

IDENTIFYING ELEMENTS OF A PLOT

The Unforgettable Hike

Jenna was hiking with her mom in the mountains outside of her hometown of Santa Fe, New Mexico. They often enjoyed a Sunday afternoon hike during the summer months. They had learned from experience, though, to always check the weather forecast before they set out, as weather could change quickly in higher altitudes. There was a slight chance of late afternoon storms, but they decided to risk it, thinking they would be back home before any storms would hit the area.

They set out for their 5-mile hike amid sunshine and mild temperatures. About an hour into their hike, the wind picked up slightly and clouds spread overhead. They knew this was not a good sign. They turned around immediately and quickened their pace to get back to their vehicle as soon as possible. Ten minutes later, they heard rumbles of thunder... then drops of rain began to fall.

Before they knew it, the rain was coming down in sheets, and booms of thunder and flashes of lightning were nearly constant. Jenna and her mom were now running as fast as they could to get down the mountain trail and back to the safety of their car.

Out of the corner of her eye, Jenna spotted a huge rock with an area below it where they could take cover. "Mom! Over there!" Jenna yelled.

They ran to the rock and crouched under it. "That was terrifying!" Jenna's mom gasped as she worked to catch her breath. "I can't believe how quickly that storm came over the mountain!"

Ten minutes later, the storm had passed, and the sun was beginning to peek out behind the clearing clouds.

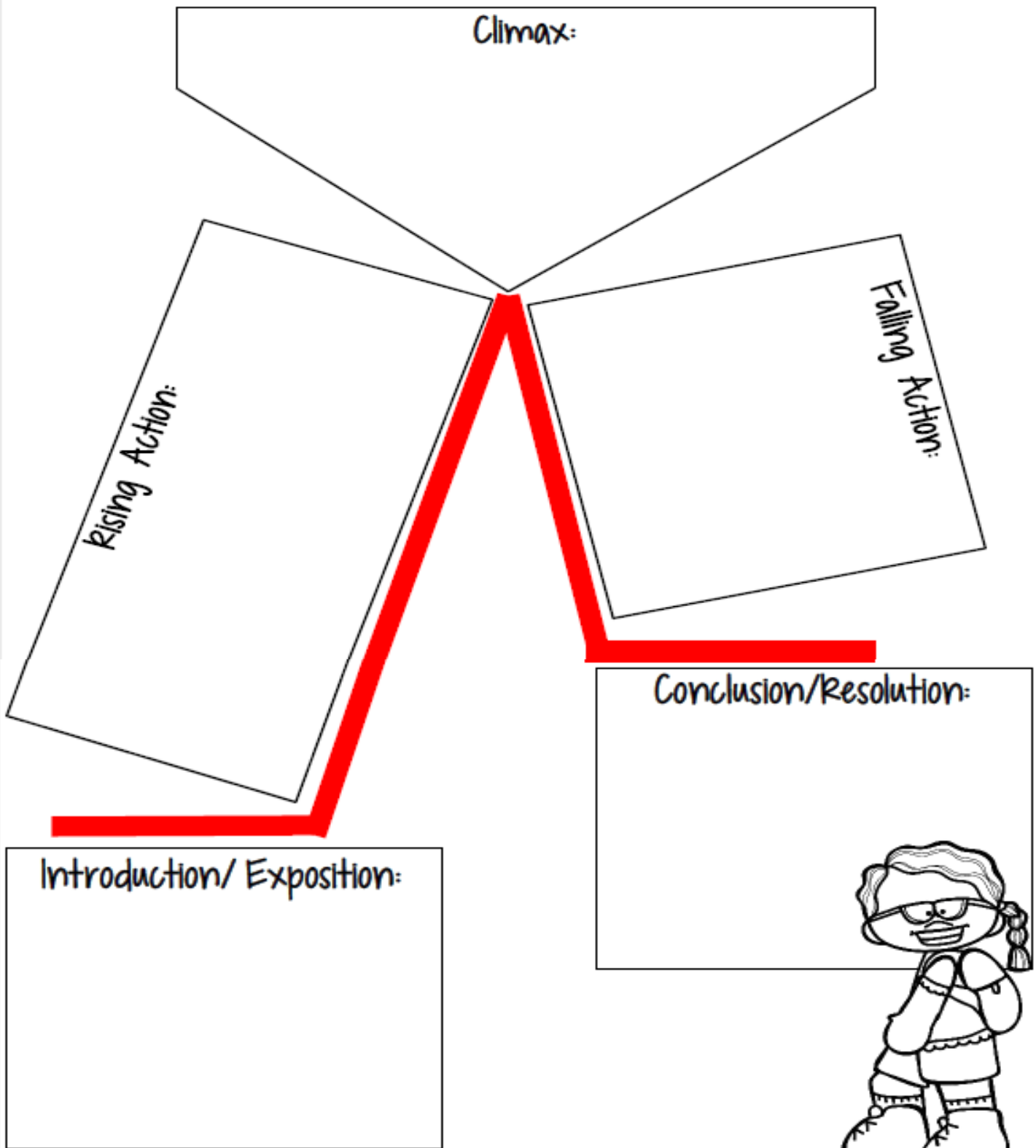
"Well, I think I'm ready to get back to the car so we can get home and change out of these soaking clothes," Jenna's mom said.

"Me, too!" Jenna agreed.

Jenna and her mom never forgot the terrifying experience they had shared that day. Every time a summertime storm came over the mountain, one would say to the other, "Remember that day..."

Name _____

Read the short story "The Unforgettable Hike". Briefly describe the plot elements of the story in the correct boxes below.



Jenna and her mom decide to go on a Sunday afternoon hike. Late afternoon showers are in the forecast, but they decide to go anyway, thinking they will be home before any bad weather hits.

Jenna and her mom never forget about the scary experience, and recall it whenever there is a summertime storm.

About an hour into their hike, a bad storm suddenly hits; they start running to get back to their car. They get dripping wet.

Jenna spots a large rock where they can take cover until the storm passes.

The storm passes. They discuss what a terrifying experience it was, and they return to their car, ready to get home and change into dry clothes.