

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Story structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Lost Lunchbox

Tessa loved her purple lunchbox. It had stickers of stars and her name written in sparkly letters. On Friday morning, she placed it on the lunch cart like she always did.

But when lunchtime came, Tessa couldn't find it.

"I put it right here," she said, pointing to the cart.

"Check the hallway," her friend Marcus said. "Maybe it slipped off."

Tessa and Marcus searched near the cubbies, under the table, and even by the library door. Still no lunchbox.

Just when she was about to give up, their teacher said, "I found something purple in the art room!"

Tessa ran to look—and there it was! Her lunchbox had been mixed in with the supply bins.

At lunch, she smiled and said, "That was an adventure I didn't plan—but I'm glad it had a happy ending!"



Name: _____

The Lost Lunchbox

1. What happens at the beginning of the story?

- A. Tessa finds a lost lunchbox.
- B. Tessa puts her lunchbox on the cart.
- C. Tessa eats with her friend.
- D. Tessa goes to the art room.

2. How does the story end?

- A. Tessa shares lunch with Marcus.
- B. Tessa finds her lunchbox in the art room.
- C. Tessa gets a new lunchbox.
- D. Tessa forgets about lunch.

3. Fill in the blank:

Tessa's lunchbox was found in the _____ room.

4. What does the beginning of the story tell us about Tessa and her lunchbox?

5. How does the ending help solve the problem in the story?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: J

Lexile Level: 290L-440L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

“Today’s story follows a girl named Tessa who faces a small problem during her school day. As we read, let’s pay close attention to how the story begins and ends. We’ll look at how the beginning introduces the characters and problem, and how the ending shows the problem being solved.”

Vocabulary: lunchbox, hallway, search, art room, adventure

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever lost something important at school?
 2. Why are beginnings and endings important in stories?
 3. What do you think a story titled *“The Lost Lunchbox”* might be about?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What clues tell us Tessa’s lunchbox is missing?
 2. How do the characters try to solve the problem?
 3. Where does the story take a turn toward the solution?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the story's beginning help us understand the problem?
 2. Why is the ending satisfying or happy for Tessa?
 3. What would happen if the story didn’t have an ending?
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Activity Idea

Have students fold a piece of paper into three sections labeled **Beginning**, **Middle**, and **End**. They draw or write what happens in each part of Tessa’s story. Then, invite them to create their own three-part mini story about something going missing and being found, focusing on a clear structure.

