

# Parts of a Story

The writing process made easy!

A decorative header featuring a bright yellow sun with rays and several light blue, stylized clouds against a darker blue background.

# Does this short story make sense?

Bang! These were the sounds I heard moments after the event happened in our front yard. In the distance we heard a man yell loudly “Watch Out!”. It was a miracle no one was hurt that morning.

**What is wrong with this story?**



# What is the problem?

It doesn't have the key story elements – Let's Try Again!

Boom! Crash! Bang! These were the sounds I heard moments after the plane crashed in our front yard. My mom and I ran outside immediately. There was debris everywhere, billowing smoke, and the crackling sounds of fire. In the distance we heard a man yell loudly "Watch Out!". We were relieved as we looked up at the sky, and saw the jet fighter pilot safely parachuting back to earth. We called 9-11 and waited for the ambulance to arrive, as we weren't sure what injuries the pilot would have. It was a miracle no one was seriously hurt that morning.

# What are the elements of a good story?

○ All good stories have

○ **Engaging Beginning** – A hook to grab the reader's interest.

○ **Setting** – Where the story takes place.

○ **Characters** – You get to slowly know about who the characters are, and what makes them unique.

○ **The Plot** – The events of the story that make it interesting which usually entails a **problem, mystery, or a main event**.

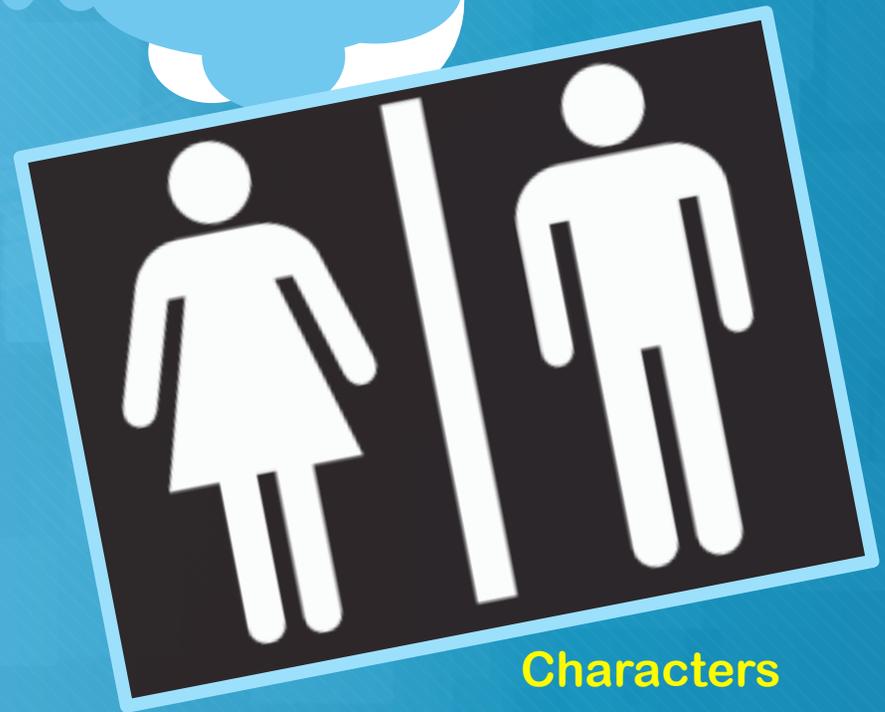
○ What challenging situations are the characters faced with? What has happened in the plot that needs to be resolved? What is the main event of the story that will bring the characters to a new situation or outlook on life?

○ **Wrap Up** – How the problem or main event is resolved. The main problem, main event, or mystery is solved. The reader is left satisfied.

○ **Ending** – A nice conclusion to it all 😊



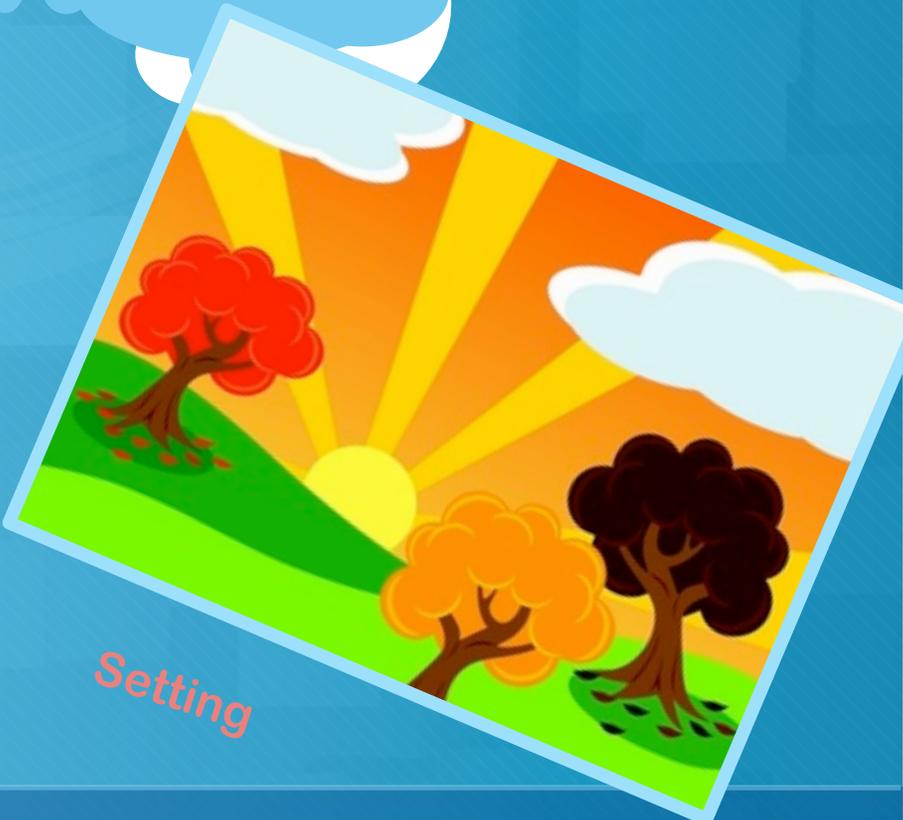
**Blast Off!  
Engaging  
Start!**



**Boom! Crash! Bang!** These were the sounds I heard moments after the plane crashed in our front yard. My **mom and I** ran outside immediately. There was debris everywhere, billowing smoke, and the crackling sounds of fire. In the distance we heard a man yell loudly “Watch Out!”. We were relieved as we looked up at the sky, and saw the **jet fighter pilot** safely parachuting back to earth. We called 9-11 and waited for the ambulance to arrive, as we weren’t sure what injuries the pilot would have. It was a miracle no one was seriously hurt that morning.

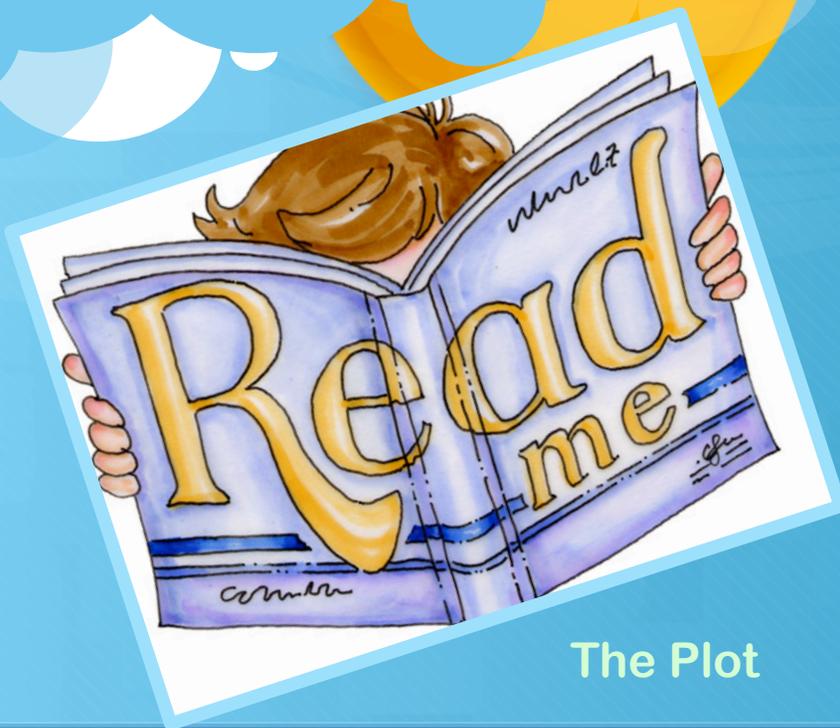


Problem



Setting

Boom! Crash! Bang! These were the sounds I heard moments after the **plane crashed** in our **front yard**. My mom and I ran outside immediately. There was debris everywhere, billowing smoke, and the crackling sounds of fire. In the distance we heard a man yell loudly “Watch Out!”. We were relieved as we looked up at the sky, and saw the jet fighter pilot safely parachuting back to earth. We called 9-11 and waited for the ambulance to arrive, as we weren’t sure what injuries the pilot would have. It was a miracle no one was seriously hurt that morning.



The Plot

Wrap Up



Boom! Crash! Bang! These were the sounds I heard moments after the plane crashed in our front yard. My mom and I ran outside immediately. There was debris everywhere, billowing smoke, and the crackling sounds of fire. In the distance we heard a man yell loudly “Watch Out!”. We were relieved as we looked up at the sky, and saw the jet fighter pilot safely parachuting back to earth. **We called 9-11 and waited for the ambulance to arrive, as we weren’t sure what injuries the pilot would have.** It was a miracle no one was seriously hurt that morning.



THE END!

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# Chris Van Allsburg's "The Sweetest Fig"

○ Listen very carefully to the story



**The Sweetest Fig**

# Your Assignment

- Mr. Bibot is about to eat the last fig, and have his wildest dreams come true. **It is your turn to write the ending to this short story.** We will then compare yours to the real ending of the book.
- In your own **WRAP UP** and **ENDING**, all loose ends need to be cleaned up. Ask yourself: What future will Mr. Bibot have for himself now that he has eaten the fig? Your ending should answer this question.
- Edit your work so that your reader is satisfied with your ending, and that the main mystery (what Mr. Bibot does after he eats the fig) is solved.
- Do good writers need to focus on COPS?
- [www.chrisvonallsburg.com](http://www.chrisvonallsburg.com)
- Chris loves writing and illustrating children's books, and holds monthly contest for students your age to write their own book. The winner gets a prize kit.

