The Talent Show

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: The **plot** is what happens in a story. It has a **beginning**, **rising action** (the problem builds), a **climax** (the most exciting moment) and an **ending**.

Plot mountain: climb up through the rising action, reach the top at the climax, then come down to the ending.

The Talent Show



Ben had practised his magic trick for a month. He would pull a toy rabbit out of an empty top hat, just like a real magician. The school talent show was on Friday night.

On the day of the show, things started to go wrong. First, Ben's cape ripped on a nail. Then, backstage, he realized his hands were shaking. Through the curtain, he could see the gym was packed with parents, teachers and students.

"Next up, Ben the Magnificent!" called the principal. Ben walked onto the stage. He showed the audience his empty hat, said the magic words and reached inside. Nothing was there. The rabbit had slipped out of its secret pocket.

The gym went silent. Ben felt his face turn hot. Then he noticed a lump in his sleeve. The rabbit had fallen down his arm! Thinking fast, Ben shook his arm dramatically and shouted, "Abracadabra!" The toy rabbit flew out of his sleeve and landed right in the principal's lap.

The audience burst out laughing and clapping. Everyone thought it was part of the act. Ben took a deep bow.

After the show, his teacher patted his shoulder. "That was the funniest trick of the night," she said. Ben grinned. He decided that next year, he would do it that way on purpose.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What happens at the beginning?

(a) Ben practises a magic trick for the talent show.
(b) Ben takes a bow.
(c) The rabbit lands in the principal's lap.

2. Which event is part of the rising action?

(a) Ben's cape rips and his hands shake.
(b) Ben decides to do it again next year.
(c) Ben practises for a month.

3. What is the climax?

(a) Ben reaches into the hat and nothing is there, then the rabbit flies out of his sleeve.
(b) Ben goes home.
(c) The principal calls his name.

4. How does the story end?

(a) Ben cries and leaves.
(b) Ben decides to do the trick that way on purpose next year.
(c) The show is cancelled.

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2. Plot mountain

Fill in each part of the plot.

Beginning

Rising action

Climax

Ending

3. Think about it

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **How did Ben solve his problem at the climax?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. **What happens at the beginning?**
   - a **Ben practises a magic trick for the talent show.**
   - b Ben takes a bow.
   - c The rabbit lands in the principal's lap.

2. **Which event is part of the rising action?**
   - a **Ben's cape rips and his hands shake.**
   - b Ben decides to do it again next year.
   - c Ben practises for a month.

3. **What is the climax?**
   - a **Ben reaches into the hat and nothing is there, then the rabbit flies out of his sleeve.**
   - b Ben goes home.
   - c The principal calls his name.

4. **How does the story end?**
   - a Ben cries and leaves.
   - b **Ben decides to do the trick that way on purpose next year.**
   - c The show is cancelled.

2. Plot mountain

Beginning
Ben practises a magic trick with a toy rabbit for the talent show.

Rising action
His cape rips, his hands shake and the gym is packed.

Climax
The hat is empty, but Ben shakes the rabbit out of his sleeve and it lands in the principal's lap.

Ending
Everyone laughs and claps. Ben decides to do it on purpose next year.

3. Think about it

Sample answer.

1. **How did Ben solve his problem at the climax?**
   He thought fast and turned the mistake into a funny trick by shaking the rabbit out of his sleeve.