Story Structure

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

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

READ THIS FIRST

River Song

CAST OF CHARACTERS
ROHAN, eleven, a careful piano student who hates surprises
ANAYA, his younger sister, who notices everything
MS. BELLAMY, the piano teacher
MR. KAPOOR, their father

SCENE 1
(The hallway behind the stage of a small concert hall. Students in dress clothes wait on a row of chairs. ROHAN flips through a red music folder, faster and faster.)
ANAYA: Rohan, you've checked that folder six times.
ROHAN: (not looking up) I'm just making sure. I'm fine. Totally fine.
(He drops the folder. Pages slide across the floor. ANAYA helps gather them.)
ANAYA: (holding up a page) This one says "Spring Waltz." Is that yours?
ROHAN: No. Mine is "River Song." (He opens the folder again and goes still.) Where is it? It was right here.
ANAYA: Maybe Dad has it.
ROHAN: (whispering) Dad is in the third row. I'm on in ten minutes.
(MS. BELLAMY hurries in with a clipboard.)
MS. BELLAMY: Rohan, you play after Sofia. Ready?
ROHAN: (forcing a smile) Ready.
(MS. BELLAMY leaves. ANAYA looks at her brother, then slips quietly out the side door.)

SCENE 2
(The concert hall, five minutes later. MR. KAPOOR sits in the third row with a program on his knee. ANAYA crouches beside his seat.)
ANAYA: (in a low voice) Dad, is Rohan's music in your bag?
MR. KAPOOR: (checking) Only my keys and this program. Why?
ANAYA: He can't find "River Song." He told Ms. Bellamy he was ready anyway.
MR. KAPOOR: (frowning, then thinking) Wait. He practiced it every night this week. I heard it through the wall.
ANAYA: So?
MR. KAPOOR: So it may be in his fingers, even if it isn't in his folder.
ANAYA: But what if he forgets in the middle?
MR. KAPOOR: Then he starts the line again, the way he does at home. Tell him that.
(Applause. On stage, a girl in a yellow dress bows.)

SCENE 3
(Backstage. ROHAN stands at the curtain, breathing slowly. ANAYA rushes up.)
ANAYA: Dad doesn't have it. But he says you've played it every night.
ROHAN: Without the page, I'll forget the middle part.
ANAYA: Then hum it. Right now.
(ROHAN hums softly. His fingers tap the notes on his knee. He hums the whole song without stopping.)
ANAYA: (grinning) See? You didn't miss one note.
MS. BELLAMY: (from the stage) Next, Rohan Kapoor, playing "River Song."
(ROHAN takes a deep breath and walks into the light. A moment later, the first notes of "River Song" drift backstage. ANAYA closes her eyes and listens.)

1. How would a story version of this play most likely be different?
   Rohan would have to speak only in rhyme.
   A narrator could tell Rohan's worried thoughts directly.
   All the events would happen in one place.
   The reader would never learn Anaya's name.

2. Which feature does this play have that a poem usually does not?
   a steady beat that repeats in every line
   short lines of words grouped together into stanzas
   rhyming words at the ends of the lines
   a list of characters with a line about each one

3. How is this play different from a story?
   The events are told in short rhyming stanzas of four lines.
   The characters stop to explain their feelings to the reader.
   All the events happen in one place with no change of scene.
   Lines and stage directions show feelings; no narrator tells them.

4. Why might a writer choose a play, rather than a story, to tell this event?
   Spoken lines and stage directions let the audience feel the tension.
   A play lets the writer skip the worry and show only the ending.
   A play is easier to write because it needs no setting or scenes.
   A play lets one narrator describe every character's secret thoughts.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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