

Drama

Objective

Students will describe main characters in a drama text and describe its plot elements through dialogue.

Materials

- Two drama texts—a text for teacher modeling (one for teacher) and a text for student practice (one per student or group)
- Drama handout

Overview

Provide explicit instruction with modeling before having students practice independently or in groups.

Activity

1. Distribute the text and the Drama handout.
2. Discuss the plot elements on the handout and provide the following examples:
 - Exposition: Mike and Jill are camping in the forest and decide to take a walk.
 - Rising action: Mike and Jill find a bear cub and try to pet it.
 - Climax: Mommy Bear jumps out at Mike and Jill and chases them through the forest.
 - Falling action: Mike and Jill cross a river and Mommy Bear stays on the side with her cub.
 - Resolution: Mike and Jill make it back to their campsite safely.
3. Review dialogue (students will use dialogue to fill out the plot elements on the last page of the handout). Remind students to watch for quotation marks.
4. Model the process with the example text and complete the handout.
5. Have students practice the process. Provide scaffolding as necessary.

Adapted from Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts at The University of Texas at Austin. (2009). *Teacher reading academies*. Austin, TX: Author.

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Plot Elements

- **Exposition:** Information about the setting and characters
- **Rising action:** Part of the story that develops the problem or conflict
- **Climax:** Part of the story where the problem or conflict reaches its peak
- **Falling action:** Part of the story after the problem or conflict occurs
- **Resolution:** The conclusion of the story that reveals the outcome or solution to the problem or conflict

Directions

1. Read the text.
2. In the chart below, fill in the names of two to six main characters a brief description of each one.
3. On the next page, use dialogue when possible to fill in each box for the text’s plot elements.

Character name:	Character name:	Character name:
Description:	Description:	Description:
Character name:	Character name:	Character name:
Description:	Description:	Description:

