

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Story Structure

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Painted Steps

### Scene 1 - *The Plan*

Jade stared at the crumbling steps in front of her apartment building. They looked like they hadn't been cleaned since her mom was a kid. "They're depressing," she told her neighbor, Mr. Lin.

"They just need a little color," he smiled.

### Scene 2 - *The Gathering*

That afternoon, Jade knocked on doors with flyers. "Community Paint Day!" she said to anyone who answered. Some people smiled. Some said they were too busy. Her best friend Amari promised to help.

### Scene 3 - *The Setback*

The next day, only Amari showed up. Jade sat on the bottom step, brush in hand, feeling her excitement drain. "This was a bad idea."

Amari dipped her brush in blue. "Then let's make it a *beautiful* bad idea."

### Scene 4 - *The Change*

As the girls painted, neighbors began to peek out. One brought lemonade. Another picked up a brush. By sunset, the steps were a rainbow.

### Scene 5 - *The Finish*

Mr. Lin stood at the top step. "You didn't just paint the stairs. You brought people out of their apartments."

Jade smiled. "I just got us started."



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

## The Painted Steps

**1. How does Scene 3 help move the story forward?**

- A. It shows that Jade gave up on her idea completely.
- B. It introduces a problem and shows how Jade almost loses hope.
- C. It describes how the stairs became broken.
- D. It explains Mr. Lin's role in the community.

**2. Why is Scene 5 important to the structure of the story?**

- A. It shows the final result and highlights the story's message.
- B. It introduces a new problem that Jade must solve.
- C. It shows that the painting didn't work.
- D. It sets up the conflict between Jade and Mr. Lin.

**3. Fill in the blank:**

Jade's steps went from crumbling and gray to a \_\_\_\_\_ rainbow of colors.

**4. Choose two scenes and explain how they build on each other to move the story forward.**

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**5. What is the overall structure of the story, and how does it help you understand Jade's journey?**

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** S

**Lexile Level:** 850L-1000L

**Grade Level:** 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

*“In today’s story, the author uses short scenes to tell the story of a girl who tries to brighten her neighborhood. As you read, pay attention to how each scene adds to the story and how they fit together to show Jade’s challenge and success.”*

**Vocabulary:** crumbling, community, rainbow, setback, structure

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about how stories are organized into scenes or chapters?
  2. What can a small act, like painting stairs, do for a community?
  3. Have you ever worked on a project where others joined in unexpectedly?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does Jade try to get others involved?
  2. What happens in Scene 3 that changes her mindset?
  3. What role do the neighbors play as the scenes progress?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does each scene contribute to the overall story structure?
  2. What would the story lose if one of the scenes was removed?
  3. How did the structure help show Jade’s character growth?
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## Activity Idea

Give students five blank boxes and ask them to write or sketch their own story in five scenes like this one. Then, have them explain how each scene connects to the next and contributes to the overall message.

