Name _____ Date _____

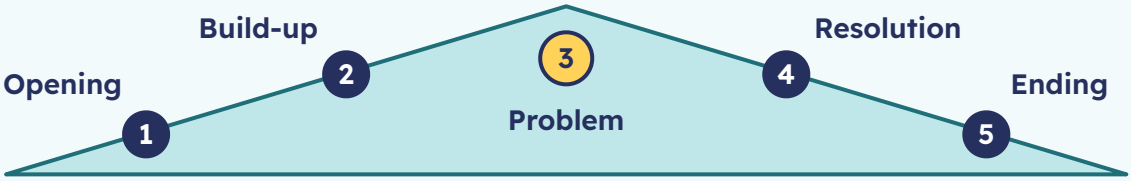
Read like a writer

Read a story like yours: spot its parts, its best words and its sentences.

1 Learn



Writers learn from other writers! Most stories climb a **story mountain** with five parts. Spot them, then **magpie** good ideas.



Example: The Lost Lantern, part by part.

1 Opening	**One frosty evening,** Mia and Grandad took a lantern to the park.
2 Build-up	They hung it on a branch, and its warm glow **danced** on the pond.
3 Problem	**Suddenly,** a gust of wind **snatched** the lantern over the hedge!
4 Resolution	Mia spied a **glimmer** in the reeds and hooked it back with a stick.
5 Ending	All the way home, Mia held the string tightly and smiled.

Magpie it: danced | snatched | glimmer | One frosty evening, …

Flip's tip: borrow, don't copy. Keep the pattern, change the words: "One frosty evening," could become "One stormy morning,".

Warm up: fill in the missing parts.

Opening → _____ **→ Problem →** _____ **→ Ending**

Grown-ups: read the story aloud together and ask "Where does something go wrong?" That's the top of the mountain. Schools call collecting a good word or idea to reuse "magpieing".

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Story detectives

You need: a short storybook from home (a picture book is perfect) and a pencil.

1. Read the story together, taking turns to read a page each.
2. Stop when a new part starts. Which part of the story mountain is it?
3. Write a few words in the table to say what happens in each part.
4. Hunt for **great words** and **a sentence pattern** to magpie.

Part	What happens (a few words)
Opening	
Build-up	
Problem	
Resolution	
Ending	
Magpie	

Grown-ups: if a book has more than one problem, pick the biggest. Ask "How did the character fix it?" to find the resolution.

3 Practise

A. The parts of **The Runaway Hat** are muddled. Write the part in each box: **O** opening, **B** build-up, **P** problem, **R** resolution, **E** ending.

☐ At last, Leo caught the hat on the very edge of the bridge.

☐ On a windy Saturday, Leo wore his new red hat to the market.

☐ That night, Leo hung his hat on a hook, far away from the open window.

☐ Suddenly, the wind whipped the hat off his head and rolled it towards the river!

☐ He skipped past the fruit stalls, waving to the baker.

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B. Draw a ring round the word that helps you **picture it** more clearly.

1. The fox **went / crept** through the grass.
2. A **big / towering** wave crashed on the rocks.
3. The queen wore a **nice / glittering** crown.
4. "Shh!" **said / whispered** Sam to the baby.

C. Borrow the pattern, not the words. Write your own sentence like each one.

1. One frosty evening, Mia and Grandad took a lantern to the park.

Like this: One sunny morning, Sam and his sister took a kite to the beach.

2. Suddenly, a gust of wind snatched the lantern over the hedge!

D. Did each child **borrow** from The Lost Lantern, or **copy** it? Tick one.

What they wrote	Borrow	Copy
Leo: One frosty evening, Mia and Grandad took a lantern to the park.		
Ava: One stormy night, Leo and his mum took a torch to the beach.		
Sam: The wind snatched my football and swept it over the fence!		

Challenge

Leo says, "The **problem** in The Lost Lantern is when Mia walks home." Is he right? Which part is that, and where is the problem?

I can…

Tick when you can.

- ☐ name the five parts of a story mountain
- ☐ magpie great words from a story
- ☐ borrow a sentence pattern without copying