Story Structure

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle how a play, a poem and a story are alike or different.

READ THIS FIRST

Noelani's First Snow: A Story and a Poem

Version 1: A Story

Noelani had lived in Hawaii all her life. In August, her family moved to Duluth, Minnesota, for her mother's new job. Everyone at her new school talked about winter. Noelani had seen snow only in movies, so she did not know what to expect. Her cousins back home laughed when she packed a winter coat.

One November morning, she woke up and saw a strange white light around her curtains. She pulled them open. The whole yard was covered in snow. For a moment, she thought someone had painted the neighborhood white. The fence posts wore white caps, and the car looked like a giant marshmallow.

Noelani pulled her new boots on over her pajamas and rushed outside. The cold air stung her cheeks. She held out her mitten, and a snowflake landed on it. It was a tiny star with six points. Then it melted into a drop of water.

Noelani laughed and stuck out her tongue to catch more flakes. Her breath made little clouds in the air. The street was empty, and the trees did not move. She had always pictured snow as loud, like rain on a roof. Instead, it fell without making any sound at all.

Version 2: A Poem by Noelani

Morning Snow

I left the island's warm, green shore
To live where winters blow.
This morning, through my curtain's edge,
I saw a world of snow.

The fence posts wear their winter caps.
Our car is round and white.
The street is still, the trees are hushed,
The whole yard glows with light.

A snowflake lands on my mitten,
A star, so small and neat.
It turns into a shining drop.
I stamp my snowy feet.

I catch the flakes upon my tongue.
I laugh and spin around.
I never knew that snow could fall
Without the smallest sound.

1. Which version tells the reader why Noelani moved to Minnesota?
   both versions neither version the story the poem

2. How is the poem set out differently from the story?
   It has stage directions in parentheses.
   It is written in lines grouped into stanzas.
   It has a cast of characters and scenes.
   It is written in paragraphs with a narrator.

3. What idea appears in both versions?
   Noelani wishes she were back in Hawaii.
   Noelani builds a snowman with her mother.
   Snow is much quieter than Noelani expected.
   Noelani is afraid of the cold weather.

4. What does the story version include that the poem does not?
   a snowflake landing on a mitten
   snow that falls without a sound
   fence posts with white caps
   the month and the city where it snowed

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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