

ABOUT THIS SAMPLE

This sample comes from my Story Elements Reading Resource. The sample includes a poster, a passage, and comprehension questions.

To see the complete Story Elements Resource, click [here](#).

To see the bundle of all of my Reading Units for 4th and 5th grade, click [here](#) or on the image shown.

4TH-5TH GRADE BUNDLE READING UNITS



4TH-5TH GRADE

STORY ELEMENTS

Reading
Comprehension

SIX PASSAGES AND

PRINTABLES FULL OF

Targeted Skill Practice

FLASHBACK

A literary device used by the author to take a reader back in time to explain an event

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A literary device used by the author to take a reader back in time to explain an event

Ski Day

Name: _____ Date: _____

Cora shivered as the chairlift bounced slowly, rhythmically up the mountain. The snowflakes that earlier fell light and airy now whipped her cheeks with a fierce urgency. She balled her hands into fists inside of her mittens and tucked her chin inside of her ski jacket. Cora loved to ski and she wasn't about to let a bit of wind and snow spoil her day on the mountain.

Cora smiled as she remembered her dad teaching her how to ski. It was about eight years ago. She was five and she had gotten a pair of hand-me-down skis from her cousin. She clomped around the house for weeks in those chunky, red ski boots until winter's first storms finally blanketed the mountain. Cora couldn't wait to strap those skis on and go for it. Scared? Not even a little.

Cora's 5-year-old eyes grew wide with wonder as they approached the mountain that sunny day. While her dad got the lift tickets, instructing Cora to wait for him near a bench, curiosity got the better of her. She meant to just watch the skiers zoom down the bunny hill while she waited for her dad, but the pull of the hill was too strong for Cora. She clipped expertly into her skis like she'd done it a thousand times. Without even a backward glance, Cora pointed her skis down and started sliding, fast, down the bunny hill. Her heart raced with excitement. The only problem was, she hadn't learned how to turn just yet, or how to stop. Cora gained speed as her skis grew wider and wider apart. She tumbled to a stop, narrowly missing the tow-rope operator. Smiling, Cora glanced up at the boy. "It's my first time," she said.

Although Cora's first time down the hill could have gone a little smoother, she loved remembering how strong and confident she felt that day. Today, Cora felt moody and sullen, not at all like she felt that first day on the mountain. Usually Cora loved the first ride up the mountain. She would look out over the snow-covered tree tops, surveying the ski runs below. She would eye her first line, challenging herself to keep tight to the tree line or dodge across the moguls like a pro. Cora felt most at home sailing down icy slopes, but today didn't feel right because she argued with her dad that morning before she left for the mountain.

Frowning, Cora relived the conversation she and her dad had at breakfast just an hour earlier. Placing a plate of pancakes in front of her, Cora's dad said, "It's supposed to get windy and snowy later this morning. Maybe you should reconsider skiing today, Kiddo."

Cora pouted, "Dad, I'm not going to live my life based on the weather forecast when it may or may not be accurate. Besides, if I don't ski today, I won't be able to go again for a whole week."

Ski Day (Cont.)

"You have to be smart about these things, Kiddo." Cora's dad had gone on, "Sometimes you have to let go of the best laid plans due to unexpected interruptions, like the weather. I don't want you getting hurt up there. I worry about frost bite or you getting lost in whiteout conditions. It's just not safe."

Cora's blood boiled. How dare he treat her like such a baby? Cora leapt up from the table, exclaiming, "It's my life, Dad, and you cannot keep me from skiing! It's the only thing I love to do!" Cora stormed out of the kitchen, grabbed her already-packed ski bag and slammed the front door. Luckily, her friend's mom was already waiting in the driveway to pick her up.

Cora shook her head of the bad memory, willing herself back to the top of the mountain where the winds had indeed picked up to blustery speeds. She stood swiftly as the chair deposited her at the summit. The snow fell faster, causing whiteout conditions. Cora knew it would be no picnic getting down the mountain safely. She fought back tears as she realized her dad was right. She should've stayed home.

Cora took a deep breath. With the same fierce determination she had at five years old on her first day of skiing, she pointed her skis down and went for it. Although visibility was low, her expert skills allowed her to navigate safely down the run. As soon as she got to the bottom, she went inside to call her dad. She needed to apologize, and she needed a ride home.

Write a summary of the story in 3-5 sentences.

Ski Day: Basic Story Elements

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Describe the main character of the story. Include character traits and motivation in your description.

2. Describe the setting of the story. How does the setting affect the plot?

3. What challenge does Cora face in the story?

4. How is Cora able to overcome the challenge?

Ski Day: Basic Story Elements

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Describe the main character of the story. Include character traits and motivation in your description.

The main character is a thirteen or fourteen-year-old girl named Cora. She is stubborn and persistent, which is shown when she insists on going skiing despite her dad's warnings.

2. Describe the setting of the story. How does the setting affect the plot?

The setting is a location in the mountains during the winter, and specifically a snowstorm.

The weather in particular affects the plot because it causes the challenge that Cora faces.

3. What challenge does Cora face in the story?

Cora must face the harsh weather as she attempts to ski to safety down a mountain.

4. How is Cora able to overcome the challenge?

She stayed calm and determined, while using her skills to guide her to safety.

Ski Day: Flashback

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Identify the two flashbacks in the story. Highlight or underline them.

2. Explain how you know these are flashbacks.

3. Compare and contrast the two flashbacks.

4. How do the flashbacks provide additional details to the reader and help advance the plot?

Ski Day: Flashback

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Identify the two flashbacks in the story. Highlight or underline them.

Paragraph three and paragraphs five through eight.

2. Explain how you know these are flashbacks.

Both flashbacks are a memory that is not happening during the story.

3. Compare and contrast the two flashbacks.

The flashbacks both relive a moment with Cora's dad. However, the first one is a happy memory from eight years ago and the second one is from an argument earlier that morning.

4. How do the flashbacks provide additional details to the reader and help advance the plot?

Both flashbacks reveal the stubbornness of Cora and reveal key information to understand the plot, including how she ignored her father's warning about the incoming storm.

Ski Day: Theme

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Describe a possible theme for the story.

2. Provide 2-3 pieces of evidence from the story that support the theme you chose.

3. Identify one more possible theme. Then, explain how one story can have multiple themes.

Ski Day: Theme

Name: Answer Key Date: _____

1. Describe a possible theme for the story.

Stubbornness is not a good quality.

Heeding others' warnings is important.

It is better to be cautious than rush into doing something.

2. Provide 2-3 pieces of evidence from the story that support the theme you chose.

Evidence will vary based on the chosen theme.

3. Identify one more possible theme. Then, explain how one story can have multiple themes.

Stubbornness is not a good quality.

Heeding others' warnings is important.

It is better to be cautious than rush into doing something.

Ski Day: Figurative Language

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Determine the meaning of “whipped her cheeks with a fierce urgency” as used in paragraph one of the story.

2. What does the phrase “blanketed the mountain” mean from paragraph two of the story?

3. What does it mean when the author says Cora “relived the conversation” from the morning?

4. Explain the meaning of “blood boiled” as used in paragraph eight of the story.

Ski Day: Figurative Language

Answer Key

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Determine the meaning of “whipped her cheeks with a fierce urgency” as used in paragraph one of the story.

The wind and snow fall was strong and painful.

2. What does the phrase “blanketed the mountain” mean from paragraph two of the story?

The snow covered the ground of the mountain.

3. What does it mean when the author says Cora “relived the conversation” from the morning?

She vividly remembered the conversation.

4. Explain the meaning of “blood boiled” as used in paragraph eight of the story.

She got angry and upset.

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