



ELA 7.3 Pathway

Study Island *Study Guide*

Plot

Plot and Conflict

The **plot** is the sequence of events that happen in a story. It shows how characters meet and resolve a conflict—a problem or struggle. Every plot is made up of a series of causes and effects.

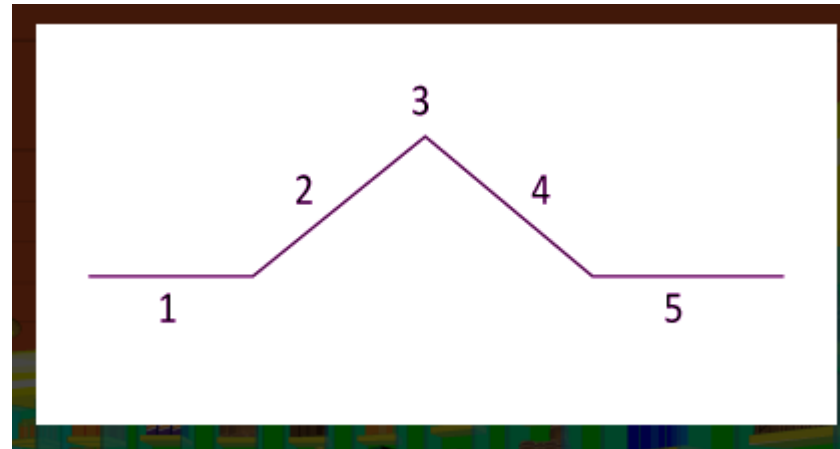
A plot is like a long line of dominoes. When a finger tips the first domino, the first domino causes the second domino to fall, the second domino causes the third domino to fall, and so forth. The finger has caused a sequence of events. Similarly, an event that happens in a story can cause another event to happen.



Plot Diagram

3. Climax

2. Rising
Action



4. Falling
Action

1. Exposition

5. Resolution

Sample Story

A woman's voice came over the loudspeaker. "Flight 546 to Dallas, TX, has arrived. We will begin boarding in 15 minutes."

"It's about time," I muttered. My dad and I had been waiting for over three hours for our plane. Apparently, some storm in Florida had delayed our flight.

To pass the time, I had been playing video games and listening to music. I don't know what I would do without portable electronics.

As I entered the final stage in *Link's Corner*, my father said, "Hey, Jeremy, I'm going to run to the restroom. Will you stop playing that game for a minute and watch our things?"

"Okay, Dad," I said. "Hold on. Let me just finish this level." I glanced up and saw that he was already gone. Shrugging my shoulders, I reasoned that our stuff would be fine. I could still see our things from the corner of my eye. I couldn't stop playing. I was too close to defeating Graken. I just had to capture the blue stone.

"Jeremy! Where's my camera?! I told you to stop playing that game!" My dad's voice broke my concentration.

Oh no, I thought. I paused my game and looked up. My father stood frantically searching through our things. I remembered seeing his camera on the seat beside me, but sure enough, it was no longer there.

"I'm sorry, Dad! I was watching our things from the corner of my eye!"

"Well, obviously, you weren't! My camera is gone!"

My father began questioning some people nearby, but no one had noticed anyone suspicious. Someone had been awfully sneaky. I couldn't believe that someone had stolen the camera right under my nose. I felt like an idiot.

"We will start the boarding process with group A. Group A, you may now board," the woman announced.

My father shook his head as we gathered our things and moved to the end of the line. He wouldn't even look at me. I felt awful. That digital camera had cost my dad \$500. It also had all of our vacation pictures on it.

"I'm REALLY sorry, Dad," I said. "I promise I'll make it up to you."

My dad snorted, "You bet you are."

That summer, I worked like I'd never worked before. I mowed lawns, pulled weeds, cleaned garages, and painted fences. By the end of August, my dad had a brand-new camera, and I had hands full of blisters.

Sample Questions

1. What is the plot of the story?

While waiting to board an airplane, Jeremy gets distracted playing his video game and loses his father's camera. He works hard over the summer to buy his dad a new one.

2. What is the narrator's main conflict?

Jeremy loses his father's camera.

3. How does the narrator solve his main conflict?

Jeremy works over the summer to buy his father a new camera.

4. What causes Jeremy and his dad to gather their things and stand in line?

The woman tells group A to board.

5. What happens when Jeremy's dad goes to the restroom?

A thief steals his camera.