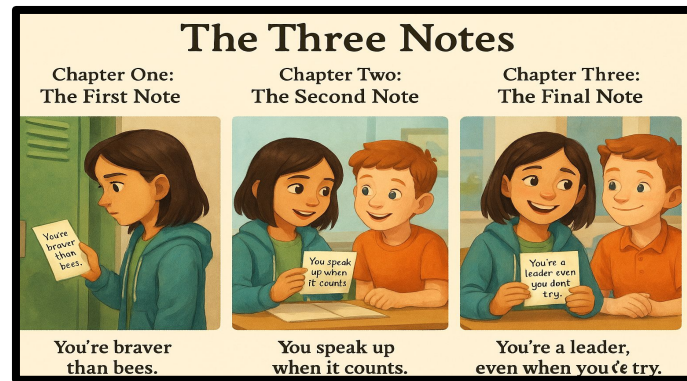


# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Story Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Three Notes

### Chapter One: The First Note

It started with a folded piece of paper tucked inside Ava's locker. It had just four words:

**"You're braver than bees."** Ava blinked. She was terrified of bees. At lunch, she showed it to her best friend, Ryan. "Someone's messing with me." Ryan grinned. "Or maybe someone thinks you're brave for standing near that hive by the gym." Ava blushed. She had been frozen in place when a bee buzzed near her, but she hadn't screamed or run. Still, it didn't feel like bravery.

### Chapter Two: The Second Note

The next day, another note appeared—this time under her math book:

**"You speak up when it counts."** That afternoon, Ava remembered raising her hand to say that a classmate had been left out of a group project. Her heart had pounded, but she did it. "Someone's watching you," Ryan whispered dramatically. "But not in a creepy way," Ava said, secretly proud.

### Chapter Three: The Final Note

On Friday, the third note was on her desk before she sat down: **"You're a leader, even when you don't try."** Ava stared at the note for a long time. Who saw these things in her? Then Ryan sat beside her and smiled. "Guess what? I left the notes." Ava blinked. "You?" "You doubt yourself," Ryan said. "So I reminded you who you really are." Ava smiled wider than she had all week. She folded all three notes and tucked them into her pocket.



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

## The Three Notes

**1. What important event happens in Chapter Two?**

- A. Ava learns where bees live
- B. Ava speaks up for a classmate and gets a second note
- C. Ryan admits he doesn't like group work
- D. Ava throws away the notes

**2. How does Chapter Three build on the first two chapters?**

- A. It shows the notes stopped being important
- B. It reveals who left the notes and explains why
- C. It begins a new mystery with new characters
- D. It repeats the same events from Chapter One

**3. Fill in the blank:**

Ava tucked all three notes into her \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of the story.

**4. How does the author use each chapter to build the story step by step? Give an example from each.**

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**5. How does Ava's understanding of herself change from Chapter One to Chapter Three?**

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** N

**Lexile Level:** 530L-680L

**Grade Level:** 3rd Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

*"This story is told in three short chapters, each building on the one before it. As we read, we'll focus on how the author uses each chapter to reveal more about the main character and her feelings—and how those parts lead to a meaningful ending."*

**Vocabulary:** braver, folded, leader, whisper, reminder

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever received a message that surprised or encouraged you?
  2. What does it mean when someone sees things in you that you don't see in yourself?
  3. How do you think a story with multiple short chapters might feel different than one long passage?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What happens in each chapter that makes Ava stop and think?
  2. How do the notes help Ava see herself differently?
  3. What is Ryan's reason for writing the notes?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does each chapter build the story and lead to the final message?
  2. How would the story be different if the author didn't include all three notes?
  3. What does the structure teach us about growth happening in small steps?
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## Activity Idea

Have students write **"3 Chapter Snapshots"** about a time they discovered something new about themselves. Each "chapter" should be one paragraph long and include a key event that changed how they felt or thought. Encourage them to title each section and share how the story built to a bigger realization—just like Ava's.

