

# Lesson Skill: Plot development and conflict resolution

---

**Strand** Reading — Fiction

**SOL** 4.5

5.5

## Materials

- Short stories
- Construction paper, scissors, pencils

## Lesson

1. Review the following story elements with students: plot, character, and conflict. Talk about the connection between the plot and conflict resolution; the plot includes steps that lead the character to resolve his/her problem.
2. Group four to five students together. Give each student a piece of construction paper, scissors, and a pencil to trace his/her foot or shoe and cut it out. Explain to students they will be using their cutouts to help show the steps in a story that lead to the conflict resolution. Assign each group a short story at their reading level. Have them read and identify the problem, important events in the plot, and, finally, the resolution. Each of these should be written on one of the shoe cutouts. Students may need to trace and cut out more depending on the number of events in the story.
3. Give each group a chance to explain the problem in their story, the events of the plot, and the conflict resolution.

## Strategies for Differentiation

- Use a familiar story, such as a fairy tale. Enlarge the font size, and cut out the sentences. Give each student a sentence from the story, and have him/her arrange himself/herself in the correct order of events. Discuss the events that lead to the problem of the story. Discuss the events that lead to the resolution.
- Add event frames using available technology, and ask for volunteers to rearrange the events.
- Read excerpts from the story, and have students identify the conflict. Ask students “What events may have led to this problem?” “How might the character address this problem?”
- Brainstorm conflicts that students may encounter, possible causes, and ways to resolve the conflict.
- Identify whether characters are experiencing conflict with themselves, another character in the story, or with nature.
- To provide more support to students, use audio books. Give students footprints with sentence starters, or allow them to illustrate the problem, three events in the plot, and the solution.
- Use a graphic organizer, such as a flow chart or a climax story map.
- Provide students with a choice board for independent reading.