

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Story Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.

## The Clocktower Agreement

### Scene 1: The Pact

In the city of Vinterra, time was kept by a magical clocktower. Every year, a new Keeper was chosen to wind it at dawn—and this year, it was Lani's turn. "Don't be late," the mayor said. "The city depends on it." Lani wanted to prove she was responsible. But the winding key was large, the steps steep, and the rules strict: **no one else was allowed to help.**



### Scene 2: The Climb

Lani woke before the sun and rushed toward the tower. Halfway up the winding staircase, her foot slipped on a loose stone. She twisted her ankle badly. Tears filled her eyes. She looked at the clock—only ten minutes left. Then her younger brother Milo arrived, panting. "I saw you fall," he said. "Let me help." Lani hesitated. Helping her would break the rule—but without help, she might not make it at all. She nodded. "Okay. Let's do it together."

### Scene 3: The Choice

With Milo's help, Lani reached the top just in time. Together, they turned the heavy key. The clock chimed. The city rooftops lit up with golden light. Later, the mayor frowned. "You broke the rule." "But I didn't break the clock," Lani said. "And I didn't give up." The mayor stared at her, then smiled. "Maybe it's time we change the rules."



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

## The Clocktower Agreement

1. What happens in Scene 2 that causes a problem in the story?

- A. Lani forgets the key
- B. The clocktower breaks
- C. Lani injures her ankle on the stairs
- D. Milo locks the door

2. How does Scene 3 build on the events in Scene 2?

- A. It shows Lani giving up and going home
- B. It shows the mayor fixing the clock
- C. It shows how teamwork helps solve the problem and leads to a rule change
- D. It repeats the scene without a change

3. Fill in the blank:

Lani reached the top of the clocktower with \_\_\_\_\_ just in time.

4. How does the author use each scene to build tension and move the story forward?

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5. What does Lani's decision to accept help reveal about her character?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** O

**Lexile Level:** 590L-740L

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

**Genre:** Fantasy / Adventure

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## Introducing the Text

*"In this story, we'll follow Lani through three connected scenes that build tension and develop both the problem and the solution. We'll focus on how the story structure helps us understand the character's growth and how each scene builds on what came before."*

**Vocabulary:** clocktower, pact, strict, hesitate, responsible

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been trusted with an important responsibility?
  2. What do you think happens if you break a rule for a good reason?
  3. What kind of story might involve a magical clocktower?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is Lani's responsibility, and what makes it difficult?
  2. What happens during the climb that changes everything?
  3. How does the mayor react to what happened?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What lesson does Lani learn about asking for help?
  2. How do the three scenes build tension and lead to the final outcome?
  3. How would the story feel different if Scene 2 had been left out?
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## Activity Idea

Give students a **scene structure organizer** labeled *Scene 1: Setup*, *Scene 2: Problem*, and *Scene 3: Resolution*. Ask them to summarize what happened in each part, then reflect on how the structure helped build suspense. As a creative option, they can invent their own 3-scene story about a character who must break a rule to do the right thing.

