

Reading Comprehension Worksheet | Story elements

Stories have a **beginning**, a **middle**, and an **ending**. The beginning of a story introduces the **characters** (who) and the **setting** (where). The middle describes **events**, forming the **plot**, which often includes a problem. The ending reveals how the problem is solved.

Instructions: A parent or teacher should read the text to the student and then guide them in finding the correct answers.



The Brave Little Squirrel

On the edge of the forest, lived a little squirrel named Nutty. He was small, with a bushy tail and fur that was a mix of brown and orange. Nutty's home was located high up in an oak tree, where he could see the entire forest below. Some of the other squirrels were bigger and faster, so Nutty had always been a little nervous about leaving the tree and exploring.

One afternoon, Nutty noticed something unusual. A large storm cloud was quickly gathering above the forest. The wind started to blow, and the trees began to shake. Nutty's heart raced. He was scared the storm might be dangerous for all the animals in the forest. He wanted to warn everyone, but Nutty had never been outside of his tree before. He had always stayed in the branches where it was safe.

Nutty thought for a moment, and then he knew he had to try. He jumped from branch to branch, down to the forest floor, and ran as fast as he could to warn the other animals. Nutty found a family of rabbits, a group of deer, and even a family of birds. He told them all about the storm that was coming. "Thank you, Nutty!" they all said. Nutty felt proud. Even though he was small, he had helped save the animals in the forest.

As the storm rolled in, Nutty made it safely back to his oak tree, where he watched the rain fall. The other animals were all safe and sheltered thanks to his bravery. Nutty smiled. He had faced his fear and done something very important.



Think about the **story elements** as you answer the questions on the following page.

1. **Characters:** Who is this story mostly about?

A family of rabbits

Nutty the squirrel

A group of deer

2. **Setting:** Where does this story mostly take place?

In a park

In a city

In a forest

3. **Problem:** What problem does one story character have?

Nutty is afraid of the storm.

Nutty is afraid of meeting the other animals.

Nutty cannot find his way home.

4. **Event 1:** Which event happens first in this story?

Nutty warns the other animals about the storm.

Nutty sees the storm cloud and gets scared.

Nutty jumps from tree to tree.

5. **Event 2:** Which event happens second in this story?

Nutty warns the other animals about the storm.

Nutty sees the storm cloud and gets scared.

Nutty jumps from tree to tree.

6. **Event 3:** Which event happens third in this story?

Nutty warns the other animals about the storm.

Nutty sees the storm cloud and gets scared.

Nutty jumps from tree to tree.

6. **Problem Solution:** How is Nutty's problem solved?

Nutty stays in the tree and waits for the storm to pass.

Nutty faces his fear and warns the other animals.

Nutty asks the other animals for help.