Story Structure

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

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

READ THIS FIRST

The Library Book Hunt

CAST OF CHARACTERS

LUCIA, a fourth grader

TEO, her younger brother

MS. KESSLER, the school librarian

SCENE 1

(A living room on a rainy morning. Couch cushions are scattered across the floor. LUCIA kneels beside the couch.)

LUCIA: My library book is gone! It's due today.

TEO: (peeking out from the hallway) Which book?

LUCIA: The blue one about volcanoes. I left it right here last night.

TEO: (looking under a chair) It's not under here.

LUCIA: (slumping onto the couch) Ms. Kessler will think I don't care about her books.

TEO: She won't. Just tell her the truth.

(LUCIA grabs her backpack. TEO holds the front door open.)

SCENE 2

(The school library, twenty minutes later. MS. KESSLER stands behind the front desk, stacking books.)

LUCIA: (quietly) Ms. Kessler, I can't find my volcano book.

MS. KESSLER: Thank you for telling me. Where did you see it last?

LUCIA: On the couch, last night.

TEO: (tugging on Lucia's backpack) Wait. What's in this front pocket?

(LUCIA unzips the pocket and pulls out the blue volcano book.)

LUCIA: (laughing) I packed it before bed, and then I forgot!

MS. KESSLER: (smiling) Mystery solved. And it's right on time.

TEO: Can I be a detective when I grow up?

LUCIA: (handing him the book to return) You already are.

1. If this were a story instead of a play, how would the reader learn that Lucia unzipped the pocket?

   A narrator would describe it.

   It would be in the list of characters.

   It would be split into a rhyming stanza.

2. Which feature does this play have that a poem usually does not?

   stanzas of four lines

   a cast of characters

   a steady beat in every line

3. How is this play different from a story?

   It is written in stanzas of four rhyming lines.

   Characters speak the lines; there is no narrator.

   It does not have a problem for anyone to solve.

4. If this were a poem instead of a play, how would the words be set out?

   with each speaker's name before the line

   in scenes with a setting at the start

   in short lines grouped into stanzas

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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