

Elements of a Story



Looking experience: Questions to ask while observing the artwork of your choice.

- What do you think is happening in this artwork? Where do you think it takes place?
- What characters/people/animals do you see?
- What do you think happened right before this scene? What might happen after?
- If you were in this artwork what would it feel like? What would you do?

Discussion: Identify and define elements of a story.

- **Setting:** The "when" and "where" of the story. The physical location and time when the story takes place.
- **Characters:** The "who" of the story. They are most often people or animals. The characters of a story perform the actions and speak dialogue as they move the plot forward.
- **Plot/action:** The "what" of the story. The plot includes the events that happen in a story. Plot usually begins with a problem and ends with the story's resolution.
- **Conflict/problem:** The "why" of the story. The conflict is a challenge or a problem that drives the action of the story.
- **Resolution:** The solution to the conflict and the way the action of the story is resolved. Usually happens at the end of the story.

Activity: Create a story using your knowledge of the elements of a story and artwork as inspiration.

Once upon a time in _____ (setting-place) during _____ (setting-time) there was _____ (main character) who met _____ (another character) and they _____ (plot-what did they do). But then they met _____ (villain) who _____ (conflict/problem-what did the villain do), so they used _____ (prop-thing) to _____ (resolution-how they solved the problem). And then they _____.