle, and that's what I'll do to protect my garden!"

Farmer Joe worked all day digging a moat. He filled it with water, and added three alligators and a drawbridge.

The next day, Farmer Joe woke early. He marched to his garden, lowered the drawbridge and opened the fence gate.

"ARGH!" he cried. "More carrots are missing!"

Farmer Joe put his head in his tired hands. "A fence didn't keep out the rabbit, and neither did a moat."

In the distance, Farmer Joe heard a dog barking. "That's what I'll try! I'll bring in the hounds!"

Farmer Joe borrowed hounds from other farmers. He petted them and gave them treats. "Protect my garden, Hounds," he said.

But when the sun came up, Farmer Joe made another upsetting discovery. "How can it be?" he cried. "How did a rabbit hop past the hounds, swim the moat, and get through my fence to the garden?"

The hounds didn't answer, but they did lick Farmer Joe's whiskery cheek. Farmer Joe thought and thought.



"I'm going to sleep right here in the garden tonight," he decided. "Maybe then an answer will come to me."

That night, Farmer Joe snuggled up in between the two remaining rows of his carrots, and fell promptly asleep.

Later, Farmer Joe felt something nibble his mustache. He opened one eye and saw the rabbit! Farmer Joe stayed very still. He watched the rabbit hop quietly among the rows, munching here and there.

"He's been trapped in the garden all along," Farmer Joe realized. "I wasn't keeping him out, I was keeping him IN!"

Then Farmer Joe had his most brilliant idea. He opened the fence gate, let down the drawbridge and sent the hounds home.

He picked his most perfect, delicious, beautiful carrot. He set it on the grass outside the garden, and began to watch and wait.

It wasn't long before the rabbit spotted the carrot, twitched his whiskers and hopped out of the garden.

Farmer Joe clapped his hands and danced a jig. "No more rabbit!" he said. "Yee-haw!"

Farmer Joe did an even louder "yee-haw" at the county fair when his remaining carrots won first place!





Create a Graphic Organizer:

After you have determined the key story elements for *Farmer Joe and the Rabbit Riddle*, create a graphic organizer below to represent your thinking and to help you remember the important elements of the story.



Compare your Think Aloud with Christine's Think Aloud:

Christine's Think Aloud: When I read the title, *Farmer Joe and the Rabbit Riddle*, and look at the illustration I am thinking that I'm going to read a fiction story because the illustration of the rabbit seems to be a cartoon. I know that in fiction, the illustrations are often drawings and not real life photos. To help me identify and remember the elements in the story I am going to use a story map graphic organizer.

When I read the first sentence I see the name, Farmer Joe. I am thinking that Farmer Joe must be the main character in the story. On my story map I will write *Farmer Joe* next to the word *character* to indicate that he is the person the story is about. I notice in the first sentence the word *garden*. Since I know that gardens are a place, or location, I am thinking this is the *setting* of the story. On my story map, I will write *Garden* next to the word *setting* to show this is where the story is taking place.

The final two sentences in the first paragraph help me identify the *goal*. When I read that Farmer Joe gives "particular attention to his carrots," and "These are sure to win first place in the county fair!" I understand that Farmer Joe's *goal* is for his carrots to win first place at the county fair. I will write, *Win first place with carrots at the county fair*, next to the word *goal* on my story map. However, as I continue to read "tracks in the soft earth," and "nibbled carrots yanked from the ground," I'm thinking that there is a rabbit getting into his garden. When I read, "a rabbit has found my garden," I understand that my thinking was correct and that having a rabbit in the garden is the problem Farmer Joe faces. I'll write *Rabbit in the garden* on my story map, next to the word *problem*.

When I read, "a good fence will keep him out," I'm thinking that Farmer Joe is attempting to solve his problem. I will record *Build a fence*, next to the first event on my story map. Reading on I noticed the words, "the next day," "he saw it" and "more nibbled carrots."

These clues helped me know building a fence was not successful. On my story map, I will show Farmer Joe back to the level of his original problem because he found nibbled carrots.

I continue and read that Farmer Joe decides to "build a moat." I'm thinking this is his next attempt at solving his rabbit problem since the fence didn't work. On my story map, I record *Build a moat* next to the second event. When I read, "The next day" and "More carrots are missing!" I understand that his moat was unsuccessful. On my story map I will show that Farmer Joe is back to the level of his original problem because more carrots are missing.

After I read, "I'll bring in the hounds," I knew this was Farmer Joe's third attempt at solving his problem because he said, "That's what I'll try." On my story map, I record *Bring in the hounds* next to the third event. When I read, "Farmer Joe made another upsetting discovery," I'm thinking the hounds didn't work. When I read, "How did a rabbit hop past the hounds," it confirmed my thinking. Again I will show that Farmer Joe is back to his original problem.

When I read that Farmer Joe is going to sleep in his garden, I'm thinking how determined he is to get rid of the rabbit! After I read that "he opened the fence gate, let down the drawbridge, and sent the hounds home" and "set [the carrot] on the grass outside the garden," I knew this was his idea for getting the rabbit out of the garden. Finally, when I read that the rabbit hopped out of the garden I understood that Farmer Joe had solved his problem and found his solution. I will record, *Rabbit hopped out of the garden*, next to the word *solution* on my story map. Even though Farmer Joe solved his problem the text continues. As I read the last sentence of the story, "his remaining carrots won first place," I know that he was able to accomplish his goal. I record *Carrots won first place* at the end.



Farmer Joe And The Rabbit Riddle

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Farmer Joe gathered boards, wire, and stakes, and built a sturdy fence. **“Ha!”** he said, wiping his forehead. **“See if any rabbit crunches my carrots now.”**

The next day, Farmer Joe whistled on his way to the garden. He entered through the garden gate, and that's when **he saw it**.

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But when the sun came up, **Farmer Joe made another upsetting discovery**. “How can it be?” he cried. **“How did a rabbit hop past the hounds**, swim the moat and get through my fence to the garden?”

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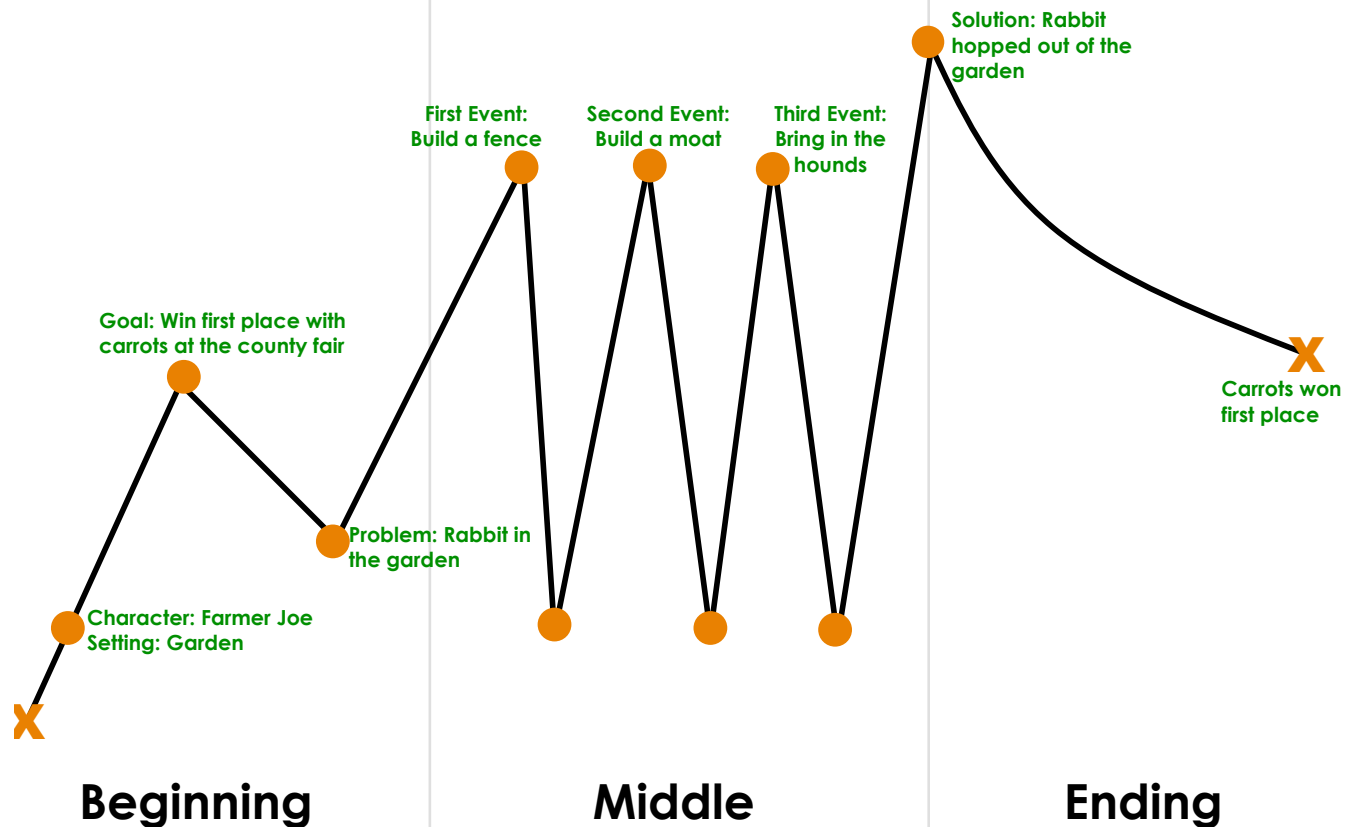
Compare your Graphic Organizer with Christine's Graphic Organizer:

Christine's Graphic Organizer: "Because this story uses narrative story structure, I will use a story map graphic organizer."

Questions to Think and Talk About:

- How does the *Story Map* help Christine determine the elements of the story?
- How does *story structure* help you retell the story?
- Why might this process help you make sense of a story?
- When might this process be useful?

Farmer Joe and the Rabbit Riddle



Answer to the Questions for “Farmer Joe and the Rabbit Riddle”

1. Who was the story about?

The story is about Farmer Joe.

2. Where does the story take place?

The story takes place in Farmer Joe’s garden.

3. What does Farmer Joe want to do? What is his goal?

It is Farmer Joe’s goal to have his carrots win first place at the county fair.

4. What made it difficult for Farmer Joe to accomplish his goal? What is the main problem he encounters?

The main problem for Farmer Joe is that a rabbit is eating all of his carrots.

5. What are the different things Farmer Joe tries to do in order to accomplish his goal? Is he ever successful?

Farmer Joe first attempts to build a fence around his garden. Next, he attempts to build a moat around his garden. Then he brings in a pack of hounds (dogs) to guard his garden. Finally, Farmer Joe decides to pick a carrot, set it on the outside of his garden, and watch and wait to see what happens.

6. How does the story end?

Farmer Joe discovers that a rabbit has been trapped inside his garden, so when he places the carrot on the outside of the fence the rabbit leaves the garden. When this happens Farmer Joe is able to shut the gate and keep the rest of his carrots safe. In the end, Farmer Joe’s carrots win first place at the county fair.

7. What do you predict Farmer Joe will do next year in preparation for the county fair?

What do you think!?