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

Saturday Market

Abuela taps my door at six.
The sky is pink and gray.
She hands me two big woven bags.
"Come on, it's market day!"

We walk along the sleepy street.
The shops are shut up tight.
A baker waves a floury hand
And flips his window light.

The market tents are red and blue.
They flap like sails at sea.
A farmer stacks his golden squash
And tips his hat to me.

A girl plays fiddle by the bread.
Her music skips and sways.
I drop a coin inside her case.
She smiles and bows and plays.

Abuela squeezes every peach.
She sniffs each melon twice.
She chats with old Señora Ruiz
And bargains for a price.

I carry beans and peppers too.
My arms begin to sag.
Then at the stall of sunflowers,
I tuck some in my bag.

We share a warm, sweet sugar roll.
Abuela tears it wide.
She gives the bigger half to me
And keeps the smaller side.

We rest beside the fountain wall.
The sun is climbing high.
Abuela counts the coins she saved
And gives a happy sigh.

Our bags are full. Our feet are sore.
We slowly wander back.
Next week I'll wake before she knocks,
With my own bag to pack.

1. Which feature does this poem have that a play usually does not?
   stanzas that rhyme
   stage directions in parentheses
   a cast of characters

2. How is this poem different from a play?
   It has a cast of characters and stage directions.
   It is written in stanzas instead of scenes.
   It is told only in the characters' spoken lines.

3. If this were a story instead of a poem, how would the words be set out?
   in short lines that rhyme at the ends
   in scenes with a cast of characters
   in sentences grouped into paragraphs

4. Why might a writer choose a poem, rather than a story, to describe market day?
   A poem needs a narrator to explain each part of it.
   A poem can show sights and sounds in a few lines.
   A poem must tell every event of the whole week.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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