

Name That Plot Practice Activities

The Gift of Music

The deliverymen finished moving the old upright piano out of the living room and the restored grand piano in, while Mallory's parents watched.

"What a gift Grandma Beatrice has given Mallory!" said Dad.

"She knows Mallory loves music," said Mom. "And she's seen how she practices piano - not just because she has to, but because she wants to."

Just then, Mallory rode her bike up the driveway and opened the front door. She drew in an amazed breath.

"A grand piano?" she exclaimed. "I can't believe it!"

Mallory sat down on the bench and stretched her trembling fingers. She gazed at the glossy keys and began to play.

The rich sound of Mallory's music filled living the house. When she finished, she said, "I know how I can thank Grandma Beatrice. I'm going to compose and play a song, just for her!" said Mallory.

First, please read the opening to this story, "The Gift of Music."

Next, answer the following questions:

1. What is the problem presented in the story?
2. What type of conflict is this problem?
3. What is the solution to this problem?

Finally, imagine the rest of this story has a progressive plot structure. Use your imagination to think of three possible events that could happen during the rising action of this story.

Compare your answers with **Scott's Think Aloud**.

Before You Read:

Remember, for a story to hold our attention it must have a well-written plot.

Plot is a combination of **Conflict** and **Pattern of Action**.

Conflict—When a character faces a problem or obstacle that stands in the way of achieving his/her goal.

Pattern of Action—The structure of a story chosen by an author as the best way of telling his/her story. Review each of the types of conflict and patterns of action presented in the video.

Teo In Charge

"I'm going to my tenant meeting soon, Teo," said Mom. "Are you sure you're ready to babysit Jose?"

"I'm sure," said Teo.

"Well," said Mom. "I'll just be at the apartment complex next door, but it's still a big responsibility."

"I'm used to big responsibilities," said Teo. "I'm on the safety patrol at school. My grades are good, and I never forget a customer on my paper route."

"That's true," said Mom. "Do you have your notebook?"

"It's right here," said Teo. "I have the emergency phone numbers, and everything else you told me to write down."

"You're prepared," said Mom.

"There's something else I wrote down," said Teo.

"What's that?" asked Mom.

"How much babysitters get paid!" laughed Teo.

First, please read the opening to this story, "Teo in Charge."

Next, answer the following questions:

1. What is the problem presented in the story?
2. What type of conflict is this problem?
3. What is the solution to this problem?

Finally, imagine the rest of this story has a progressive plot structure. Use your imagination to think of three possible events that could happen during the rising action of this story.

Compare your answers with **Fred's Think Aloud**.