

Lesson 16

Parts of a Story



Learning Target

Understand how the beginning, middle, and end of a story work together.

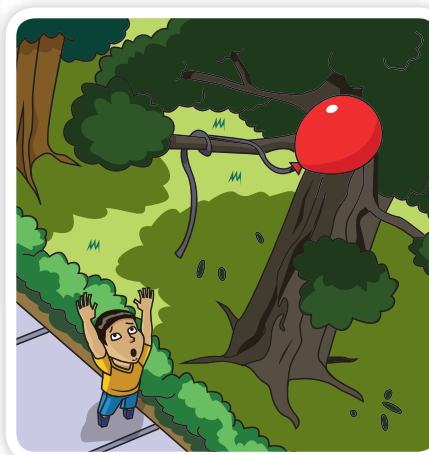
- ▶ **Read** All stories have a beginning, middle, and end. **Events** at the **beginning** introduce, or first tell about, the characters and the **problem** they face. Events in the **middle** show how the problem gets bigger. Events at the **end** tell how the problem is **solved**, or worked out.

Look at the cartoon below. What events happen in each part of the story?

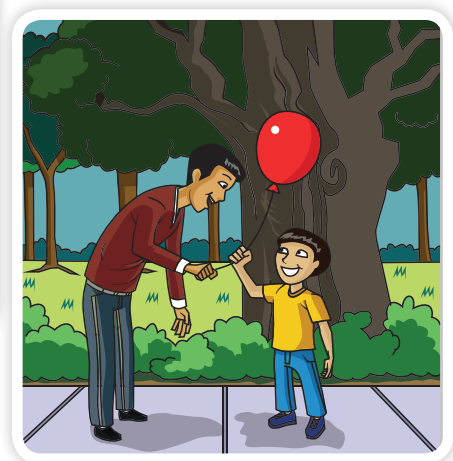
Beginning



Middle



End



What problem does the boy have?
How does his dad help him solve it?

► **Think** Using what you see in the cartoon, think about what happens to the boy in each part of his story. Then complete the chart by describing what happens in each part.

Beginning	
Middle	
End	

► **Talk** Think about what you see in the cartoon. What do you think the boy will do next?

 **Academic Talk**

Use these words to talk about the text.

- **beginning** • **problem** • **solved**
- **end** • **middle** • **events**

Jasper the Farm Cat

by Henry Adamson



- 1 Jasper was a farm cat. His job was to catch mice in the barn. The people he lived with didn't want mice in the barn. The mice ate the horses' grain. As you know, most cats like catching mice. But Jasper wasn't like most other cats. He had become friends with the mice in the barn. He didn't want to catch them.
- 2 "What am I going to do?" said Jasper to Millie, one of his mouse friends. "If I don't catch you, my people might want to get rid of me. And I like it here!"
- 3 For days, Jasper worried about what to do. Then he had an idea. He was always seeing the people he lived with throw away food scraps in the kitchen. All this food just went to waste. If he snuck these food scraps to the mice, then they wouldn't have to eat the horses' grain!
- 4 So that's just what he did. And everyone was happy. Jasper's people saw that the mice were no longer taking the horses' grain. The mice had food to eat. And Jasper had his friends.

Close Reader Habits

Underline sentences that tell about Jasper's problem.



Explore

How do the beginning, middle, and end of “Jasper the Farm Cat” work together?

I'll figure out what the problem is and how it is solved.

Think

- 1 Fill in the chart with details and events from the story.

Beginning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is Jasper? • What is Jasper's problem?
Middle	
End	

Talk

- 2 Take turns with your partner describing the events that happen in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

 Write

- 3 **Short Response** Think about how the story ends. Why is Jasper's idea a good one? Use details from the story in your answer. Write your answer in the space on page 262.

HINT How does everyone feel at the end of the story?



The Case of the Missing Mutt

by John Hansen

1 Mrs. Brown stood at the gate in her backyard with a puzzled look on her face. As I walked closer, I could see something was wrong. Mrs. Brown wiped tears from her eyes and said, “I think someone has stolen Snippets!”

2 Snippets was Mrs. Brown’s dog. I asked her why she thought he had been stolen. She said the gates were all closed tight, so he couldn’t have just run off.

3 I took a look around. Some leaf bags stood piled near one corner. I told her Snippets could have easily hopped up on the bags and over the fence.

4 “But Marty,” she said, “why would he do that?”

5 “Most likely to see another dog,” I said. I asked her if Snippets had ever been to the new dog park. Mrs. Brown said, “Why, yes! My granddaughter took him there last week.”

6 I found Snippets playing with his friends at the park. I promised I would take him back there later. But first there was someone who very much needed to see him.

Close Reader Habits

What problem does Marty need to solve? **Underline** clues that help you figure it out.



I'm going to look for details about the characters and the problem at the start of the story.

Think

- 1 What is Mrs. Brown's problem at the beginning of the story?
 - A Mrs. Brown thinks someone has stolen her dog, Snippets.
 - B Marty doesn't want to help Mrs. Brown.
 - C Snippets has become lost in the dog park.
 - D Snippets has found a way to open the gate.

- 2 When does Marty first get the idea that Snippets wasn't stolen?
 - A when he finds Mrs. Brown crying
 - B when he sees the leaf bags by the fence
 - C after Mrs. Brown talks about her granddaughter
 - D after he goes to the dog park

Talk

- 3 Talk with a partner about why Mrs. Brown thinks Snippets was stolen. Be sure to use details from the story.

Write

- 4 **Short Response** How is Mrs. Brown's problem solved? Use details from the story in your answer. Write your answer in the space on page 263.

HINT What does Marty ask Mrs. Brown?



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 259.

Jasper the Farm Cat

3 Short Response Think about how the story ends. Why is Jasper's idea a good one? Use details from the story in your answer.

HINT How does everyone feel at the end of the story?



Don't forget to check your writing.



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 261.

The Case of the **Missing Mutt**

4 Short Response How is Mrs. Brown’s problem solved?
Use details from the story in your answer.

HINT What does Marty ask Mrs. Brown?

Check Your Writing

- Did you read the question carefully?
- Can you say the question in your own words?
- Did you use proof from the text in your answer?
- Are your ideas in a good, clear order?
- Did you answer in full sentences?
- Did you check your spelling, capital letters, and periods?



Read

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- magnificent
- merchant
- tolerate
- frustration

THE Shade SELLER

A Korean Folktale

by Marilyn Helmer, *Spider*

- 1 A magnificent shade tree once grew near the house of a greedy merchant. Every day, the merchant sat under the tree.
- 2 One warm day a young man stopped to rest under the tree, too.
- 3 “Ho!” cried the merchant. “What do you think you’re doing, sitting in my shade?”
- 4 “The tree belongs to everyone,” he said.
- 5 “It is mine. However, I am willing to sell you the shade,” declared the merchant.
- 6 “No one owns shade,” said the young man.
- 7 “I own the tree, therefore I own the shade,” replied the merchant. The young man paid the greedy merchant.
- 8 As the hours passed, the shade moved with the sun.

9 When the shade moved into the merchant's yard, the young man did, too. The merchant frowned.

10 Then the shade moved onto the merchant's front porch. The young man followed. The merchant gritted his teeth.

11 Finally, the shade moved right into the merchant's magnificent house. The young man moved right in with it. This was more than the merchant could tolerate.

12 "What do you think you are doing?" he shouted.

13 "I'm simply following my shade," said the young man. The young man had, indeed, bought the shade.

14 The next day the young man returned and brought his relatives. His children laughed and played in the shade. His uncles and cousins sang and danced.

15 The merchant could hardly hear himself think. Finally, he shouted, "I want to buy back my shade."

16 "You sold it to me, and I intend to keep it," the young man shouted back. The merchant retreated to his house in frustration.

17 Soon after that, the merchant moved far away. The young man moved into the magnificent house. And to this day travelers are welcome to share the shade.



Think Use what you learned from reading “The Shade Seller” to answer the following questions.

- 1** What do we learn about the merchant at the beginning of the story?
 - A** He often argues with people who sit in his yard.
 - B** He doesn’t like it when people sing and dance.
 - C** He sits under the tree near his house every day.
 - D** He doesn’t know that shade moves with the sun.

- 2** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

When does the problem begin?

- A** when the merchant finds the young man sitting where the merchant likes to sit
- B** when the young man says that no one owns shade
- C** when the merchant yells at the young man for moving into his house
- D** when the young man brings his relatives to the merchant’s house

Part B

Write the sentence that tells what the merchant wants the young man to do in order to sit in the shade of the tree.

- 3** At the beginning of the story, the author says that the merchant is greedy. Find two details in the story that show the merchant is greedy. Write them on the lines below.

- 4** The young man brings his family to the house. Read the sentence that tells what the merchant did.

The merchant retreated to his house in frustration.

What does “retreated to” mean in this context?

- A** went away from
- B** went back inside
- C** looked behind
- D** tore down



Write How does the merchant’s problem change during the story?

5 Plan Your Response Below are details from “The Shade Seller.” Write them in the part of the chart where they **best** fit.

- The family moves into the house for good.
- The young man follows the shade into the house.
- The merchant sells his shade to the young man.
- The young man brings his family to enjoy the shade.
- A young man stops to rest under a tree.
- The merchant moves away.

Beginning	
Middle	
End	

6 Write an Extended Response How does the merchant’s problem change during the story? Describe events that happen and tell whether the problem is solved. Use details from the story in your answer.



Learning Target

Explain how the parts of a story work together. How do the three parts make the story interesting?
