

The Great Festive Mystery: Story Structure Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and order the key components of a narrative structure within a festive-themed story.

Max the monkey has been helping Pip the bookworm organise a Christmas mystery story, but the sentences have got jumbled up! Read the narrative steps provided in the 'questions' section below. Your task is to reorder them into a logical sequence (1-6) that follows a classic story arc: Introduction, Build-up, Problem, Climax, Resolution, and Ending. Once you have numbered them, write a brief explanation of why that specific event is important for the story's structure.

Word bank: Introduction · Build-up · Problem · Climax · Resolution · Ending · Narrative arc · Tension

1. 1. The town of Snow-Hollow is decorated with garlands, and the villagers prepare for the annual Winter Feast. (2 marks)

2. 2. The villagers work together to find the missing star, eventually discovering it hidden in the branches of a giant pine tree by a curious owl. (2 marks)

3. 3. The atmosphere grows tense as the town clock strikes midnight, and everyone realises the golden star meant to top the tree has vanished. (2 marks)

4. 4. Pip the bookworm and his friends decide to search the forest, noticing strange, shimmering footprints leading away from the village square. (2 marks)

5. 5. The star is placed back on top of the tree, and the villagers celebrate the feast with hot cocoa and songs, feeling closer than ever before. (2 marks)

6. 6. The search party reaches the centre of the forest, where they finally spot the star glowing brightly in the dark. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from the 'Climax' of the story where the characters finally find the _____ missing star in the forest. Include lots of detail about the magical, shimmering atmosphere.



Extension challenge: Choose one of the plot points above and rewrite it using expanded noun phrases and a fronted adverbial to add more festive atmosphere and suspense for the reader.