

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Story Structure

Everyone was talking about it! Two whales had made a mistake. They were swimming in the river and not in the ocean!

Maria and her dad went to the river to see the whales. Hundreds of people were there. Dad picked up Maria and put her above his head. She looked at the river.

There they were! The whales were swimming along, huge and shiny. Then they were gone.

Dad smiled at Maria. "How do you feel now?" he asked.

"Oh, Dad," said Maria. "I am so glad I saw them! And I am so glad they have made it home."

Read the selection above. Then complete the Story Map to show the parts of the story.

Characters	Setting
Plot	
Beginning	
Middle	
End	

# Story Structure

Teacher's Pets  
Deepen Comprehension:  
Story Structure

Read the selection below.

"I cannot find my pencils," Mr. Jones told his cat, Felix.  
"Yesterday, I couldn't find my pens."

Felix looked up from his pillow and yawned. Mr. Jones went to get his house key. It was not on the table!

He began to look for the key. He took the pillows off the sofa. He looked under his papers and in his piles of books. He checked his coat pockets and his old shoes. Nothing!

Finally, Mr. Jones said to Felix. "It's time to check you."

Felix leaped up and ran off. There, on Felix's pillow, sat five pencils, three pens, and a set of house keys.

Answer the questions about story elements to retell the story.


1. What is the setting and who are the characters in this story?

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2. Complete a Story Map by listing an event in the beginning, middle, and end. Retell the story.

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# Cause and Effect

**Roberto Clemente, Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates**

Deepen Comprehension:  
Cause and Effect

Read the selection below.

Tiger Woods, born in 1975, is one of the most successful and talented golfers of all time. His father, Earl Woods, nicknamed him "Tiger" after a Vietnamese soldier who saved Earl's life during the Vietnam War. Tiger's parents were a major influence in his life. His father taught him to believe in himself and work hard for his goals. His mother helped him become more patient. She never tired of driving him to tournament sites when he was still a child.

When Tiger was only eleven months old, he began swinging a miniature golf club in his parents' garage. At two, he showed his putting skill on a national TV show. That was just the beginning of Tiger's rise to fame. In 1997 he became the first African American to win the Masters Tournament. Tiger Woods has won more major golf tournaments than any other professional golfer playing today.

Use a T-Map to identify causes and effects. Then answer the questions.

1. Where did Tiger Woods get his nickname from?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cause	Effect

2. Why do you think Tiger Woods has been so successful in life?

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\_\_\_\_\_

# Cause and Effect

**Roberto Clemente, Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates**

Introduce Comprehension:  
Cause and Effect

Read the selection below.

The 1920s were a long time ago, but Babe Ruth is still remembered. Many people think that he was the greatest baseball player of all time.

He began his career with the Boston Red Sox as a pitcher. Soon however, his batting skill became the focus of attention. He was traded to the New York Yankees in 1920, and his career as a home-run hitter took off. He hit 54 home runs that year. In 1927, he hit 60. That record lasted until 1961.

Perhaps his most famous moment came during the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs. However, no one knows whether that moment ever really happened! Legend says that when Cub fans were yelling at Ruth, he pointed to center field. He hit the next pitch to the very place he'd pointed to. The ball sailed over the center field wall for a towering home run! Whether true or not, it's a great story.

Complete a T-Map like the one here to record causes and their effects.

Cause	Effect

# Main Ideas and Details

**Ecology for Kids**  
Comprehension:  
Main Ideas and Details

Read the selection below.

## Winter Wonderland

Each year the approaching winter brings a sense of excitement to people who like snow.

Snow is great because you can have so much fun outside. Making snow angels, sledding, and building a snowman are great ways to spend time outside with family and friends.

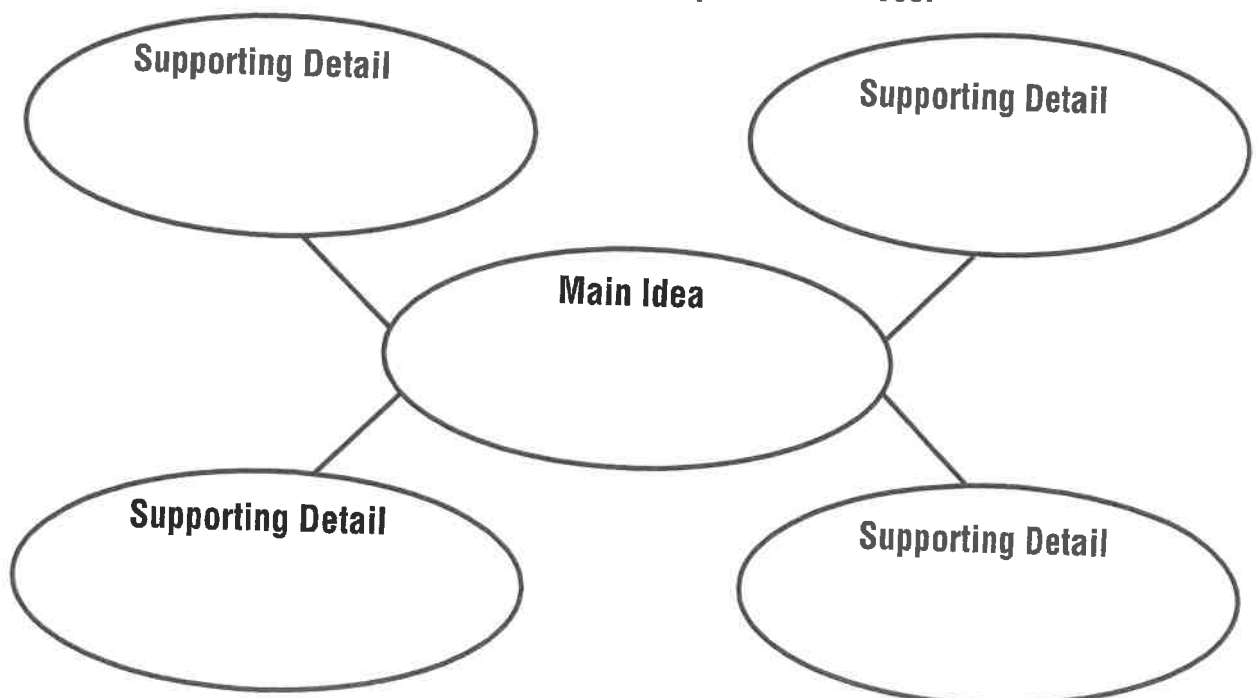
If the snow is light and fluffy and packs well, you can even build a snow fort to hide from your “enemies” during snowball fights! You can catch snowflakes on your tongue and

jump in snowdrifts three feet high.

And when the weather gets really cold, you can go inside your warm house and watch the snow outside fall quietly to the ground. Sipping cocoa under a cozy blanket, you can tell stories and talk about winter adventures to come.

Winter is a season to celebrate for its joy and beauty. It only lasts a few months each year, but it creates memories that last a lifetime!

Complete the Web below to identify the main idea and details about winter. Write your answers in complete sentences.



# Main Ideas and Details

**Ecology for Kids**  
Comprehension:  
Main Ideas and Details

Read the selection below.

## It's "Just" a Thunderstorm

Everyone fears tornadoes and earthquakes. But we rarely worry about thunderstorms. They seem so common that they're just annoying, right?

Wrong. Thunderstorms can be dangerous. About 10,000 severe thunderstorms strike the United States each year, bringing high winds that break tree limbs and uproot trees. These winds can down power lines. Some turn into tornadoes.

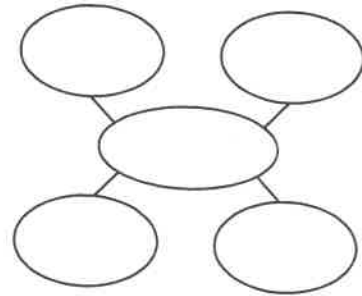
Severe thunderstorms may produce hail and flooding. Hail can

damage cars and injure animals and people. Floods damage property and trap people and animals.

Lightning can be a very dangerous part of a severe storm. It can cause fires or other damage. It also can strike people directly and kill them.

The U.S. Weather Service provides early warnings about severe storms. When you hear these, remember that even though we see them more often than tornadoes, thunderstorms are no less dangerous.

Analyze the selection to evaluate the main idea and details presented. Use a Web like the one here to organize your thoughts. Then answer the questions below.



1. What is the author's main idea? Use text evidence to support your answer.

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2. How does each paragraph support the main idea in the passage?

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# Compare and Contrast

**We Were There, Too!**  
Comprehension:  
Compare and Contrast

Read the selection below.

## Dacey and James Langston

For the Langston kids, working for the Patriot cause was a family affair. The Langstons lived in South Carolina. There were many Loyalists living there. As the Revolutionary War began, Dacey Langston watched her neighbors. She often overheard Loyalists' plans and schemes.

Across the river, Dacey's brother James was part of a Patriot militia. He and his friends depended on information from Dacey to plan their military moves.

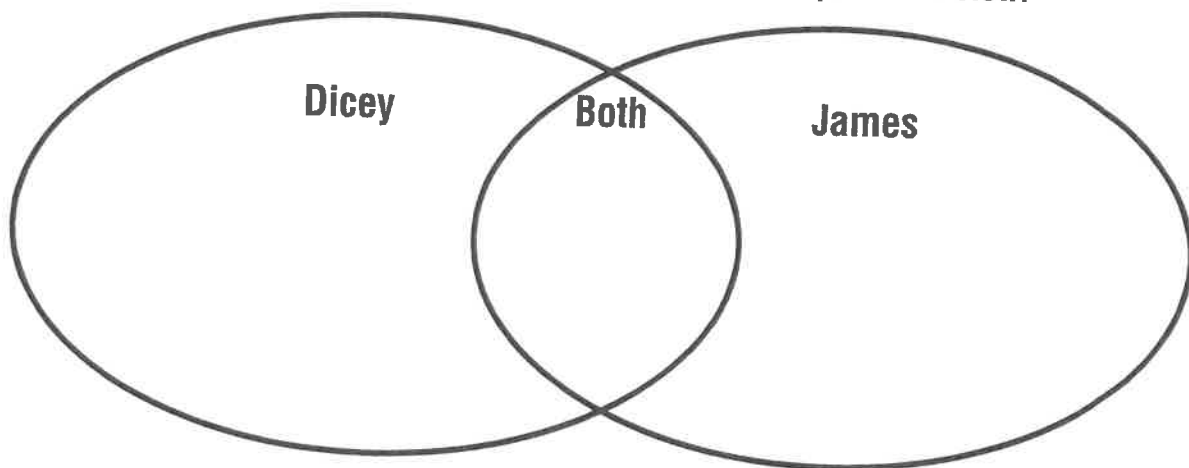
The Langstons' neighbors got suspicious. They went to Dacey's father

with a threat and told him to keep his daughter in check. Dacey did not want to cause her father trouble or harm. She agreed to stop spying on the Loyalists. However, Dacey soon broke her promise.

Dacey overheard a Loyalist plan that filled her with fear. A group of Loyalists was planning a raid. They were going to attack the settlement where James and his fellow Patriots lived. Dacey had to warn them. She made a dangerous river crossing and raised the alarm.

Both Dacey and James proved themselves as true American Patriots.

Fill in the Venn Diagram below to compare and contrast the ways Dacey and James each helped the Patriot cause. Then answer the question below.



What organizational pattern is used to compare the roles of Dacey and James?

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# Compare and Contrast

**We Were There, Too!**  
Comprehension:  
Compare and Contrast

Read the selection below.

## Mary Anna's Courage

At the time of the Revolution, a stately mansion called Peaceful Retreat stood on a riverbank in South Carolina. It was owned by Robert Gibbes. He lived there with his wife and sixteen children. The group included orphaned nieces and nephews on both sides of the family. Gibbes agreed with the Patriots' cause and generously provided support.

Peaceful Retreat was well known for its gracious living. British troops in the area were only too glad to establish an encampment there. When the colonists found out that the Gibbes home was occupied, they sent troops to expel the intruders. The colonial fighters had strict orders not to fire on the house so that none of the children would be harmed.

Mr. Gibbes was unaware of the order. Fearing for his family's safety, he convinced Mrs. Gibbes to flee. The family set out on foot, walking through the hail of crossfire to reach the next plantation. Shots fell all around them as they rushed to get out of shooting range.

When they stopped to rest, Mrs. Gibbes realized with horror that one of the little boys had been left behind. Mary Anna, the Gibbes's thirteen-year-old daughter, offered to go back to find him.

Mary Anna rushed back through the dark alone, dodging gunfire all the way. When she got to the house, she searched frantically. Finally she found the boy hiding on the third floor. She carried him back to safety through the gunfire.

Compare the story about Mary Anna Gibbes with the section on Sybil Ludington in *We Were There, Too!* Fill in a Venn Diagram like the one shown here to show how the girls' experiences were alike and different. Then answer the questions below.

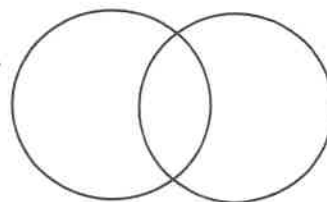
1. How are Mary Anna and Sybil alike?

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2. What type of organizational structure could you use to best compare and contrast the two girls' experiences? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Story Structure

**Gus Takes the Train**  
Comprehension: Story Structure



Write or draw pictures to show the characters, setting, and plot of the story.

*Use a story you have at home to complete.*

<b>Characters</b>	<b>Setting</b>
<b>Plot</b>  <b>Beginning</b>          <b>Middle</b>          <b>End</b>	