

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Understanding the Character

Great readers can focus on the story elements in a text to have a deeper understanding of the story. The characters, setting, problem, and solution, are story **elements**. They make the story interesting!

Characters: The people or creatures in a story, movie, or play.

Setting: The time and place in which something happens.

Problem: A question or situation that is difficult to deal with.

Solution: The way to solve a problem.

Directions: Read the story. Then, answer questions about the characters in the story.

Today was the day, and I couldn't ignore the butterflies in my stomach. I had waited and studied for this day for months, after all, and I felt on edge. I was on my way to the most-watched game show on television: "Will You Win?" It's a staple at our house. We watch it every day right after I get off the bus.

On the show, the host asks questions about random facts. The contestants need to answer before the other person to win a point. If they answer incorrectly, the contestant needs to dance or act out a famous scene from a movie of their choice. Then, the audience votes to give the contestant another chance. The boo from the audience is legendary on this show. It is especially entertaining when someone famous is the cause of the booing. It's not a complicated show, but you have to be smart and quick with your answer. I can't believe they finally chose me to be a contestant! I can't believe I have a chance to win the prize money!

As my mother drove me to the airport, I focused on the "Will You Win?" show. Facts raced through my head and I skimmed all the pocket factbooks I'd brought with me. The speed limit decreased and the car slowed as we approached the airport. My mother parked in the long-term parking garage. We headed towards the terminal. My pace slowed. I thought, "Can I do this?"

"Alexis, are you ready?" Mom asked.

The airport loomed before us. This is my chance to win money for our after-school program. This is what I worked so hard for. "I can do this," I told myself. I stood taller and said, "Ready or not, here I come!" Then, I smiled for the first time that day.

Directions: Answer the questions about using information from the story.

1. Who is the main character in the story?

2. What is the setting in the story?

3. How does the character feel in the story?

4. How has Alexis prepared for the game show?

5. What do the words "on edge" tell you about Alexis?

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Order of Events

The **sequence of events**, or the order of the story, is the order in which events happen in the story. One event typically leads to another. Paying attention to the sequence of events in the story can help readers understand challenges and victories characters encounter in a story.

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The hot air whipped in my face as I got out of the taxi in front of Studio B. The sun was shining and I regretted wearing the sweater I had packed. The flight across the country to Los Angeles had been long and nerve-wracking, and I could not study a minute longer about American presidents or the names of states. The game show, "Will You Win?", was in 2 hours, and I felt ready. At least, I hoped I was ready.

"Alexis, don't forget your pocket factbook. Did you finish studying the water cycle on the plane?" Mom asked.

I groaned. "No, I forgot that one on the bus yesterday. But, I feel ready. I can do this!" I tried to talk myself into it. The funding for our after-school program hung in the balance. "I'll read a bit more when I get to the green room," I assured her.

We walked into Studio B. I'd never been to a studio before and couldn't help staring at everything in the room. I didn't even notice my pocket factbook fall to the ground until a friendly face stood in front of me, holding it out to me.

"Hi! I'm Angie. Are you here for the game show?" she asked

"Uh, yeah. Yes." I stammered.

"Great! Come check out their library of facts! I'm sure the books will prepare us even more for the contest," she said as she pivoted quickly on her heels and walked down the hall.

I nodded at her gratefully. "Do you think they have any information on the water cycle?" I asked as I hurried behind her.

1. How did Alexis get to Los Angeles?

2. Where did the taxi take Alexis and his mother?

3. How much longer until the game show starts?

4. Put these events in the order they occurred in the story. Number the events 1-8.

_____ Alexis met Angie.

_____ The heat made Alexis regret wearing his sweater.

_____ Mom asked Alexis if he'd studied on the plane.

_____ Alexis groaned.

_____ Alexis walked towards the library.

_____ The pocket factbook falls to the floor.

_____ Alexis and his mother arrived in Los Angeles.

_____ The taxi pulled in front of Studio B.

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Remember Details

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Alexis and Angie stood with all the other contestants of the "Who Will Win?" game show. They thought about what was at stake. They thought about the prize money and about all the people that would be watching them on the television. There was excitement in the air, but a nervous energy as well. They still had to deal with the pesky dance or acting challenge if they answered a question incorrectly.

In the "Who Will Win?" game show, the host asks questions about random facts. The contestants need to answer before the other person to win a point. If they answer incorrectly, the contestant needs to dance or act out a famous scene from a movie of their choice. Then, the audience votes to give the contestant another chance. All the contestants dread hearing a boo from the audience.

The first round began and Angie faced off with another contestant, Harvey. The crowd cheered as Angie answered question after question correctly. Harvey didn't even get a chance to answer any questions before Angie got 3 correct answers and eliminated him. He practically ran off the set with a relieved look on his face.

Alexis anxiously stepped up to the contestant table during the third round. Angie had dominated the competition in round one and two. Now it was his turn to face off with her. Everyone in the room could see his smile when the host announced the last category would be about the water cycle. Alexis grabbed the buzzer. He was ready to answer the first question.

1. Who won the first round of the competition?

2. What was the topic of the third round?

3. In what round did the contestants answer all the questions correctly?

4. What do contestants need to do when they answer a question incorrectly?

5. How many total rounds did they have to play?

6. How did Harvey feel when he was eliminated?
