

## Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Story structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



### The Case of the Missing Bookmark

Talia loved her library book, *The Secret Cave*. She was nearly at the end when—*poof!*—her bookmark vanished.

She always used the same one: blue ribbon, silver star, her name written in bold letters.

"I left it on page 78!" she told her brother Caleb.

"Did it fall out at breakfast?" he asked.

Talia checked the kitchen table. Crumbs? Yes. Bookmark? No.

She checked her backpack. Crayons? Yes. Bookmark? No.

Then she noticed something strange—her cat, Pickle, sitting on the windowsill with something shiny in his paws.

"Pickle!" Talia shouted.

Pickle dropped the bookmark and scurried away.

At last, the mystery was solved. Talia returned to the couch, placed the bookmark carefully back on page 78, and smiled.

"I guess Pickle wanted a story too," she whispered.



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

## The Case of the Missing Bookmark

1. How does the story begin?

- A. Talia starts reading a new book.
- B. Talia realizes her bookmark is missing.
- C. Talia gets a cat named Pickle.
- D. Talia visits a library with her brother.

2. How does the story end?

- A. Talia gets a new bookmark from the store.
- B. Talia throws away her book.
- C. Talia finds her bookmark with her cat and finishes reading.
- D. Talia blames Caleb for losing the bookmark.

3. Fill in the blank:

Talia found her missing bookmark with her \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What clues did the author include in the beginning to help introduce the mystery?

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5. How did the ending bring the story to a satisfying conclusion?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** L

**Lexile Level:** 355L-505L

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

**Genre:** Mystery

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## Introducing the Text

*“Today’s story is a mystery about a girl named Talia and her missing bookmark. As we read, we’ll think about how the story is structured. We’ll notice how the beginning sets up the problem and how the events in the middle build up to the solution at the end.”*

**Vocabulary:** bookmark, vanished, mystery, paws, windowsill

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever lost something special while reading or playing?
  2. What kinds of clues do authors give when writing mysteries?
  3. What do you expect from the beginning of a story called *The Case of the Missing Bookmark*?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What events happen after Talia realizes the bookmark is missing?
  2. How does her cat play a role in the story?
  3. How do the middle events lead toward solving the mystery?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the beginning of the story help set up the mystery?
  2. Why is the ending important to the structure of this story?
  3. How would the story feel if it ended before the bookmark was found?
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## Activity Idea

Have students create their own short mystery comic using a 3-panel template labeled **Beginning**, **Middle**, and **End**. They draw and write a mini-mystery, showing a problem introduced in panel one, clues in panel two, and a solution in panel three. Encourage the use of dialogue, labels, or sound effects to support the structure.

