For use with "Jack and the Beanstalk" video from Bell Ringer

EXPOSITION

The main character is: Jack

The setting is: long, long ago (time) and a country farm / village (place).

INCITING INCIDENT

What is the one thing the main character does that causes all the other events to happen?

Right after the exposition, the main character decides to trade his cow for some magic beans which is what causes all the other issues in the story to happen.

RISING ACTION

List 3-4 problems that happen next:

Jack has to get back his father's hen that the giant stole.

Jack has to get back the harp that was his father's.

Jack has to get back the gold the giant stole.

TURNING POINT (CLIMAX)

What is the absolute worst situation? The turning point is the situation where the main character is in the most amount of trouble.

Jack gets caught when the giant sees him taking the gold and so the giant follows him down the beanstalk and Jack may not be able to get away!

FALLING ACTION

List 2-3 things that happen right after the turning point (a result of the climax).

Jack yells for his mother to get the axe and he starts to cut down the beanstalk.

The giant falls the rest of the way down and dies.

RESOLUTION

How does the story actually end? Jack and his mother live happily ever after.

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Elements of Plot

Respond to the following questions about the plot of the video or story you read.

EXPOSITION

The main character is: _____

The setting is: _____ and _____.
time place

INCITING INCIDENT

What is the one thing the main character does that causes all the other events to happen?

Right after the exposition, the main character decides to _____ _____ which is what causes all the other issues in the story to happen.

RISING ACTION

List 3-4 problems that happen next:

_____

_____

_____

_____

TURNING POINT (CLIMAX)

What is the absolute worst situation? The turning point is the situation where the main character is in the most amount of trouble.

_____

FALLING ACTION

List 2-3 things that happen right after the turning point (a result of the climax).

_____

_____

RESOLUTION

How does the story actually end?

_____

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Exit Ticket

Write a summary of the story.

Somebody wanted…. But… So…. Then….

Exit Ticket

Write a summary of the story.

Somebody wanted…. But… So…. Then….

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Extension Ideas

* Reuse the plot handout for any short story read in class or use it for a follow-up homework assignment over another story you want the students to read.

* Go to YouTube and in the search box at the top, type in “Golden Fairy Tale Classics” and you’ll see a long list of 5-12 minutes videos of other “Little Golden Books” stories that are great for analyzing plot, characterization, theme, conflict, etc. Time-permitting, you could show one a day or one every other day or anytime you have a few extra minutes and need something to keep the kids focused and engaged.

* Have students use the elements of plot handout to write a summary and then allow students to compare summaries with each other to see how they are similar and different. Students can even work in groups to come up with the best, most concise summary and then one person or speaker from each group can share with the class. Take it up a notch by requiring students to choose one vocabulary word (from any point in the year so far) to include in the summary!

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