

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Story Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



The Curious Case of the Library Cat

Beginning

Olive loved quiet places, and her favorite was the town library. Every Saturday, she'd read in the sunlit corner near the big window. One morning, something strange happened. A cat—gray, fluffy, and wearing a red ribbon—leapt onto her lap and purred. "Where did you come from?" Olive whispered. The librarian, Mrs. Dee, peeked over her glasses. "That cat's been sneaking in for weeks. No one knows who it belongs to." Olive was intrigued. She decided to solve the mystery.

Middle

Each week, Olive returned with a notebook. She observed the cat closely. It always arrived at 10 a.m., liked napping under the poetry shelves, and disappeared before lunch. She asked neighbors, left notes near the door, and checked the town's message board. Nothing. No one claimed the cat. One day, Olive noticed the ribbon had a small tag tucked under the knot. She gently turned it over and read: **"If you find me, I belong in quiet places. Let me stay."**

End

Olive smiled. She understood now. The cat didn't need a home—it already had one. The next Saturday, Olive brought a pillow and placed it under the poetry shelves. The cat curled up immediately. Mrs. Dee winked. "Looks like we have a full-time library cat now." Olive added one last note to her notebook: **"Mystery solved: Some hearts belong in quiet corners."**



Name: _____

The Curious Case of the Library Cat

1. What important discovery happens in the middle of the story?

- A. Olive finds a hidden map
- B. Olive learns the cat is magical
- C. Olive finds a tag on the cat's ribbon
- D. Olive follows the cat home

2. How does the ending build on the earlier parts of the story?

- A. It introduces a new mystery
- B. It shows Olive solving the mystery and accepting the cat's place
- C. It explains where the cat actually lives
- D. It repeats the beginning with no change

3. Fill in the blank:

Olive discovered that the cat liked to nap under the _____ shelves.

4. How do the beginning, middle, and end of this story build on each other to solve the mystery?

5. How does Olive change from the start of the story to the end?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: M

Lexile Level: 425L-575L

Grade Level: 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Mystery / Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"Today's story follows a clear beginning, middle, and end as a young girl solves a gentle mystery. As we read, we'll look closely at how each part of the story builds on the one before it. Pay attention to what happens in each section and how the ending ties everything together."

Vocabulary: mystery, observe, disappear, poetry, notebook

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think makes a good mystery story?
 2. Have you ever tried to solve a problem by paying close attention?
 3. What kinds of places do you think cats like?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What happens in the beginning that starts the mystery?
 2. How does Olive try to figure out where the cat comes from?
 3. What changes once she finds the tag?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the story's ending connect back to the beginning?
 2. Why is it important to understand the structure (beginning, middle, end) of a story?
 3. How did each section help build the story's mood?
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Activity Idea

Have students fold a piece of paper into three sections and label them **Beginning**, **Middle**, **End**. In each section, they draw and write a sentence summarizing what happened. Then, as a class, discuss how each part added something new to the mystery and helped the story grow.

