Elements of Fiction

Name _____

Period _____

Name_____ Period_____

NOTES KEEP ME!

Exposition

Major complications

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Climax

Resolution:

Falling Action

Rising Action

Point of view:

Theme

Name_____ Period_____

Setting

Setting is both the time and place in which the events of a story take place. In the following scenarios, the setting is revealed. For each, please list **both when and where** the story is taking place.

1. On March 7, 2000, Trevor Szold took a chance. He nearly paid for it with his life. Szold was snowboarding at Snow Valley Resort in California. But he didn't stay on the marked trails. Instead, he went off into the woods. A short time later he became lost. Szold didn't know which way to turn. The soft snow was five feet deep. "I was getting confused about what was the sky and what was the snow," he said. "Everything was white."

Where? _____

When? _____

2. It all started one day back in the 1960s. Water-skier Bill Moyes tied a long kite to the back of a motorboat. He attached himself to the kite with a harness. Then he motioned for the motorboat to take off. Moments later, the speeding boat pulled the kite—and Moyes—high up into the air.

Where? _____

When? _____

3. There was once a strange boy called Oni who was born wearing a pair of boots. As Oni grew, the boots grew also. When he was a boy of eighteen years of age, war broke out between his people and another village. It was during that battle that Oni made a second discovery about himself, which separated him from his fellow men and made him different. The enemy arrows did not seem to harm him. Many pierced his body, which in the ordinary course of events should have slain him.

Where? _____

When? _____

4. "Lord knows I don't want any of my babies going hungry, but times are hard, honey. Don't you know folks all around here in Mississippi are struggling? Children crying cause they got no food to eat, and their daddies crying cause they can't get jobs so they can feed their babies? And you getting up in the middle of the night, stuffing yourself with cornbread!"

Where? _____

When? _____

5. Dragonriders, even if they were still only hopeful candidates for the glowing eggs which were hardening on the hot sands of the Hatching Ground cavern, were expected to be punctual and prepared. Sloth was not tolerated by the Weyr-leader of Benden Weyr. A good record was especially important now. It was very near hatching time, when the baby dragons would crack their mottled shells and stagger forth to choose their lifetime companions. The very thought of that glorious moment made Keevan's breath catch in his throat. To be chosen—to be a dragonrider! To fly effortlessly over the lands of Pern!

Where? _____

When? _____

6. The sun came up slowly, fingers of light poking into and brightening the tangled forest of pine and poplar and hemlock trees. The drone of insects quieted, and the tiny mammals scampered to hide.

In a clearing a small triceratops herd began their day. The female triceratops blinked several times before moving to get the light out of her eyes. Then she went back to the frond she'd ripped from a cycadeoid.

Where? _____

When? _____

Now, write a detailed setting of your own to share with us. We will have to answer the "where" and "when" of your paragraph.

Identifying Types of Conflict Name: _____

Person vs. Person – One character has a conflict with another.
Person vs. Nature – One or more characters battle against the forces of nature.
Person vs. Group/Society – One person has a conflict with a whole group or a segment of society.
Person vs. Self – A character has an **internal** conflict with himself or herself.
Examples: A character must make a difficult decision.
A character must make a moral choice between good and bad, or try to distinguish the two.

1. A kid is having problems with a bully at school.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

2. A teenager has low self-esteem and feels badly about her body image so she decides to not eat in order to lose weight.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

3. A father tries to rescue his children when they are caught outside during a storm with tornadoes.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

4. Rescuers race against the clock to evacuate residents of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina strikes.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

5. Rosa Parks, an African American woman, is arrested for not giving up her bus seat for a white man in 1955.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

6. Two roommates get into an argument about who has to clean the apartment.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

7. A high school graduate can't decide whether he wants to go to college or join the Army.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

8. Rikki-tikki-tavi and Nagaina fight a battle to the death.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

9. A recovering alcoholic must take steps to avoid going back to drinking.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

10. Oskar Schindler works in the 1940s to save over 1,000 Jews from Nazi death camps by having them work in his factory.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

Identifying Types of Conflict, Part Two Name: _____

Person vs. Person – One character has a conflict with another.
Person vs. Nature – One or more characters battle against the forces of nature.
Person vs. Group/Society – One person has a conflict with a whole group or a segment of society.
Person vs. Self – A character has an **internal** conflict with himself or herself.
Examples: A character must make a difficult decision.
A character must make a moral choice between good and bad, or try to distinguish the two.

1. Mean Mrs. Trunchbull punishes a child by throwing him out the window in Matilda.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

2. Lord Voldemort tries to kill Harry Potter.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

3. The Oregon Trail pioneers encounter blizzards and snow drifts in the Rocky Mountains, and must build a shelter in order to survive.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

4. Rocky Balboa gets discouraged and overwhelmed before the big boxing match with Apollo Creed, exclaiming, "I can't beat him."
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

5. The wicked stepsisters and stepmother force Cinderella to stay home and clean while they go to the big dance with the Prince.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

6. Martin Luther King, Jr. fights against racial prejudice and discrimination by leading the March on Washington in 1963.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

7. A girl's friend shoplifts and wants her to do it also. The girl knows shoplifting is wrong, but doesn't want to lose the friend.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

8. A boy is teased by classmates at school.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

9. After being teased, the boy struggles with how to react and decides to skip school.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

10. A residential neighborhood in California has to be evacuated because of mudslides.
Person vs. _____ Internal or External?

Developed by Josh Haws, LPS, 2007

This setting and cast of characters have no place to go. It is up to you to get them moving. For each type of conflict listed, create a different plot, or storyline. Explain the conflict and how it will be resolved. The first one has been done for you.

Setting: Muston, Oklahoma, in 1949
Characters: Rona Burke, age 7
Delia Burke, her mother
Elmer Burke, her father, a farmer
Colin Parker, a stranger

1. **Person vs. Society**: When the Burkes has first taken in Colin Parker on that rainy night in May, they had no idea that he was a fugitive from the law. As their affection and respect for the youth grew, they were torn by the gravity of the choice they must make: Should they, as law-abiding citizens, report the boy, or should they, as friends whose respect and affection Colin had won, protect him? Because of their concern for Rona's values, they finally decided to tell Colin that they must report him but that they were willing to post bail and to stand by him during the ordeal that lay ahead.

2. **Person vs. Self:**

3. **Person vs. Person:**

4. **Person vs. Nature:**

Identifying Point-of-View Name: _____

Point of View: The vantage point from which the story is told, or the person who is telling the story.

1st Person: The person telling the story (the narrator) is *in* the story. The narrator is one of the characters. (Look for the pronouns **I, me** and **we**).

3rd Person: The narrator is telling a story about other characters. The narrator is *not* a part of the story. (Look for the pronouns **he, she**, and **they**). May see use of pronoun "I" in dialogue (direct quotes of someone's speech) but that persona is not telling the entire story.

Directions: In each of the excerpts below, identify the point-of-view as 1st person or 3rd person by circling 1st or 3rd.

1. (From *Boy* by Roald Dahl): I can remember very clearly the journeys I made to and from the school because they were so tremendously exciting.

1st or 3rd Person

2. (From *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse): Daddy named me Billie Jo. He wanted a boy. Instead, he got a long-legged girl with a wide mouth and cheekbones like bicycle handles.

1st or 3rd Person

3. (From *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone)*: Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. They were the last people you'd expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, because they just didn't hold with such nonsense.

1st or 3rd Person

4. (From *The Giver* by Lois Lowry): Jonas rode at a leisurely pace, glancing at the bikeports beside the buildings to see if he could spot Asher's. He didn't often do his volunteer hours with his friend because Asher frequently fooled around and made serious work a little difficult.

1st or 3rd Person

5. (From *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell): The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it.

1st or 3rd Person

6. (From *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleishman): One night the king was holding a grand feast. Sneaking around behind the lords and ladies, Prince Brat tied their powdered wigs to the backs of their oak chairs. Then he hid behind a footman to wait.

1st or 3rd Person

7. (From *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton): When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home. I was wishing I looked like Paul Newman.

1st or 3rd Person

Name_____

Period_____

Title_____

Author_____

Elements of Fiction
Sequencing Activity

As we are reading the story, I want you to fill out this side with the characters, setting, and type of conflict. Once we are finished reading, I want you to turn this sheet over and do the flow chart on the back. You will need to refer back to the story. You'll write a conflict statement and then I want you to think of and record the **ten most important events from the story**. Think about the events that add conflict and intensity to the story. Remember an event is something that happens in the story—it's an action. You must come up with ten and only ten. These ten events will later be narrowed down to your major complications, climax, and resolution. When you are finished with the events, please create a theme statement—the moral of the story.

Once you're done with the entire chart, I want you to narrow down your events. Think about which of the ten events you came up with is the most emotional and suspenseful; a turning point. THIS IS YOUR CLIMAX. Shade that box RED. Then, think of the three most important events that LEAD UP TO that event. THESE ARE YOUR MAJOR COMPLICATIONS. Shade those three boxes ORANGE. Look at the event(s) that occur AFTER the climax. Select the one that ties up the loose ends of the story. THIS IS YOUR RESOLUTION. Shade this box BLUE.

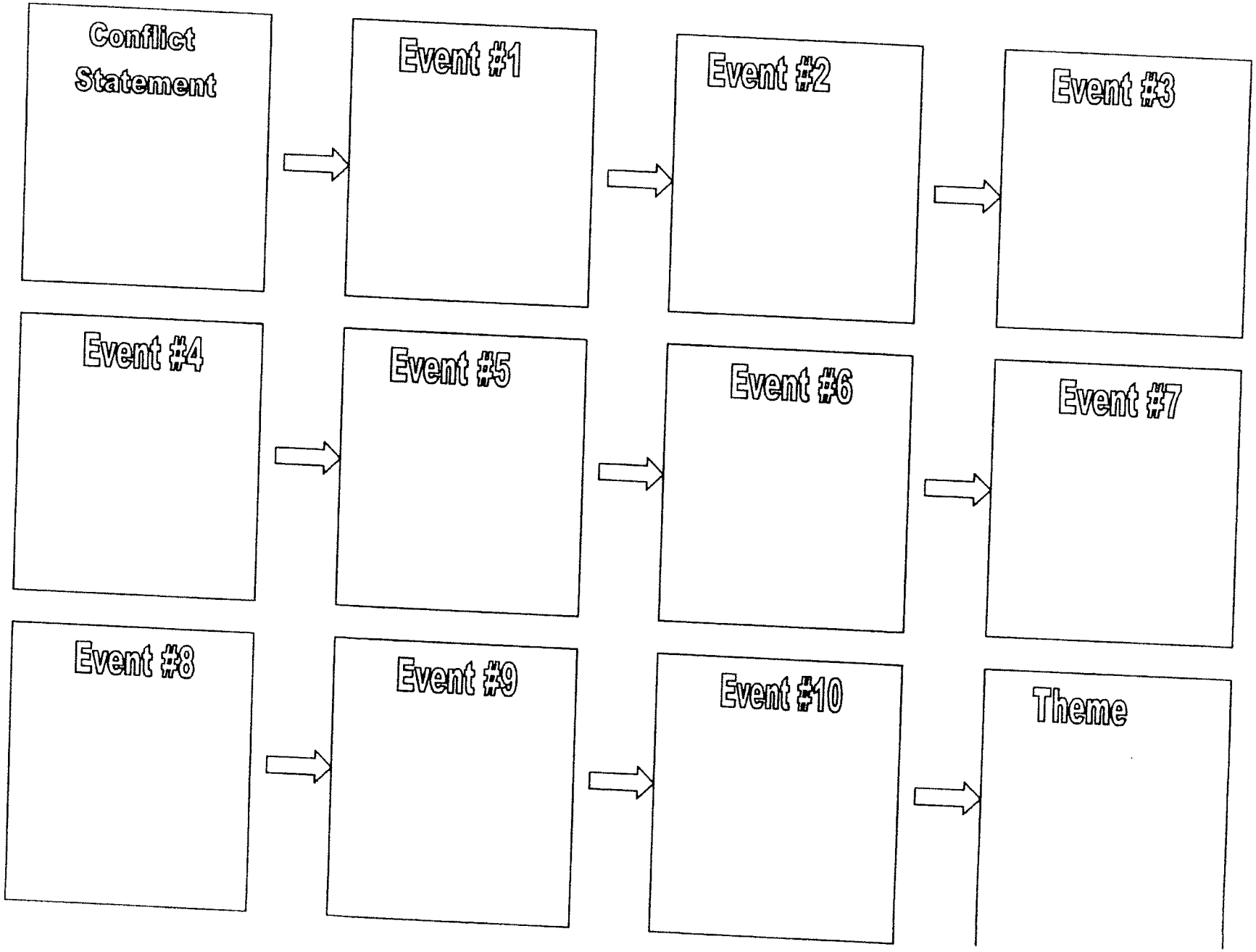
Once you have that done, we'll transfer the information to the actual Elements of Fiction Map.

Characters

Setting

Person vs.

Internal/External


Conflict Statement
Event #1
Event #2
Event #3
Event #4
Event #5
Event #6
Event #7
Event #8
Event #9
Event #10
Theme

Identifying and Supporting a Theme Statement Name: _____

Theme

A theme statement is a message about life or human nature demonstrated throughout the story. It is usually not stated directly, but must be inferred.

The theme statement should express a **general** and **universal point** about **human nature** or **life**.

Consider these questions after reading a story:

What message is the author trying to share with the reader?
How does this message apply to all people?
Could this theme be used with a variety of stories and situations?

A theme statement is more than a topic, but it should not include specific details of the story. Story details about characters and events are used to prove/support the general theme.

Identifying a Strong Theme Statement

Use the information in the box to evaluate the pairs of theme statements below. Choose the stronger theme statement in each pair and be prepared to explain why it is stronger.

1. The theme of the story is you should not steal signs.
2. The theme of the story is that impulsive actions are often regretted.

3. Often parents and children have difficulty understanding each other.
4. The story shows the mother doesn't understand the daughter's feelings.

5. The theme of the story is animals.
6. The story reveals that pets can be as important to people as family members.

7. Nature is a powerful force, not to be fooled with.
8. The people in the story got shipwrecked and had to survive.

Now apply this knowledge to some common fairytales. There are several themes in the story of the Three Little Pigs. Choose the stronger theme statement in each pair and be prepared to give specific reasons for your answer.

A. The smartest pig was the one who made his house out of bricks.
B. A wise person plans today for difficulties that may come tomorrow.

Or

C. Wisdom and patience often win over brute force.
D. The wolf was mean to the pigs, but he was defeated in the end.

How to Support a Theme Statement with Relevant Details from the Story

Once you've identified an appropriate theme statement, provide relevant details from the story that demonstrate the theme. Record the characters and events which reflect the message of the story. Follow this process:

1. Underline the key words in the theme statement.
2. Write a **support** statement which explains how the **characters** and **events** in the story **illustrate the key ideas** from the theme statement.

Examples from "Song of the Trees":

Theme statement: Some things in life are worth more than money because they are irreplaceable and have great sentimental value.
Support statement: For **Cassie**, the **trees** were worth more than money because they were irreplaceable and had been in her family for years.

Theme statement: Sometimes we need to take great risks in order to stand up for what we believe is right and what belongs to us.
Support statement: **Papa** took a great risk by **threatening to blow up the trees** in order to stand up to **Mr. Andersen** and **keep the trees** that belonged to his family.

Little Red Riding Hood

Pick one of the two theme statements provided for each fairytale. Underline the key words in the theme statement.

Theme Statement #1: Be careful as sometimes appearances are deceiving.

Theme Statement #2: When you are alone, do not talk to strangers as they can be dangerous.

Write a **support statement** which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement you have chosen.

Support statement:

Cinderella

Theme Statement #1: Even when the situation seems bleak, do not give up hope.

Theme Statement #2: A person who is kind and good will eventually be recognized and rewarded.

Write a **support statement** which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement you have chosen.

Support statement:

Snow White

Theme Statement #1: Beauty is only skin deep, it doesn't necessarily reflect a person's character.

Theme Statement #2: A generous, loving person will have many friends willing to help him/her in a time of need.

Write a **support statement** which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement you have chosen.

Support statement:

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Theme Statement #1: It is wrong to take things which do not belong to you.

Theme Statement #2: A wise person learns from his/her mistakes so he/she does not repeat them.

Write a **support statement** which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement you have chosen.

Support statement:

Beauty and the Beast

Theme Statement #1: A person's character is much more important than his/her outward appearance.

Theme Statement #2: People will often make sacrifices so their loved ones can remain safe and/or happy.

Write a **support statement** which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement you have chosen.

Support statement:

Name_____ Period_____

Title of Story_____

Author_____

The following questions do not have to be answered in complete sentences. You can thank me later with Diet Coke or chocolate. ☺

1. What type of CONFLICT dominates this story? Person vs._____

2. Is this conflict internal or external? (Circle one.)

3. In a STATEMENT, what is the MAIN CONFLICT in the story? (Use a complete sentence.)

4. Who are the MAIN characters?

5. What is the setting? (WHERE and WHEN)

6. What is the one event that is the CLIMAX of the story?

7. List the three MAJOR EVENTS that lead to this CLIMAX.

a.

b.

c.

8. What is the RESOLUTION to the story?

9. Is this story told in 1st person or 3rd person POINT OF VIEW? (Circle one.)

10. What is the THEME of this story? (Use a complete sentence.)

11. What support can you provide **from the story** to prove that this was the theme? (Use complete sentences.)

Name_____ Period_____

Elements of Fiction: 8.1.4 -- PRACTICE Assessment

Title of Selection_____ Author_____

Exposition:
(Basic situation and conflict)

Setting:

Time:

Location:

List the main character(s):

What is the conflict (problem)?:

Identify the type of conflict:

Person vs._____

Conflict is:

Internal or External

Major complications (problems, events):

3rd_____

_____

2nd_____

_____

1st_____

_____

Climax (problem ended):

Falling Action

Resolution:

Rising Action

Point of view:

1st Person

OR

3rd Person

1. Theme is a general and universal point about human nature or life.
Choose a theme statement appropriate for this story and copy the sentence below:

2. Next, write a support statement which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement.

Example from text with explanation:

K. Christensen, LPS, 2009

Name: _____ Period: _____

Making Personal Connections to Key Elements of Fiction

1. Think about a time in the past when you had a conflict (problem) with another person. Choose a situation you feel comfortable sharing with the class.

NOTES:
When the conflict (problem) is with another person, this is a **person vs.** _____ conflict.

It is an _____ **conflict**, because the problem is with an outside force (another person.)

Tell <u>who</u> the other person was and <u>why</u> you were upset/mad at him/her (e.g. what was the problem?).

Example: I was mad at my sister for borrowing my shirt without permission and ruining it.

Your example:

2. Now, describe how the problem was ended. The problem may end either happily, unhappily, or contain some aspects of each.

NOTES:
The point in the story where the conflict (problem) is ended is called the _____.

Tell what happened to end the problem for your situation.
Example: My mother made my sister buy me a new shirt.

Your example:

3. Next, think about three important events (related to the problem) that happened from the time the problem started until the time the problem ended.

NOTES:
The events leading up to the climax are known as the story's _____.

List three key events that happened **before the climax** in the **order that they occurred**.
Example:
1. My sister Kris borrowed my shirt without permission and she wore it to a party and spilled grape soda on it.
2. When she got home, she put it back in my closet and didn't tell me what had happened.
3. I found out my shirt had been ruined and told my mom what had happened.

Your examples:
1st.

2nd.

3rd.

4. Tell what happened after the climax. This would be the aftermath, result, or the final event of the story.

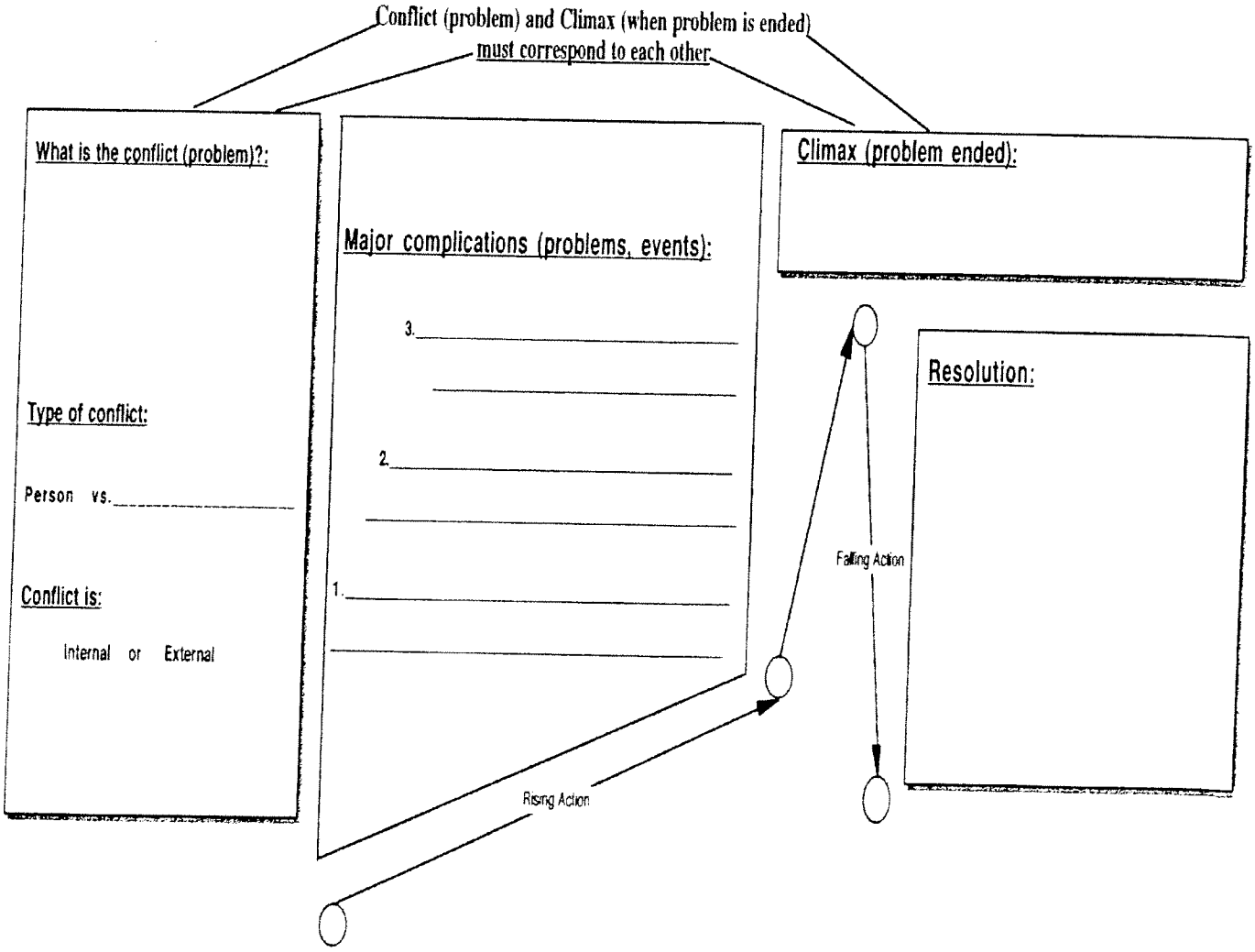
NOTES:

The final event of the story (after the climax) is known as the _____

Example:
My sister and I now have an agreement that we must ask each other for permission before we borrow anything and there will be serious consequences if we do not.

Your example:

5. Finally, write **your examples** in the appropriate spaces below. Be prepared to share them with the class.



Name: _____ Period: _____

Making Personal Connections to Key Elements of Fiction

1. Think about a time in the past when you had a conflict (problem) in your mind trying to figure out what to do. Choose a situation you feel comfortable sharing with the class.

NOTES:
When the conflict involves a struggle within a person's mind (often this includes making a difficult decision) this is a **person vs.** _____ conflict.

It is an _____ **conflict**, because the problem is **inside** character's mind.

Tell what was going on and explain the difficult decision you had to make.
Example: I saw a friend of mine shoplift. I had to decide whether to confront her or risk getting in trouble if I was with her if she got caught.

Your example:

2. Now, describe how the problem was ended.

NOTES:
The point in the story where the conflict (problem) is ended is called the _____.

Tell what happened to end the struggle in your mind about your situation (usually **when a difficult decision is finally made**.)

Example: I told my friend that shoplifting was wrong and that we could easily get into trouble so I was uncomfortable going shopping with her if she was going to continue doing it.

Your example:

3. Next, think about three important events (related to the problem) that happened from the time the problem started until the time the problem ended (the final decision has been made).

NOTES:
The events leading up to the climax are known as the story's _____.

List three key events that happened **before the climax** in the **order that they occurred.**

Example:
1. I saw my friend shoplift a keychain while we were shopping together.
2. I pretended I didn't see her, even though it bothered me.
3. My friend asked me to go shopping with her, and I was worried she would shoplift again.

Your examples:
1st.

2nd.

3rd.

4. Tell what happened after the climax. This would be the aftermath, result, or the final event of the story.

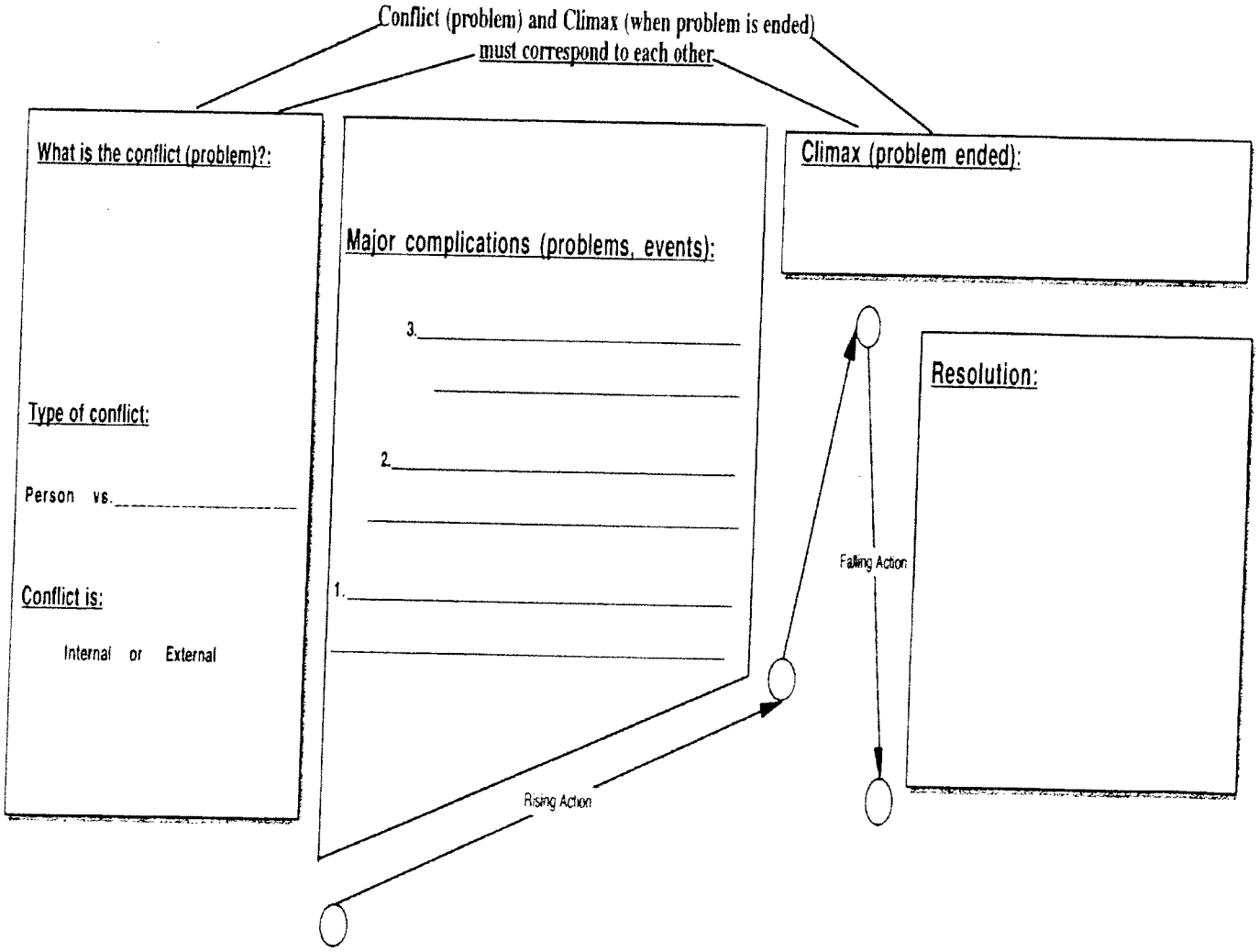
NOTES:

The final event of the story (after the climax) is known as the _____.

Example:
My friend promised she would not shoplift anymore and then we made plans to go to a movie together.

Your example:

5. Finally, write **your examples** in the appropriate spaces below. Be prepared to share them with the class.



4. Tell what happened after the climax. This would be the aftermath, result, or the final event of the story.

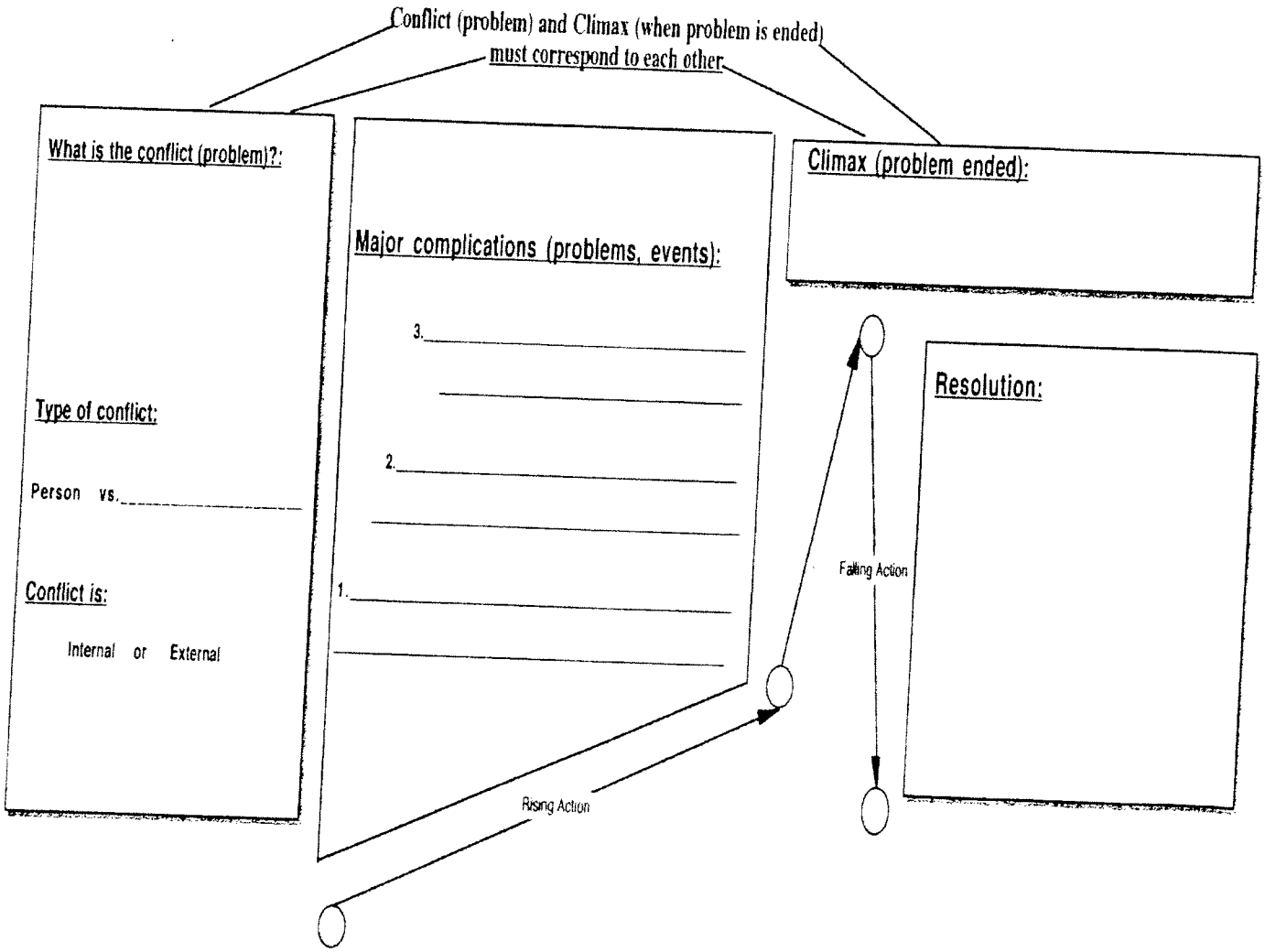
NOTES:

The final event of the story (after the climax) is known as the _____.

Example:
My mom made an extra key and gave it to some nearby friends of ours so I can get a key for the house if I forget mine.

Your example:

5. Finally, write **your examples** in the appropriate spaces below. Be prepared to share them with the class.



4. Tell what happened after the climax. This would be the aftermath, result, or the final event of the story.

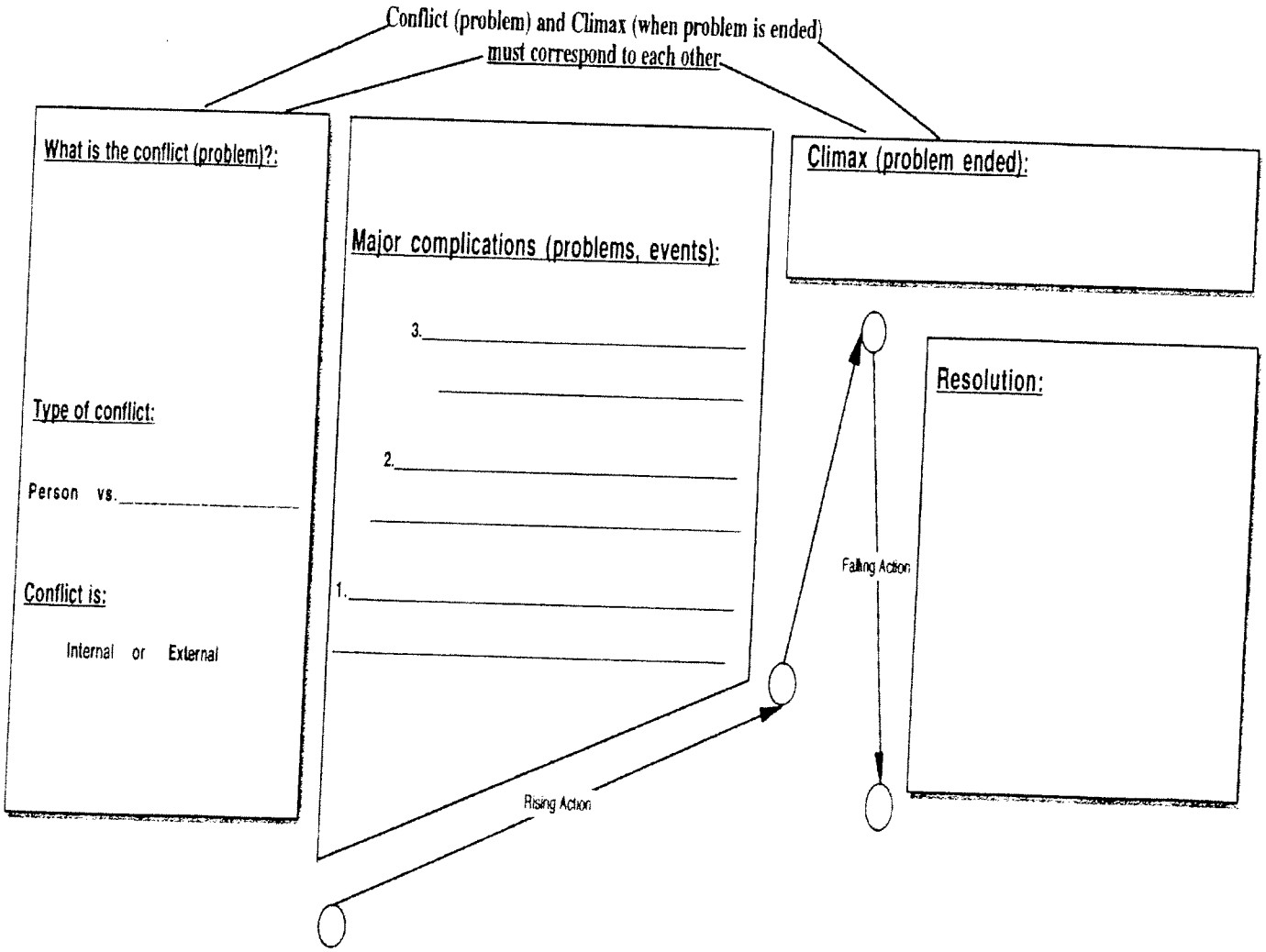
NOTES:

The final event of the story (after the climax) is known as the _____.

Example:
My friend promised she would not shoplift anymore and then we made plans to go to a movie together.

Your example:

5. Finally, write **your examples** in the appropriate spaces below. Be prepared to share them with the class.



Name: _____ Period: _____

Making Personal Connections to Key Elements of Fiction

1. Think about a time in the past when something in the past caused a conflict (problem) for you. Choose a situation you feel comfortable sharing with the class.

NOTES:
When the conflict (problem) is with something in the environment, this is a **person vs.** _____ conflict.

It is an _____ **conflict**, because the problem is with an **outside** force.

Tell what the problem is and what in nature (weather, an animal, a machine) **is causing the problem.**

Example: I forgot my key so I was locked out of my house and it was only 20 degrees outside.

Your example:

2. Now, describe how the problem was ended. The problem may end either happily, unhappily, or contain some aspects of each.

NOTES:
The point in the story where the conflict (problem) is ended is called the _____.

Tell what happened to end the problem for your situation.

Example: I went to my friend's house and used his phone to call my mom and tell her what happened.

Your example:

3. Next, think about three important events (related to the problem) that happened from the time the problem started until the time the problem ended.

NOTES:
The events leading up to the climax are known as the story's _____.

List three key events that happened **before the climax** in the **order that they occurred**.

Example:
1. When I went to school, I accidentally left my keys on the dresser.
2. After school I couldn't find my keys and it was very cold outside.
3. I tried all the doors and windows but everything was locked and I could not get in.

Your examples:

1st.

2nd.

3rd.

Name_____ Period_____

Title of Story_____

Author_____

The following questions do not have to be answered in complete sentences. You can thank me later with Diet Coke or chocolate. ☺

1. What type of CONFLICT dominates this story? Person vs. _____

2. Is this conflict internal or external? (Circle one.)

3. In a STATEMENT, what is the MAIN CONFLICT in the story? (Use a complete sentence.)

4. Who are the MAIN characters?

5. What is the setting? (WHERE and WHEN)

6. What is the one event that is the CLIMAX of the story?

7. List the three MAJOR EVENTS that lead to this CLIMAX.

a.

b.

c.

8. What is the RESOLUTION to the story?

9. Is this story told in 1st person or 3rd person POINT OF VIEW? (Circle one.)

10. What is the THEME of this story? (Use a complete sentence.)

11. What support can you provide **from the story** to prove that this was the theme? (Use complete sentences.)

Name_____ Period_____

Elements of Fiction: 8.1.4 -- PRACTICE Assessment

Title of Selection_____ Author_____

Exposition:
(Basic situation and conflict)

Setting:

Time:

Location:

List the main character(s):

What is the conflict (problem)?:

Identify the type of conflict:

Person vs._____

Conflict is:

Internal or External

Major complications (problems, events):

3rd_____

_____

2nd_____

_____

1st_____

_____

Climax (problem ended):

Resolution:

Rising Action

Falling Action

Point of view:

1st Person

OR

3rd Person

1. **Theme** is a general and universal point about human nature or life.
Choose a theme statement appropriate for this story and copy the sentence below:

2. Next, write a support statement which explains **how** the characters and events in the story illustrate the **key ideas** from the theme statement.

Example from text with explanation:

K. Christensen, LPS, 2009

Name_____ Period_____

Title of Story_____

Author_____

The following questions do not have to be answered in complete sentences. You can thank me later with Diet Coke or chocolate. ☺

1. What type of CONFLICT dominates this story? Person vs._____

2. Is this conflict internal or external? (Circle one.)

3. In a STATEMENT, what is the MAIN CONFLICT in the story? (Use a complete sentence.)

4. Who are the MAIN characters?

5. What is the setting? (WHERE and WHEN)

6. What is the one event that is the CLIMAX of the story?

7. List the three MAJOR EVENTS that lead to this CLIMAX.

a.

b.

c.

8. What is the RESOLUTION to the story?

9. Is this story told in 1st person or 3rd person POINT OF VIEW? (Circle one.)

10. What is the THEME of this story? (Use a complete sentence.)

11. What support can you provide **from the story** to prove that this was the theme? (Use complete sentences.)

Name_____ Period_____

Elements of Fiction: 8.1.4 -- PRACTICE Assessment

Title of Selection_____ Author_____

Exposition:
(Basic situation and conflict)

Setting:

Time:

Location:

List the main character(s):

What is the conflict (problem)?:

Identify the type of conflict:

Person vs._____

Conflict is:

Internal or External

Major complications (problems, events):

3rd_____

2nd_____

1st_____

Climax (problem ended):

Resolution:

Rising Action

Falling Action

Point of view:

1st Person

OR

3rd Person

1. Theme is a general and universal point about human nature or life.
Choose a theme statement appropriate for this story and copy the sentence below:

2. Next, write a support statement which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement.

Example from text with explanation:

K. Christensen, LPS, 2009

Name_____ Period_____

Elements of Fiction: 8.1.4 -- PRACTICE Assessment

Title of Selection_____ Author_____

Exposition:
(Basic situation and conflict)

Setting:

Time:

Location:

List the main character(s):

What is the conflict (problem)?:

Identify the type of conflict:

Person vs._____

Conflict is:

Internal or External

Major complications (problems, events):

3rd_____

_____

2nd_____

_____

1st_____

_____

Climax (problem ended):

Rising Action

Falling Action

Resolution:

Point of view:

1st Person

OR

3rd Person

1. Theme is a general and universal point about human nature or life.
Choose a theme statement appropriate for this story and copy the sentence below:

2. Next, write a support statement which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement.

Example from text with explanation:

K. Christensen, LPS, 2009

Name_____ Period_____

Elements of Fiction: 8.1.4 -- PRACTICE Assessment

Title of Selection_____ Author_____

Exposition:
(Basic situation and conflict)

Setting:

Time:

Location:

List the main character(s):

What is the conflict (problem)?:

Identify the type of conflict:

Person vs._____

Conflict is:

Internal or External

Major complications (problems, events):

3rd_____

_____

2nd_____

_____

1st_____

_____

Climax (problem ended):

Resolution:

Rising Action

Falling Action

Point of view:

1st Person

OR

3rd Person

1. Theme is a general and universal point about human nature or life.
Choose a theme statement appropriate for this story and copy the sentence below:

2. Next, write a support statement which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement.

Example from text with explanation:

K. Christensen, LPS, 2009

Name_____ Period_____

Elements of Fiction: 8.1.4 -- PRACTICE Assessment

Title of Selection_____ Author_____

Exposition:
(Basic situation and conflict)

Setting:

Time:

Location:

List the main character(s):

What is the conflict (problem)?:

Identify the type of conflict:

Person vs._____

Conflict is:

Internal or External

Major complications (problems, events):

3rd_____

_____

2nd_____

_____

1st_____

_____

Climax (problem ended):

Rising Action

Falling Action

Resolution:

Point of view:

1st Person

OR

3rd Person

1. Theme is a general and universal point about human nature or life.
Choose a theme statement appropriate for this story and copy the sentence below:

2. Next, write a support statement which explains how the characters and events in the story illustrate the key ideas from the theme statement.

Example from text with explanation:

K. Christensen, LPS, 2009

Elements of Fiction: Term Definitions

Exposition: An introduction which tells us who the characters are, where and when the story takes place, and what their conflict is.

Conflict: A struggle or clash between opposing characters or opposing forces.

Internal Conflict: A struggle which takes place in the character's mind

Type: Person vs. self

External Conflict: A character struggles with another person, with a group of people, or with a force of nature

Types: Person versus : person, group/society, or nature

Complications: Problems and events which occur as the characters take steps to resolve the conflict

Climax: The most emotional or suspenseful moment of the story, when the outcome is decided one way or another.

Resolution: Where the loose ends of the story are tied up and the story is closed

Main Character: A person or animal who takes part in the action of a story.

Setting: The time and place in which the events of a story take place.

Theme: The main idea about life revealed in the story.

Point of View: The vantage point from which the story is told

1st person: one of the characters, using the personal pronoun 'I', is telling the story

3rd person: a narrator is telling the story either from an all-knowing or limited view

Protagonist: The main character, often a good or heroic type

Antagonist: The person or force that works against the hero of the story

Theme

The theme is the main idea of the story, the discovery about life that we take away from it. Themes can be universal because they relate to human conditions and experiences which are common to many time periods and cultures. When identifying the theme, consider the following:

1. Think about how the main character changed in the course of the story and what the character learned.
2. Think about the title of the story and its meaning.
3. Identify some important passages and/or most important words and think about what they suggest to you about our lives.
4. A theme begins as a topic, but then becomes a statement that tells the main idea of the story.

Examples:

Value—Some things in life are worth more than money because they are irreplaceable and have great sentimental value.

Integrity—Sometimes we need to take great risks in order to stand up for what we believe is right and what belongs to us.

Nature and people's interdependence—Animals and people often rely on each other for comfort and protection.

Graciousness—If we show kindness to others, they will often provide help and support in our own time of need.

Morality—Doing what is right is more important and gratifying than being accepted or popular.

Power—Determination and character often win over brute force.

Coping—How a person copes with tragedy is a true measure of his/her character.

Assumptions—People feel as much pain from false presumptions as they do from reality.

Some common universal themes:

Life/death cycle
Friendship
Tolerance/prejudice
Coming of age
Freedom and responsibility
Belonging