

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Story structure

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Read the short story and answer each question.



### Nico and the Cloud Ladder

It all began when Nico saw a string hanging from the sky.

He was walking home from school when he noticed it—thin, silver, and swaying in the breeze. Curious, he tugged on it.

Suddenly, a ladder of clouds rolled down, soft and glowing.

Nico climbed up.

At the top, he found a world made of mist. Floating houses. Cotton sheep. A soft-voiced fox who said, "Welcome. We've been waiting for a helper."

"Our wind machine is stuck," the fox explained. "And the clouds can't move without it."

Nico followed the fox to a giant wheel made of feathers. With a twist, a push, and a careful *click*, the wheel spun. The wind picked up. The clouds danced.

"Thank you," the fox smiled. "It's time to go home now."

The ladder floated back to Nico's yard. He waved to the sky.

Back on the ground, he looked up. The string was gone—but he never forgot where it led.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Nico and the Cloud Ladder

**1. What happens at the beginning of the story?**

- A. Nico finds a string coming from the sky.
- B. Nico builds a ladder.
- C. Nico meets a cloud fox at school.
- D. Nico rides a balloon to space.

**2. How does the story end?**

- A. Nico flies away in a rocket.
- B. Nico gets stuck in the clouds.
- C. Nico fixes the wind machine and returns home.
- D. Nico wakes up from a dream.

**3. Fill in the blank:**

Nico fixed the \_\_\_\_\_ to help the clouds move again.

**4. How does the beginning of the story pull the reader into the adventure?**

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**5. What happens at the end that shows the problem is solved?**

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** K

**Lexile Level:** 330L-480L

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Fantasy Adventure

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## Introducing the Text

*"Today's story takes us on a magical journey with a boy named Nico who finds something unexpected in the sky. As we read, let's think about how the beginning introduces the mystery and problem, and how the ending shows that the problem is solved. We'll notice how the story is organized into a beginning, middle, and end."*

**Vocabulary:** ladder, mist, helper, wheel, breeze

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think might happen if you found a string hanging from the sky?
  2. What kinds of things do authors include at the beginning of a fantasy story?
  3. Have you ever read a story where something magical happens during a normal day?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What problem do the clouds face?
  2. How does Nico help solve it?
  3. What changes from the beginning of the story to the middle?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did the author use the ending to show that the adventure was complete?
  2. How is this story different from a real-life story?
  3. Why is it important for a story to have a clear beginning and end?
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## Activity Idea

Give students a cloud-shaped template and have them write or draw what they imagine might be at the top of their own magical sky ladder. Then, they write one sentence for the **beginning**, one for the **middle**, and one for the **end** of their imagined story using a "Story Structure Strip."

