

# The Turning Point

Trace how a problem changes a story.

**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** In the margin, number the plot developments in order: 1 for exposition, 2 for the initiating event, 3 for central conflict, 4 for rising action, 5 for climax, 6 for falling action, and 7 for resolution.

### The Sunflower Display

- ① 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 Maya feared the judges would arrive before she could save it. Her neighbor Luis offered tape, but Maya knew tape would crush 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 At the display table, 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 What information in the exposition introduces Maya, her goal, and the setting?

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2 What is the initiating event, and what central conflict does it create for Maya?

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3 Name two rising-action steps Maya takes. How do these steps move her toward solving the conflict?

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4 What is the climax? Then describe the falling action and resolution.

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## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Create a seven-step plot outline for a different story. Write one sentence for each stage: exposition, initiating event, central conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

In the margin, number the plot developments in order: 1 for exposition, 2 for the initiating event, 3 for central conflict, 4 for rising action, 5 for climax, 6 for falling action, and 7 for resolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                          | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What information in the exposition introduces Maya, her goal, and the setting?                    | <b>Maya is at a community garden before a harvest festival, and she wants to display the tallest sunflower she grew.</b>                                                                                                     |
| 2 | What is the initiating event, and what central conflict does it create for Maya?                  | <b>Wind knocks over the pot and bends the sunflower's stem. Maya must save the flower before the judges arrive.</b>                                                                                                          |
| 3 | Name two rising-action steps Maya takes. How do these steps move her toward solving the conflict? | <b>She stakes and loosely ties the stem, then moves the pot beside the shed. These actions support the flower and protect it from more wind.</b>                                                                             |
| 4 | What is the climax? Then describe the falling action and resolution.                              | <b>The climax is when another breeze blows but the ties hold and the sunflower stays upright. Maya explains her repair after the judging, then earns a ribbon, thanks Luis, and plans to stake plants earlier next year.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Exposition: Devon prepares his robot for the school showcase in the library. Initiating event: A spilled cup of water stops the robot's wheel minutes before guests enter. Central conflict: Devon must make the robot move before the judges leave, but its wheel will not turn. Rising action: Devon dries the floor, tests new batteries, and searches for the problem. Climax: Just as the judges arrive, Devon finds a loose wire and reconnects it. Falling action: The robot rolls across the table while the judges watch its demonstration. Resolution: Devon earns a teamwork award after thanking classmates who helped him.

Accept reasonable plot boundaries when students support their choices with details from the passage. For Part 3, accept varied original story ideas if all seven stages are present, ordered logically, and show a clear conflict and outcome.