

Signal the Story Structure



Signal words are used to show the sequence of events.

- When you use signal words, you are telling the reader that you are explaining the events in order.
- Sometimes, the signal words need to be followed by a comma.

Example: In the beginning, the character lost the key to her house.

← signal words

← important information from a story

Directions: Read the passage. Then, complete the sentence stems to explain the beginning, middle, and end of each story.

Sarita shivered in the backseat of the car as her parents drove through the city. She looked out the window and was confused. They never took these streets to go home. It seemed like this was the long way to get home.

“Where are we going?” she muttered.

Sarita dreaded going home. Going home meant that she had to clean her room. She walked up the steps to the house, and her mom opened the door. Suddenly, everyone shouted, “Surprise!” In an instant, Sarita was smiling and laughing. This was a happy scene to have in her home!

1. In the first part, _____

_____.

2. Then, _____

_____.

3. In the end, _____

_____.

Langston’s dog knocked over the cup of chocolate milk. It landed on the carpet, and Langston tried to clean it up. The scent of the milk made him feel sick. Langston scolded his dog.

1. In the first part, _____

_____.

2. Then, _____

_____.

3. In the end, _____

_____.