

The Elements of a Story

Knowing story elements is helpful to readers and writers.

Good writers use these elements in their work!



Here are some important story elements you should know:

Characters: The characters are the people, animals or things the story is about.

Setting: The setting is the time and place in which the story happened.

Plot: The plot is the events or things that happen in the story.

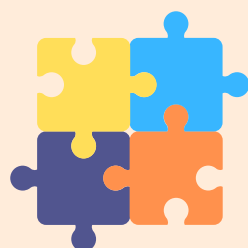
Conflict: The conflict is what the main character goes through (the problem or the struggle).

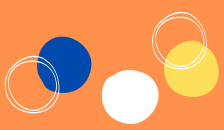
Message: The message is the life lesson or idea learned from the story.

Your Assignment:

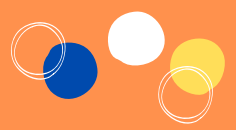
Read at least **one** free choice book this summer. Fill out the graphic organizer on the next page with your name, and the title and author of the book.

Then identify the story elements of the book that you read and fill in each section with the answers.





ELEMENTS OF A STORY



My name:

Title:

Author:

The Plot:

The Characters:

The Setting:

The Conflict:

The Message:

Example:

ELEMENTS OF A STORY

My name:

FirstName LastName

Title:

The One and Only Ivan

Author:

Katherine Applegate

The Plot:

*Ivan, Stella, and a few other animals live at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade.

*Mack owns the mall and puts on shows with the animals every day. Long ago, Ivan lived with Mack and they had a fun life. Now, Mack uses Ivan and other animals to make money to survive. He doesn't always treat them well or in a way that would make him proud.

*Mack buys a baby elephant, Ruby, to help attract more customers. Stella gets sick. Before she dies, she makes Ivan promise that he will help Ruby escape the life at the mall.

*Ivan gets an idea to paint a picture of a zoo with Ruby and the word "home" written on it to try to let others know that Ruby belongs in a zoo with other elephants.

*Julia, the janitor named George's daughter, understands what Ivan is trying to say, and she convinces her dad to post Ivan's painting on the billboard outside the mall.

*The billboard attracts attention and pretty soon there are protesters outside the mall, calling for Ruby and the other animals to be moved to a zoo.

*Ivan and Ruby, along with the other animals, are moved to a zoo. Ivan and Ruby finally get to be

The Characters:

Ivan - silverback gorilla
Stella - adult elephant
Bob - dog
Ruby - baby elephant
Mack - mall owner
Julia - daughter of mall janitor
George - mall janitor

The Setting:

Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade
The Zoo

The Conflict:

Before Stella dies, Ivan promises her that he will help Ruby escape the life at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade. Ivan has to think of a way to keep this promise.

The Message:

Every living thing deserves to be treated with dignity.