

Student Handout: Unit 1 Lesson 1



Plot: It's What's Happening

Suggested time: 75 Minutes

What's important in this lesson:

There are stories all around us: all of the elements of good stories are found in our lives. In this lesson, you will get to **think about** some of your favourite stories (on TV, in movies, or in your reading), some of your favourite characters, and some of the kinds of conflict we all have to deal with in life. You will **read** a short dramatic script, and demonstrate that you recognize the chain of events – also known as the Plot – in the story.

Complete these steps:

1. Either in conversation with your teacher (or a partner), or by completing the *Student Worksheet, There Are Stories All Around Us*, think about the specific stories and types of stories (e.g., horror, science fiction, action, or romance) which are your personal favourites.
 - Listen carefully to the other person's comments to discover similarities or differences in your likes and dislikes.
 - Think about all of the different types of stories we have around us, and all of the different ways those stories can be told.
 - Pay attention to the use of terms like drama, character, and conflict.
 - If your teacher gives you the worksheet, complete it and hand it in when you've finished it.
2. Go over the difference between Directly-Stated and Indirectly-Stated Information with your teacher.
 - Work on an activity called "Reading Between the Lines to Infer Meaning". The handout you'll be given shows you how to complete the activity – the first two are done for you. Ask any questions you need to ask.
 - Hand in the activity sheet when it's done.
3. Look over the dramatic script given to you by the teacher, and ask any questions you have about its features (how it is organized).
4. Your teacher will provide you with a blank "Sequence of Events" graphic organizer to be used for the drama script you've been given. Ask your teacher if you have any questions about how to use the graphic organizer.
 - Be sure that you understand the term plot (or storyline, or sequence of events: what happens in a story).
 - The teacher will also give you a chance to think about the main topic of the script before you read it; participate in this conversation in order to prepare your mind better for the reading you're about to do.

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5. Read the script carefully, as many times as you need.
 - You may want to keep point-form notes or a numbered list of the events of the story in the order they occur. These plot events need to be placed into the “Sequence of Events” graphic organizer, so be complete and accurate.
 - Complete the “Sequence of Events” organizer.
6. Once you have completed the graphic organizer as well as you can, and you are sure that it contains a full, ordered description of the story you have read, hand in the “Sequence of Events” organizer to the teacher for marking.

Hand-in the following to your teacher:

- “*There Are Stories All Around Us*”, if your teacher requests it
- Completed “Reading Between the Lines to Infer Meaning” activity sheet
- Completed “Sequence of Events” graphic organizer

Questions for the teacher:

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There Are Stories All Around Us

As you begin your work on Unit 1 of your ENG2P Credit Recovery experience, take a few minutes to refresh your memory about all the things you already know about storytelling, and about how stories already have a place in your world and in your life.

For each of the following questions about stories, write a couple of sentences to show what you know. Don't hesitate to ask your teacher about any of the questions you might have trouble with, either!

What are your favourite movies and TV shows lately?

Why? What is it that you like about these stories?

Can you think of a favourite character from a show that you've watched recently? What is it that makes that character memorable for you?

What different types of movies or TV shows can you think of? Do they all tell some kind of story, or do some have a different kind of purpose?

Do you think that all of the stories in these shows contain some sort of conflict? Can you give an example of an obvious conflict in a story?

What are the most common sources of conflict in your life? Are most of your conflicts with things (like machines, the weather), or with people (including yourself)?



Reading Between the Lines to Infer Meaning

Explain what you think might be happening in the following situations:

1. A young man brings a bouquet of flowers to the home of a girl who goes to his school.

2. A truck is parked in a Canadian Tire parking lot. No one is inside, the headlights are on and the driver's door is open.

3. A man arrives at the home of a woman with red roses and a diamond ring.

4. Your neighbour, married about a year ago, is shopping for diapers and baby formula.

5. A car containing two men has been parked in front of your neighbour's home every day for a week.

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6. A car stops at a gas station in the middle of the night and a woman rushes in asking to use the telephone.

7. A friend of yours suddenly begins buying everything in sight – fancy food, expensive clothes, a big-screen TV, a dishwasher, and a new car.

8. Two of your friends were rushed to the hospital together one evening. When you see them the next day, they look fine, but seem embarrassed when you ask what happened.

9. You see your neighbours' new truck in front of their house in the morning. All four tires are flat.

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Reading Between the Lines to Infer Meaning

Explain what you think might be happening in the following situations:

1. A young man brings a bouquet of flowers to the home of a girl who goes to his school.

He is probably coming to her house for a date, or for Valentine's Day, or to announce that he is "interested in her".

2. A truck is parked in a Canadian Tire parking lot. No one is inside, the headlights are on and the driver's door is open.

The driver has probably run inside for some sort of emergency supply which he can grab quickly at the store.

3. A man arrives at the home of a woman with red roses and a diamond ring.

4. Your neighbour, married about a year ago, is shopping for diapers and baby formula.

5. A car containing two men has been parked in front of your neighbour's home every day for a week.

6. A car stops at a gas station in the middle of the night and a woman rushes in asking to use the telephone.

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7. A friend of yours suddenly begins buying everything in sight – fancy food, expensive clothes, a big-screen TV, a dishwasher, and a new car.

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Flow Chart with Signal Words to Organize Thinking

Sequence Flow Chart

First...

Next...

Then...

Finally...

In conclusion...