

Elements of a Story

One of the fundamental components of understanding fiction is to identify the elements of a story. Making connections (how the reader is like a character, recognizing a special event that reminds the reader of something that happened to him or her) with the characters, problem, or major event often help children understand the meaning of the story. Noting the order of events within the beginning, middle, and end is another key comprehension strategy. Below is a list of questions that can be used to practice comprehension (understanding the meaning and purpose of the story).

SETTING- *The time and location of a story.*

Where does the action of the story take place?

When does it take place? (time of day or year, time in history)

What feeling is created? (mood)

The setting may change during the story. There may be more than one place, time, weather, and mood in the story.

CHARACTERS

Who are the people in the story? How do they look and act?

What do they say and do?

What do others say about them? How do others react to them?

PLOT

The plot has a beginning, middle, and end.

How do events happen in the story? What main ideas develop?

The story may get complicated, but then problems are solved.