

# Lesson *Stream* WORKSHEET

## How stories work

Use the words in the box to fill the gaps below:

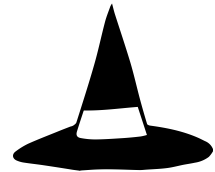
- Causality
- Conflict
- Resolution
- Setup
- Character
- Plot
- Setting
- Stakes

### ONE. Three essential ingredients for a story

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (a): Stories are usually about people. And if they are not about people, they are often about creatures that behave and think like people (e.g. *Animal Farm*, *Toy Story*, *Avatar*). To really care about the story, we need to know about the people in it.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (b): This is the series of connected events in the story. The important word here is *connected*. In stories, things happens as a result of other things. This is called \_\_\_\_\_ (c).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (d): If a story is a journey, it is important to know where we are at each step along the way. Characters are born out of their environments. And environments have a direct effect on the plot. In some cases, we might also need to know *when* events take place.

### TWO. Story parts

It is often said that stories happen in three parts.



1. The \_\_\_\_\_ (e) (the beginning): This is the story's foundations. We introduce the characters and provide information about the setting. Importantly, there should be something that the main character wants or needs – a goal.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ (f) (the middle): This is when things start to get exciting. A problem enters the story and stops the main character from getting what they want. We can now ask: How is the character going to get past this obstacle? Will they achieve their goal?

#### Will they or won't they?

All stories need some sort of conflict. Sometimes the conflict will lead to questions about whether the main character will succeed or fail.

- Will Dorothy get to the Emerald City, find *The Wizard of Oz* and return to Kansas?
- Will *Romeo and Juliet* live happily ever after despite their rival families?
- Can Charlotte the spider save Wilbur the pig from slaughter? (*Charlotte's Web*)

Such *will-they-or-won't-they* questions are called the story \_\_\_\_\_ (g).

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ (h) (the end): This is when we find out if the character achieved their goal. Whatever happened, stories involve change. What does the character know now that they didn't know at the beginning? Or how has the world around them changed?