

The Turning Point

Explain how events develop and resolve a story's conflict.

6.RL.1.B "Describe plot developments in stories and dramas by examining the exposition, initiating event, central conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Mark the initiating event in section 1, one rising-action step in section 2 and the moment of greatest uncertainty in section 3. Label those marks I, R and C. Be ready to support your choices.

The Sunflower Display - original classroom fiction

1. Before the festival

On Saturday morning, Maya opened the community garden gate before the neighborhood harvest festival. She had promised to display the tallest sunflower, which she had raised from a tiny seed beside her grandfather. The flower stood in a clay pot near the gate, its yellow head taller than Maya's shoulder. As she carried a box of ribbons from the shed, a gust of wind knocked the pot over. The stem bent sharply, and the sunflower lay across the path.

2. An attempted solution

Maya feared the judges would arrive before she could save it. Her neighbor Luis offered tape, but Maya worried that tight tape might damage the soft stem. She slid a bamboo stake into the soil and tied the stem loosely with strips of cloth. Then she moved the pot beside the shed, away from the wind. The flower began to lift its head, but the festival bell rang. The judges were walking through the gate toward her display.

3. The test

At the sheltered display table beside the shed, the tallest judge leaned close as another breeze rattled the leaves. The cloth ties held, and the sunflower remained upright. Maya let out her breath and explained how she had supported the damaged stem. After the judging, the judge gave Maya a blue ribbon for careful gardening. Maya thanked Luis and placed the sunflower in a sheltered corner. She decided that next year she would stake her plants before festival day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Describe the exposition and initiating event. What central conflict continues after that event?

2 Name two rising-action steps and a defensible climax. Explain their relationship.

3 Put Maya's explanation, the judging and the ribbon in the correct order. What resolves the story?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Use plot stages to explain the story, not just label it.

Describe the complete development

Write an organized account using these terms: exposition, initiating event, central conflict, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. Explain how the events connect. The conflict may continue through several stages; it is not a separate event that occurs only once.

Defend a boundary

Explain where you would end the climax and begin the falling action. Cite a detail from section 3. A different boundary is acceptable if your reasoning preserves the event order.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Mark the initiating event in section 1, one rising-action step in section 2 and the moment of greatest uncertainty in section 3. Label those marks I, R and C. Be ready to support your choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe the exposition and initiating event. What central conflict continues after that event?	The exposition introduces Maya's sunflower, goal and community-garden festival. Wind knocks over the pot and bends the stem. Maya must keep her damaged flower upright for judging.
2	Name two rising-action steps and a defensible climax. Explain their relationship.	Maya stakes and loosely ties the stem, then shelters the pot. The climax is the breeze during examination when the ties must hold; it tests whether those efforts succeed.
3	Put Maya's explanation, the judging and the ribbon in the correct order. What resolves the story?	During examination, the flower stays upright and Maya explains the support. After judging ends, she receives a ribbon. She thanks Luis, shelters the plant and plans earlier staking next year.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Possible plot account**

The exposition establishes Maya's goal of showing her sunflower at the festival. The initiating event is the wind knocking its pot over. Her central conflict is keeping the damaged flower upright for judging. Rising action includes staking, tying and sheltering it as the judges arrive. The climax comes when a fresh breeze tests the repair and the ties hold. Falling action follows as Maya relaxes and explains the support while the judges examine it. After judging, the ribbon and her plan to stake earlier provide resolution.

Possible boundary explanation

I place the boundary after "the sunflower remained upright" in section 3. Until then the breeze could undo her work. Her next action, letting out her breath, signals reduced tension. The explanation happens before judging ends, not after the ribbon.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Accept defensible plot-stage boundaries with textual support. In section 3 Maya explains during the examination; the ribbon follows after judging. A central conflict persists through events rather than occupying one isolated chronological slot. The sample covers all seven named elements without requiring exactly seven sentences. This story is fiction, not plant-care guidance. Assess accurate order, causal connections and the turning point.