

PLOT & STORY EVENTS

10 Low Prep Reading Lesson Sets

Understand What is Plot?
Authors often use a similar order of story events. This is referred to as plot structure.

The events that describe how the character interacts with or avoids the problem.

Conflict
The problem is introduced.

MINI LESSON: Fiction Story Elements
Lesson #1
Whole Group Lesson Plan

Lesson Objective: Students will be able to identify the basic elements found in fictional stories.

CONNECT 1-2 min
When authors are writing a text, they usually follow a specific structure or include certain elements depending on the genre they are writing. When authors are writing fictional texts, they usually include the same basic story elements. Most fictional stories will include the following elements.

TEACHING POINT 1 min
Today I want to show you how most fiction stories have the same key story elements. Note: If you would like to use a visual for this lesson, you can use the Story Elements Anchor Chart (next page) or the Google Slides Presentation to help facilitate your lesson.

TEACH MODEL 3-5 min
When authors are writing a text, they usually follow a specific structure or include certain elements depending on the genre they are writing. When authors are writing fictional texts, they usually include the same basic story elements. Most fictional stories will include the following elements:

- Characters** - The people or animals in the story. To identify the characters, you can ask yourself, "Who is the story about?"
- Setting** - This describes when and where the characters interact. It is the location, time, and environment of a story. To identify the setting, you can ask yourself, "When and where does the story take place?"
- Problem** - In fiction stories, most characters will experience a problem or challenge. This is often what causes the characters to act in a certain way and directs the events in the story. To identify the problem, you can ask yourself, "What problem is the character trying to solve?" or "What challenge is the character facing?"
- Solution/Resolution** - Most of the time, authors will provide a solution or resolution to the problem in the story. By the end of the story, the characters have been able to figure out how to solve their problem or overcome their challenge. To identify the solution, you can ask yourself, "How is the problem solved or resolved?"
- Theme** - While this usually isn't explicitly stated in the text, readers can infer a theme when they are reading. To identify the theme, you can ask yourself, "What message is the author communicating to the readers?"

Stop and Jot: Understanding Plot
Focus: What is Plot?
Name: _____ Date: _____

Exposition	
Conflict	
Rising Action	
Climax	
Falling Action	
Resolution	

OBJECTIVE Readers can identify and describe the different parts of a fictional plot structure.

What is Plot?

Authors often use a similar pattern or order of story events when writing a story. This is referred to as plot structure.

Exposition
The beginning of the story. Characters and setting are introduced.

Conflict
The problem is introduced.

Rising Action
The events that describe how the character interacts with or avoids the problem.

Climax
The turning point in the story. This is often the most exciting or suspenseful part.

Falling Action
Events leading to the resolution and end of the story.

Resolution
End of the story. Problem is resolved.

You can use the story mountain to help keep track of the plot.

Lesson Plans • Anchor Charts • Google Slides • Graphic Organizers



3

REASONS TO LOVE

THESE PLOT & STORY EVENTS LESSON SETS

TIME-SAVING

I know a teacher's to-do list is massive, but with this resource, you can cross lesson planning off your list. This resource gives you everything you need for your whole group lessons on **plot structure and story events**: scripted lesson plans, whole group teaching slides, anchor charts, and graphic organizers.

CLEAR AND CONCISE

These lessons make it super easy for you to clearly communicate, teach, and model each objective to your students. The lesson plans will help you deliver a clear and effective lesson, and the visuals included will help your students understand exactly what you are teaching.

LOW PREP FOR TEACHERS

This resource seriously is just print and teach. You won't have to prep any materials for your lessons. Think how much time you will save not having to type out lesson plans or prep anchor charts or slides for your lessons. They are all done for you with this resource.

Understanding Plot

What is Plot?



Authors often use a similar pattern or order of story events when writing a story. This is referred to as plot structure.

The events that describe how the character interacts with or avoids the problem.

Conflict

The problem is introduced.

Exposition

The beginning of the story. Characters and setting are introduced.

Rising Action

Climax

The turning point in the story. This is often the most exciting or suspenseful part.

Falling Action

Events leading to the resolution and end of story.

Resolution

The end of the story. Problem is resolved.

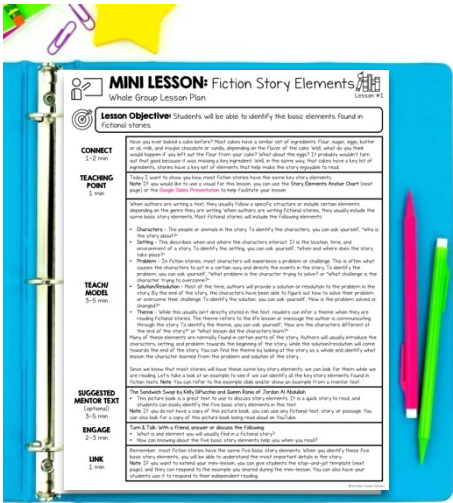
You can use the story mountain to help keep track of the plot.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED?

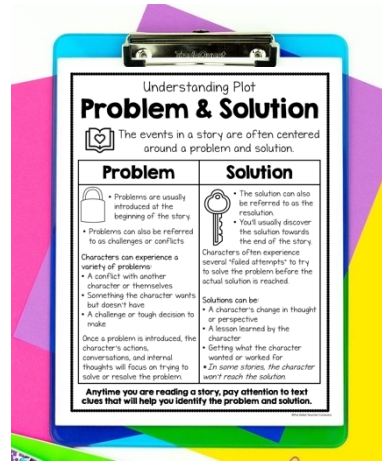
For each lesson you get a scripted lesson plan, anchor chart, teaching slide set, and half-page graphic organizer.

10 SCRIPTED LESSON PLANS



These lesson plans are scripted and ready to go. You can attach them to your weekly lesson plan, use them to prep your lesson, or even read from them while teaching.

10 PRINTABLE ANCHOR CHARTS



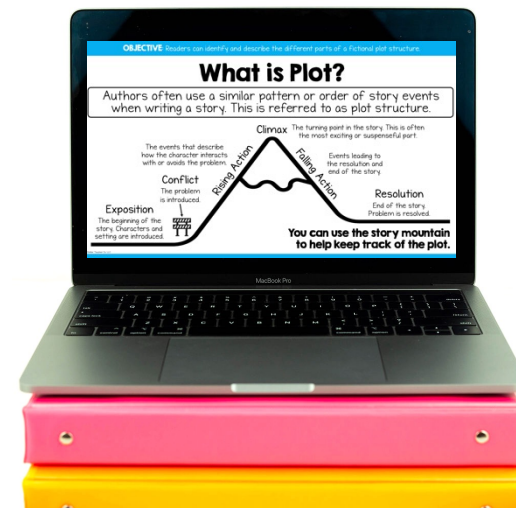
Each lesson comes with a full-page printable anchor chart. Post it in your classroom after your lesson, or shrink it down to 85% and have students glue it in their notebooks.

10 MINI GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS



Each lesson includes a half-page graphic organizer. Students can use this during your lesson or you can assign it to them as independent practice after your lesson.

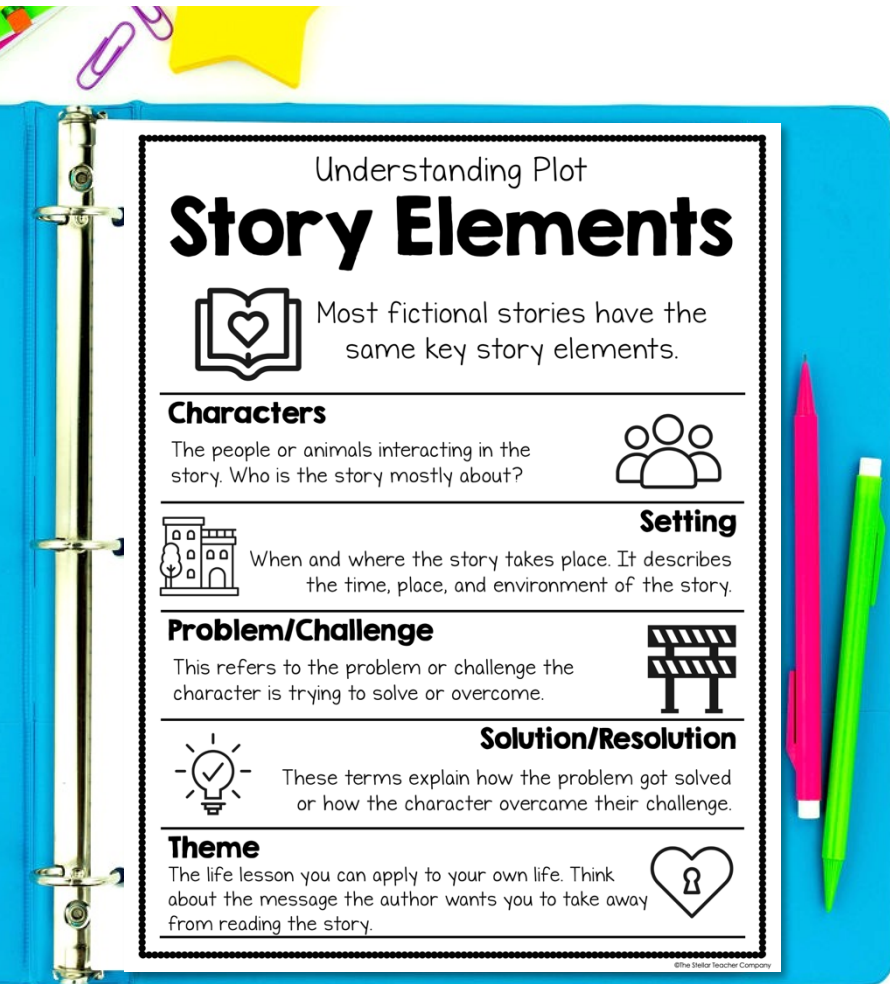
TEACHING SLIDES FOR EACH LESSON



Each lesson includes a set of teaching slides to help you teach, practice, and discuss the objective. These slides help you deliver an effective and engaging lesson.

WHAT LESSONS ARE INCLUDED?

This resource includes ten lessons that are all connected to **plot and story elements**. You can teach all ten or select the lessons that are most relevant to what your students need. These lessons are also great if you need to quickly spiral or review a concept.



Lesson #1: Story Elements

Lesson #2: Plot Structure

Lesson #3: Predicting Story Events

Lesson #4: Problem & Solution

Lesson #5: Inferring a Solution

Lesson #6: 3 Types of Conflict

Lesson #7: Flashbacks

Lesson #8: Foreshadowing


Lesson #9: Unresolved Problems

Lesson #10: Summarizing Plot

Just print the set you want to teach, and you're set for a stellar whole group lesson.

LOW PREP and EASY-TO-USE

MINI LESSON: Fiction Story Elements Lesson #1 Whole Group Lesson Plan

 **Lesson Objective:** Students will be able to identify the basic elements found in fictional stories.

CONNECT
1-2 min

Have you ever baked a cake before? Most cakes have a similar set of ingredients. Flour, sugar, eggs, butter or oil, milk, and maybe chocolate or fruit depending on the flavor of the cake. Well, what do you think would happen if you left out the flour? What about the eggs? It probably wouldn't turn out that good because it was missing ingredients, stories have a key set of ingredients.

TEACHING POINT
1 min

Today I want to show you how to identify the key elements of a story.
Note: If you would like to use a Google Slides Presentation (page) or the [Google Slides Presentation](#).

TEACH/ MODEL
3-5 min

When authors are writing a text, they use the same basic story elements. Many of these elements are found in the same order.

- **Characters** - The people or animals interacting in the story.
 - **Setting** - This describes the environment of a story, where the story takes place.
 - **Problem** - In fiction stories, the characters have a problem, you can ask, "What is the character trying to overcome?"
 - **Solution/Resolution** - The end of the story, where the character overcomes their problem.
 - **Theme** - While this is not always explicitly stated, it is the message or lesson of the story.
- Many of these elements are found in the same order. As you read towards the end of the lesson the characters, setting, and problem.

Since we know that we are reading fiction texts, note the key elements.

SUGGESTED MENTOR TEXT

- The Sandwich Swirl
- This picture book is a great example of a story with a clear problem and solution.

Understanding Plot Story Elements



Most fictional stories have the same key story elements.

Characters

The people or animals interacting in the story. Who is the story mostly about?



Setting

When and where the story takes place. It describes the time, place, and environment of the story.



Problem/Challenge

This refers to the problem or challenge the character is trying to solve.



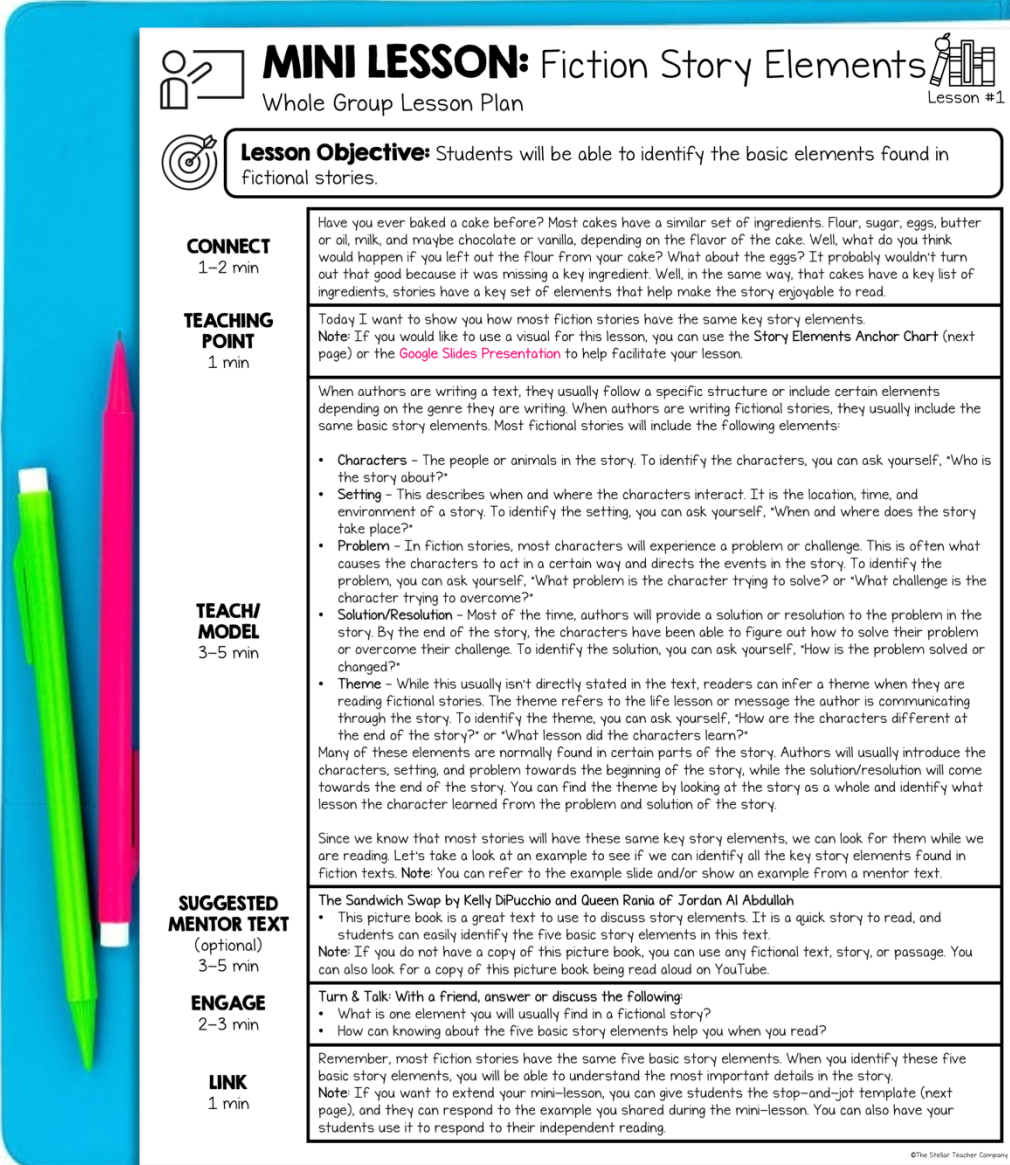
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

SCRIPTED TEACHER LESSON PLAN

Each lesson set includes a scripted teacher lesson plan. It provides you with the exact language you can use to teach that objective. These lesson plans will help keep your lessons short and concise.

Each lesson plan includes the following sections:

- Connect & Introduce Objective
- Teach & Model
- Suggested Mentor Text Title
- Engage Questions
- Closure



MINI LESSON: Fiction Story Elements
Whole Group Lesson Plan Lesson #1

Lesson Objective: Students will be able to identify the basic elements found in fictional stories.

CONNECT
1–2 min

Have you ever baked a cake before? Most cakes have a similar set of ingredients. Flour, sugar, eggs, butter or oil, milk, and maybe chocolate or vanilla, depending on the flavor of the cake. Well, what do you think would happen if you left out the flour from your cake? What about the eggs? It probably wouldn't turn out that good because it was missing a key ingredient. Well, in the same way, that cakes have a key list of ingredients, stories have a key set of elements that help make the story enjoyable to read.

TEACHING POINT
1 min

Today I want to show you how most fiction stories have the same key story elements. **Note:** If you would like to use a visual for this lesson, you can use the [Story Elements Anchor Chart](#) (next page) or the [Google Slides Presentation](#) to help facilitate your lesson.

When authors are writing a text, they usually follow a specific structure or include certain elements depending on the genre they are writing. When authors are writing fictional stories, they usually include the same basic story elements. Most fictional stories will include the following elements:

- **Characters** - The people or animals in the story. To identify the characters, you can ask yourself, "Who is the story about?"
- **Setting** - This describes when and where the characters interact. It is the location, time, and environment of a story. To identify the setting, you can ask yourself, "When and where does the story take place?"
- **Problem** - In fiction stories, most characters will experience a problem or challenge. This is often what causes the characters to act in a certain way and directs the events in the story. To identify the problem, you can ask yourself, "What problem is the character trying to solve?" or "What challenge is the character trying to overcome?"
- **Solution/Resolution** - Most of the time, authors will provide a solution or resolution to the problem in the story. By the end of the story, the characters have been able to figure out how to solve their problem or overcome their challenge. To identify the solution, you can ask yourself, "How is the problem solved or changed?"
- **Theme** - While this usually isn't directly stated in the text, readers can infer a theme when they are reading fictional stories. The theme refers to the life lesson or message the author is communicating through the story. To identify the theme, you can ask yourself, "How are the characters different at the end of the story?" or "What lesson did the characters learn?"

Many of these elements are normally found in certain parts of the story. Authors will usually introduce the characters, setting, and problem towards the beginning of the story, while the solution/resolution will come towards the end of the story. You can find the theme by looking at the story as a whole and identify what lesson the character learned from the problem and solution of the story.

Since we know that most stories will have these same key story elements, we can look for them while we are reading. Let's take a look at an example to see if we can identify all the key story elements found in fiction texts. **Note:** You can refer to the example slide and/or show an example from a mentor text.

SUGGESTED MENTOR TEXT
(optional)
3–5 min

The Sandwich Swap by Kelly DiPucchio and Queen Rania of Jordan Al Abdullah

- This picture book is a great text to use to discuss story elements. It is a quick story to read, and students can easily identify the five basic story elements in this text.

Note: If you do not have a copy of this picture book, you can use any fictional text, story, or passage. You can also look for a copy of this picture book being read aloud on YouTube.

ENGAGE
2–3 min

Turn & Talk: With a friend, answer or discuss the following

- What is one element you will usually find in a fictional story?
- How can knowing about the five basic story elements help you when you read?

LINK
1 min

Remember, most fiction stories have the same five basic story elements. When you identify these five basic story elements, you will be able to understand the most important details in the story. **Note:** If you want to extend your mini-lesson, you can give students the stop-and-jot template (next page), and they can respond to the example you shared during the mini-lesson. You can also have your students use it to respond to their independent reading.

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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

PRINTABLE ANCHOR CHART




Each lesson includes a printable anchor chart. You can either print this chart and display it under a document camera to help teach your lesson or you can always give students a copy of the anchor chart after the lesson to glue in their folder or notebook.

These anchor charts include all the key information students need to remember from your lesson.




Understanding Plot


Story Elements

 Most fictional stories have the same key story elements.

Characters

The people or animals interacting in the story. Who is the story mostly about?







Setting

When and where the story takes place. It describes the time, place, and environment of the story.

Problem/Challenge

This refers to the problem or challenge the character is trying to solve or overcome.






Solution/Resolution

These terms explain how the problem got solved or how the character overcame their challenge.

Theme

The life lesson you can apply to your own life. Think about the message the author wants you to take away from reading the story.



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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

MINI GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Each lesson includes a half-page graphic organizer related to the objective. These graphic organizer work with any text.

You can use them during the lesson to help model the concept to your students.

Or, you can give them to students after the lesson and have them practice applying the objective to their independent reading.

You can also use them during your small group lessons.



Stop and Jot: Understanding Plot

Focus: Story Elements

Directions: Use the chart below to write down all the basic story elements of the story you read.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Who are the characters?	What is the setting?
What is the theme?	
What is the problem?	How is the problem solved?

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Stop and Jot: Understanding Plot

Focus: Story Elements

Directions: Use the chart below to write down all the basic story elements of the story you read.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Who are the characters?	What is the setting?
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What is the problem?	How is the problem solved?

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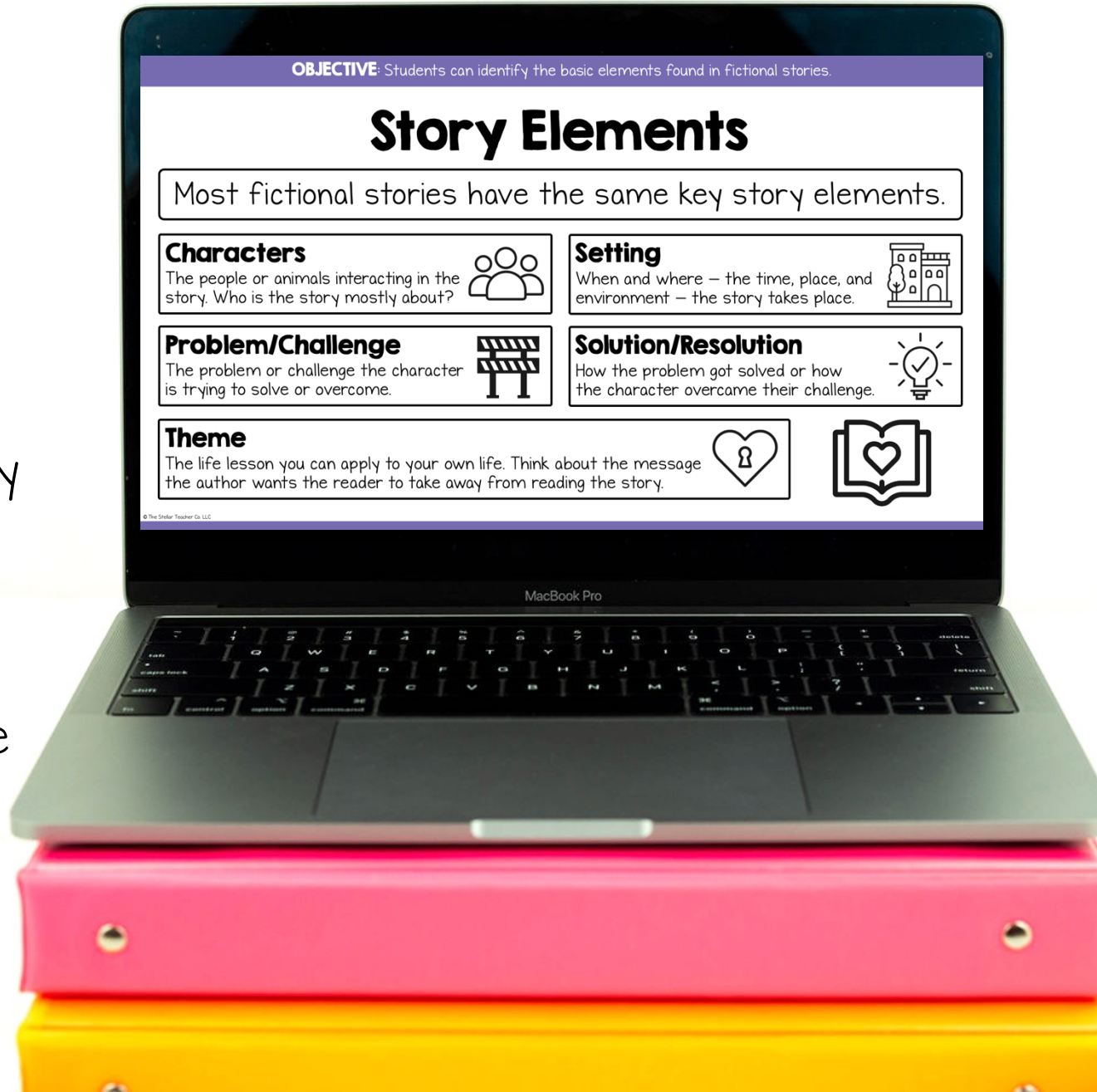


TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

GOOGLE SLIDE SET: TEACHING SLIDE

Each lesson includes a teaching slide. This slide includes a lot of the same information on the anchor chart.

It is a great slide to display during the teach/model portion of your lesson. It will help you clearly communicate the objective to your students.

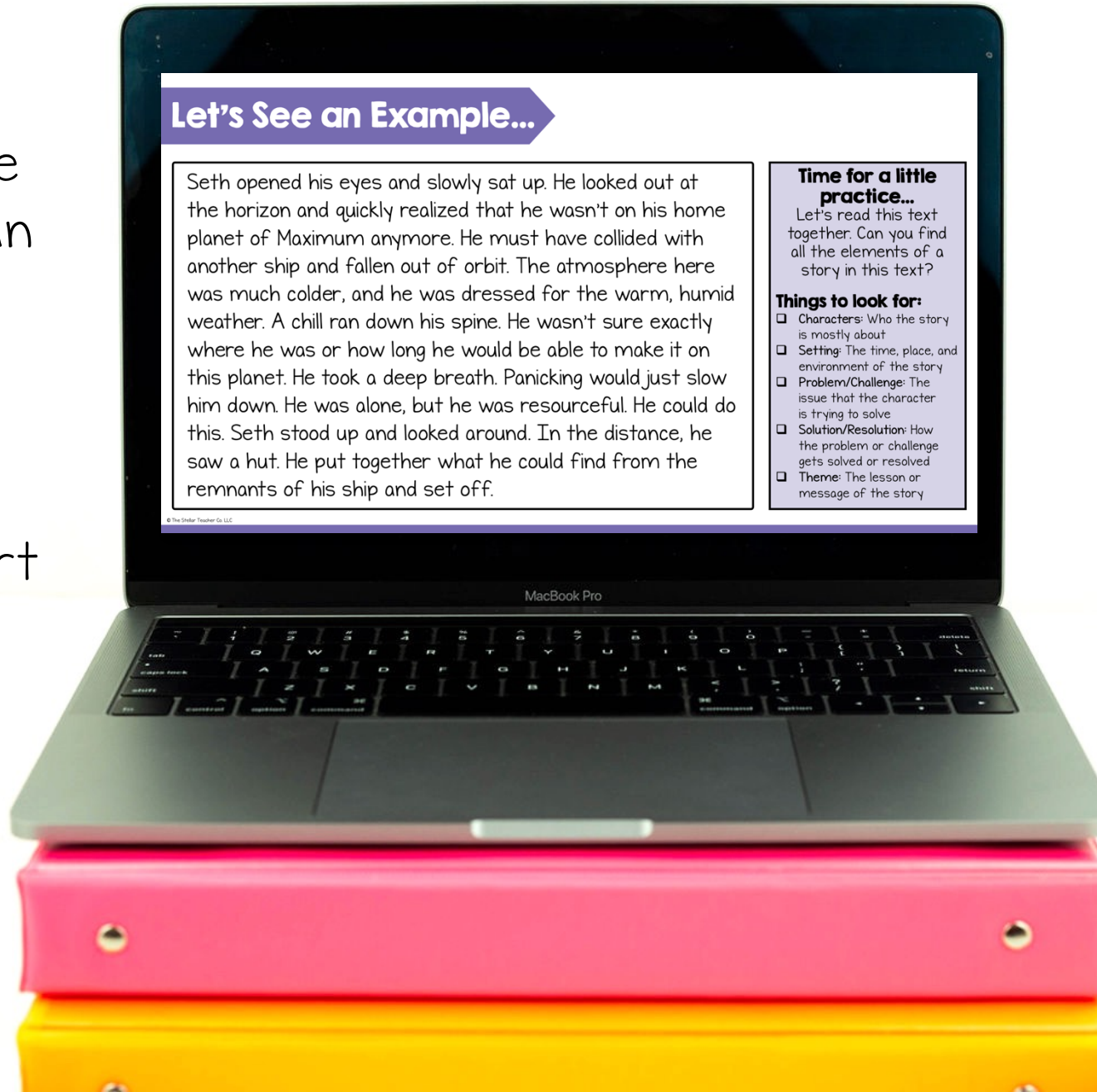


TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

GOOGLE SLIDE SET: EXAMPLE SLIDE

Each lesson includes an example slide. The example slide is a great slide you can use to either model or practice with your students.

It will either include a short paragraph or a chart or some other example related to the objective of the lesson.





TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

GOOGLE SLIDE SET: TURN & TALK SLIDE

Each lesson includes a turn-and-talk slide with two questions you can use for whole group discussion at the end of your lesson.

The turn-and-talk slide also includes key reminders for how students should be engaging in discussion with their peers.



Let's Turn & Talk

WHEN TALKING WITH A FRIEND, REMEMBER TO...

- Turn your body to face the person speaking.
- Make eye contact.
- Take turns sharing.
- Stay on topic.
- Include any friends still looking for a partner in your conversation.

With a friend, answer or discuss the following...

Question #1:

What is one element you will usually find in a fictional story?

Question #2:

How can knowing about the 5 basic story elements help you when you read?

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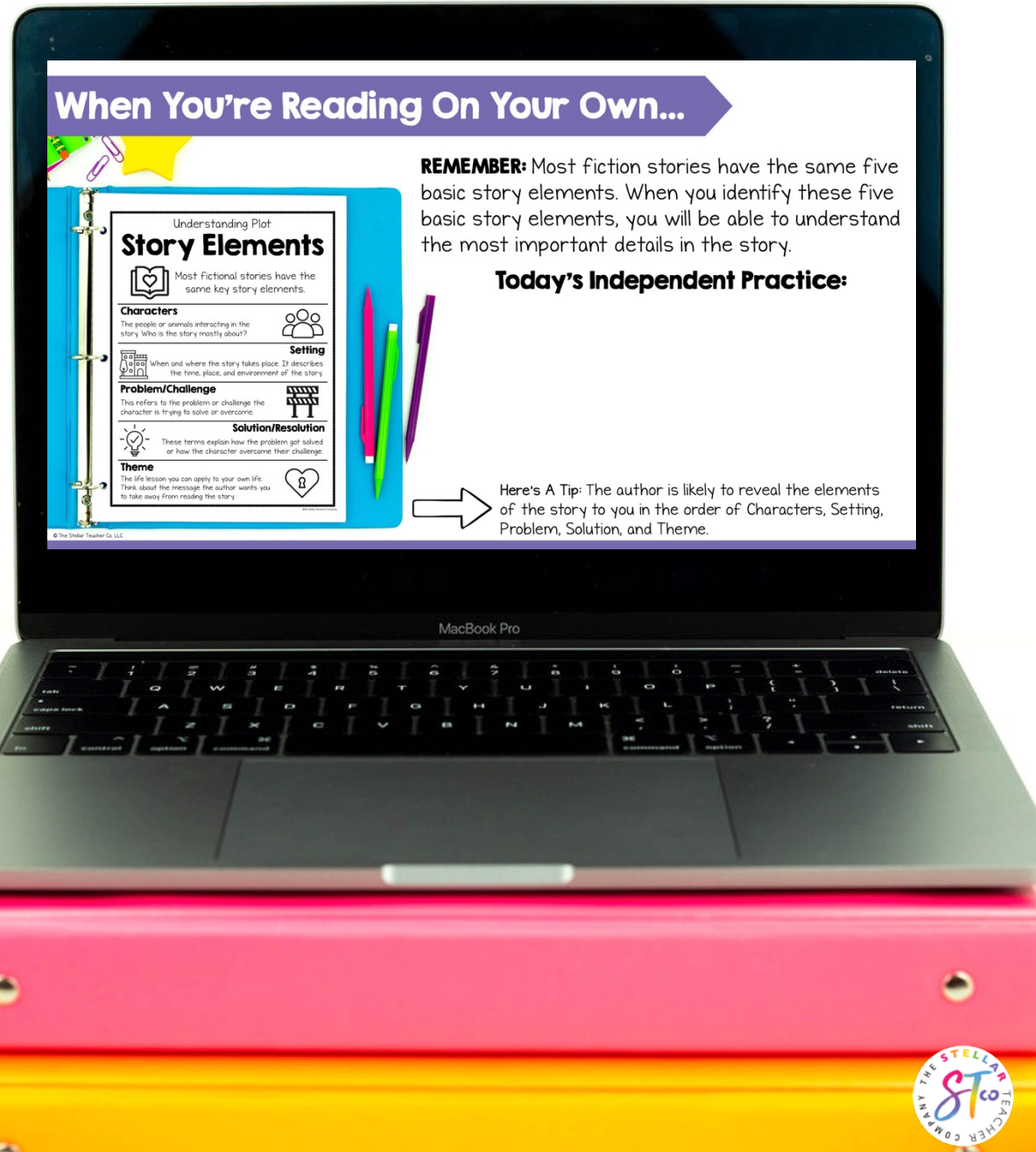


TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...

GOOGLE SLIDE SET: CLOSING SLIDE

The final slides includes a reminder of what you taught and then blank space for you to customize the independent practice assignment for the day.

This is a great slide to leave up during your independent practice so students can be reminded of what you taught and also know what they should be working on.



NEED MORE THAN JUST THIS SET?

CHECK OUT SOME OF MY OTHER READING MINI LESSON SETS.

READING BUNDLE

no prep lessons & slides
100+ Lessons for The Entire Year!

What is Plot?
Authors often use a similar pattern or order of story events when writing a story. This is referred to as plot structure.

Exposition
The beginning of the story. Characters and setting are introduced.

Conflict
The problem is introduced.

Rising Action
The events that describe how the character interacts with or solves the problem.

Climax
The turning point in the story. This is often the most exciting or suspenseful part.

Falling Action
Events leading to the resolution and end of the story.

Resolution
End of the story. Problem is resolved.

You can use the story mountain to help keep track of the plot.

PERFECT FOR
3rd - 5th

LESSON PLANS • TEACHING SLIDES • ANCHOR CHARTS

[Click HERE for the bundle.](#)

MAIN IDEA

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Topic vs. Main Idea
When you are reading nonfiction texts, you want to think about the topic and the main idea of the text.

Topic
This is the big idea or the subject of the text. It is usually just one word or phrase.

Main Idea
What the author wants you to know about the topic. It is usually a sentence. Sometimes you have to infer the main idea.

How to identify:

Ask yourself these questions:
• What is the subject of the text?
• What is one word that tells what the text is about?

Ask yourself these questions:
• What does the author want me to know about this topic?
• What is the author trying to say about this topic?

LESSON PLANS • ANCHOR CHARTS • STUDENT PRACTICE

[Click HERE for the main idea set.](#)

CHARACTERS

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Inferring Traits
A character's feelings, actions, speech, and thoughts, can help a reader infer that character's traits.

Pay attention to the character's ...

Feelings • How do they respond to the problem? • How do their feelings change in the story?	Actions • How does the character behave? • What motivates the character to behave this way?	Speech • Who do they talk to? • What do they say? • What don't they say?	Thoughts • What internal dialogue do they have? • How do they think about themselves?
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Think FAST about the characters in your text.

LESSON PLANS • TEACHING SLIDES • ANCHOR CHARTS

[Click HERE for the characters set.](#)

POINT OF VIEW

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Third-Person Point of View
Authors will sometimes use a narrator that isn't in the story. This is third-person point of view.

What is it?
Third-person point of view is when the narrator isn't a character in the story. They are the voice telling the story.

Clues to look for
Pronouns are a great clue to help you figure out the POV. In the third-person POV, the narrator will use words like he, she, they, and them.

Benefits of this POV
When the narrator isn't a character, the reader can get more of a big-picture perspective of the characters and events that happen in the story.

LESSON PLANS • ANCHOR CHARTS • STUDENT PRACTICE

[Click HERE for the point of view set.](#)

SUMMARIZING

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Summarizing Fiction
Readers understand how to summarize fiction stories.

Six Characteristics of a Strong Fiction Summary

- 1 Keep it short. Try to keep it around 4 to 5 sentences.
- 2 Include key story elements (characters, setting, problem, solution).
- 3 Only include a few of the most important details.
- 4 The order of your summary should mirror the order of events in the story.
- 5 Don't include your opinion, just what happened in the story.
- 6 Use your own words.

LESSON PLANS • ANCHOR CHARTS • STUDENT PRACTICE

[Click HERE for the summarizing set.](#)

CAUSE & EFFECT

no prep lessons & slides

Cause & Effect
Texts can have cause and effect relationships.

What to look for when identifying cause & effect relationships:

Cause The cause event explains what something happened. It is the reason. It is the event that happens first, even if it isn't mentioned first in the text.	Effect The effect event is what happened as a result of the cause event. It is the result. This event happens after the cause event.	Key Words Sometimes you might see these key words connected to the cause & effect relationships: • so • therefore • if, then, then • because • resulting in
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LESSON PLANS • TEACHING SLIDES • ANCHOR CHARTS

[Click HERE for the cause and effect set.](#)

LOOKING FOR OTHER RESOURCES TO HELP WITH READING?

Do your students need help building their vocabulary?

context clues • prefixes & suffixes • root words

VOCAB ROUTINES BUNDLE

5 ROUTINES

Monday: Break It Down Monday: Make a Prediction

Affix #3 **de-**

Example: Amber felt **depressed** and **dejected** after she lost the spelling bee. She assumed she would win, but was the first contestant to get out.

Sample: Mr. Jones will **deduct** points on your test if you forget to put your name and date on the top.

homophones • figurative language

Do you need help planning and prepping your small group lessons?

107 scripted lesson sets to teach key reading skills

STRATEGY LESSONS YEAR - LONG Bundle

STRATEGY LESSON #3
STRATEGY: STORY ELEMENTS

Objective: Students will be able to identify the key story elements to help them summarize a story.

TARGET 1-2 min

TEACH 1-2 min

TACKLE 5-10 min

A Model Student

Story Elements

Readers can identify all the key story elements to help them summarize a story.

Characters: Calista, Ms. Lucia

Setting:

Problem:

Solution:

Name:

Story Elements

C Characters

C Characters

S Setting

P Problem

S Solution

Name

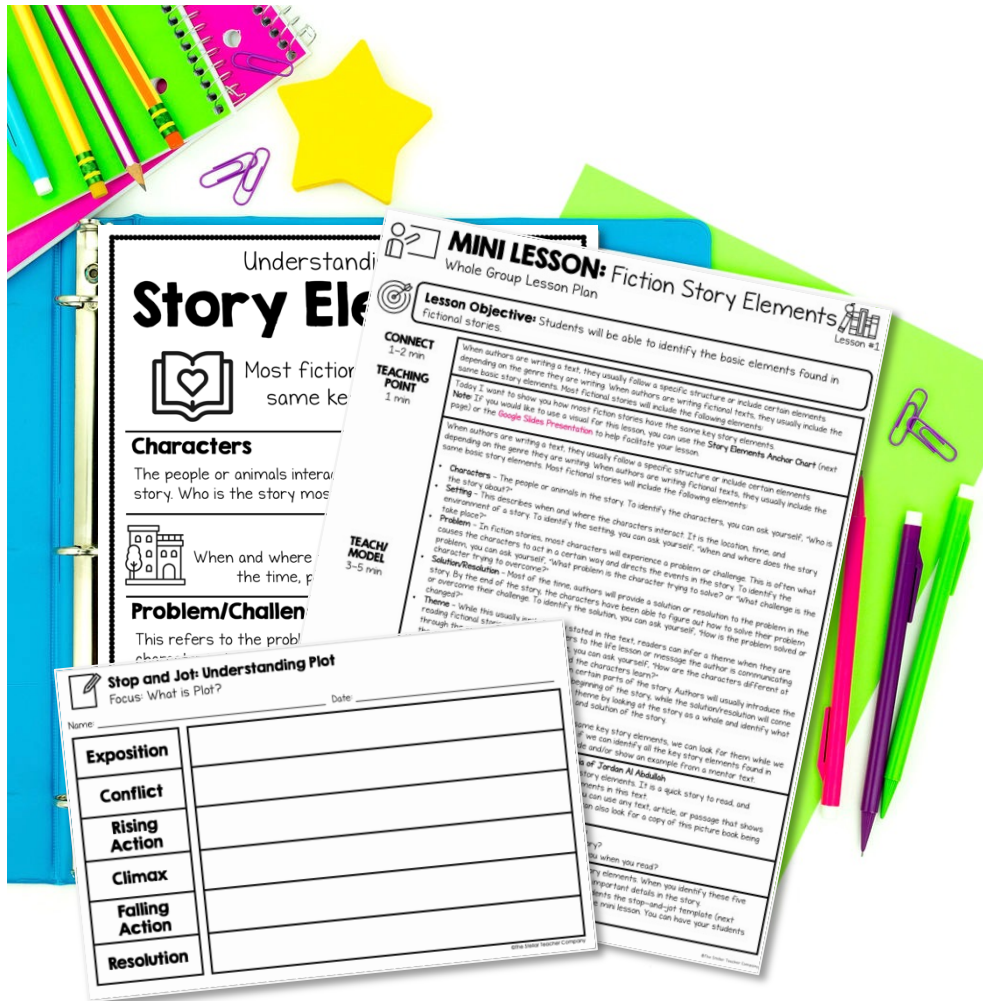
Click [HERE](#) to check out this bundle of vocabulary routines!

Click [HERE](#) to check out this year-long bundle.

WANT A FREE SAMPLE?



CLICK THE BUTTON BELOW, AND I'LL EMAIL YOU A FREE SAMPLE!



I'd love to share a free lesson set to help you teach fictional story elements. Sign-up below and I'll e-mail you a free lesson plan, anchor chart, mini-graphic organizer, and slide set.

[CLICK HERE TO GRAB YOUR FREE SAMPLE!](#)

I hope you and your students enjoy them!

LET'S CONNECT



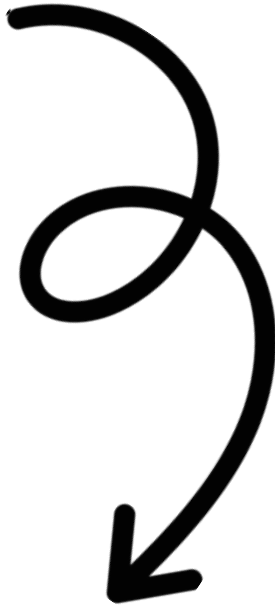
My favorite way to help support and encourage teachers is with my weekly podcast! Have you tuned in yet?

STELLAR TEACHER PODCAST

with Sara Marye



Each week I share actionable tips and easy strategies that you can implement immediately. Tune in on your drive to work or as you're setting up your classroom for the day.



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TO THE LATEST EPISODE!**](#)

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