Story Structure

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle what each part of the text tells the reader.

READ THIS FIRST

The Fish Lantern

CAST OF CHARACTERS
MEI LIN, a ten-year-old girl who loves to make things
GRANDPA WEI, her grandfather, a patient artist
DANIEL, Mei Lin's best friend from next door

SCENE 1
(GRANDPA WEI's kitchen, the night before the Lantern Festival. Red paper, glue and thin bamboo sticks cover the table. MEI LIN holds up a finished lantern shaped like a fish.)
MEI LIN: Look, Grandpa! The fins finally stay on.
GRANDPA WEI: (putting on his glasses) Beautiful. The scales look almost real.
MEI LIN: Tomorrow everyone at the park will see it glow.
GRANDPA WEI: Paper is delicate, Mei Lin. Carry it with care.
MEI LIN: (laughing) I will hold it like a baby bird.
(DANIEL knocks and pokes his head through the doorway.)
DANIEL: Is the fish done? Can I see?
MEI LIN: (proudly turning it around) Ta-da!
DANIEL: Whoa. Mine is just a plain circle.

SCENE 2
(The park, the next evening. Strings of lights hang between the trees. People hold glowing lanterns. A light rain begins to fall.)
DANIEL: (looking up) Uh-oh. Is that rain?
MEI LIN: (pulling the fish close) Not now! Not tonight!
(A raindrop lands on the lantern. The wet paper splits along one side. MEI LIN stares at the tear and goes quiet.)
DANIEL: Maybe nobody will notice.
MEI LIN: (her voice shaking) Everyone will notice. It looks ruined.
GRANDPA WEI: (stepping under the snack tent) Bring it here, out of the rain.
(GRANDPA WEI pulls a folded square of gold paper from his coat pocket. He cuts out a circle with small scissors.)
MEI LIN: What are you making?
GRANDPA WEI: A moon for your fish to swim past. (He presses the gold circle over the tear.) There. Now the tear is part of the picture.
DANIEL: (grinning) It looks even better than before.
MEI LIN: (slowly smiling, lifting the lantern high) A fish swimming under the moon. I like it.
(The rain stops. MEI LIN and DANIEL carry their lanterns into the crowd.)

1. What does the cast of characters tell the reader?
   - the lines each character will speak
   - who is in the play and a little about each one
   - what happens at the end of each scene
   - where and when the play takes place

2. In Scene 1, Grandpa Wei says, "Paper is delicate." How does this line prepare for Scene 2?
   - It hints that the lantern could be damaged.
   - It shows that Grandpa Wei dislikes paper lanterns.
   - It explains why Daniel's lantern is a circle.
   - It warns that the festival may be canceled.

3. How does the reader learn what Grandpa Wei does with the gold paper?
   - from a narrator's description
   - from a rhyming stanza
   - from the cast of characters
   - from the stage directions

4. What does the setting description at the start of Scene 2 tell the reader?
   - how long the Lantern Festival will last that night
   - what Daniel and Mei Lin will say to each other
   - the place, the time, and that rain is starting
   - how Mei Lin feels about her fish lantern

Scan to get this marked free. No screen time for your child.
Print it · do it in pencil · scan it · PencilGo picks the next sheet.

Story Structure

Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Read the text. Circle what each part of the text tells the reader.

READ THIS FIRST

The Fish Lantern

CAST OF CHARACTERS
MEI LIN, a ten-year-old girl who loves to make things
GRANDPA WEI, her grandfather, a patient artist
DANIEL, Mei Lin's best friend from next door

SCENE 1
(GRANDPA WEI's kitchen, the night before the Lantern Festival. Red paper, glue and thin bamboo sticks cover the table. MEI LIN holds up a finished lantern shaped like a fish.)
MEI LIN: Look, Grandpa! The fins finally stay on.
GRANDPA WEI: (putting on his glasses) Beautiful. The scales look almost real.
MEI LIN: Tomorrow everyone at the park will see it glow.
GRANDPA WEI: Paper is delicate, Mei Lin. Carry it with care.
MEI LIN: (laughing) I will hold it like a baby bird.
(DANIEL knocks and pokes his head through the doorway.)
DANIEL: Is the fish done? Can I see?
MEI LIN: (proudly turning it around) Ta-da!
DANIEL: Whoa. Mine is just a plain circle.

SCENE 2
(The park, the next evening. Strings of lights hang between the trees. People hold glowing lanterns. A light rain begins to fall.)
DANIEL: (looking up) Uh-oh. Is that rain?
MEI LIN: (pulling the fish close) Not now! Not tonight!
(A raindrop lands on the lantern. The wet paper splits along one side. MEI LIN stares at the tear and goes quiet.)
DANIEL: Maybe nobody will notice.
MEI LIN: (her voice shaking) Everyone will notice. It looks ruined.
GRANDPA WEI: (stepping under the snack tent) Bring it here, out of the rain.
(GRANDPA WEI pulls a folded square of gold paper from his coat pocket. He cuts out a circle with small scissors.)
MEI LIN: What are you making?
GRANDPA WEI: A moon for your fish to swim past. (He presses the gold circle over the tear.) There. Now the tear is part of the picture.
DANIEL: (grinning) It looks even better than before.
MEI LIN: (slowly smiling, lifting the lantern high) A fish swimming under the moon. I like it.
(The rain stops. MEI LIN and DANIEL carry their lanterns into the crowd.)

1. What does the cast of characters tell the reader?
   - the lines each character will speak
   - who is in the play and a little about each one
   - what happens at the end of each scene
   - where and when the play takes place

2. In Scene 1, Grandpa Wei says, "Paper is delicate." How does this line prepare for Scene 2?

It hints that the lantern could be damaged.
It shows that Grandpa Wei dislikes paper lanterns.
It explains why Daniel's lantern is a circle.
It warns that the festival may be canceled.

3. How does the reader learn what Grandpa Wei does with the gold paper?

from a narrator's description
from a rhyming stanza
from the cast of characters
from the stage directions

4. What does the setting description at the start of Scene 2 tell the reader?

how long the Lantern Festival will last that night
what Daniel and Mei Lin will say to each other
the place, the time, and that rain is starting
how Mei Lin feels about her fish lantern