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## **Assignment 1.02- "Plotting It Out"**

In Lesson 1.02 you learned how to analyze the development of a story's plot and theme. **Now, it's your turn to apply what you learned.** Follow **all** steps below to complete **each part** of this assignment. For help with this assignment, [CLICK HERE](#)

**Step 1:** Read the story below. As you read, think about our key vocab words: exposition, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, and theme.

### **"The Meet"**

by Madelyn Srin

"Why, why?" Ariel wailed into her locker at the pool. "I thought she was not going to make it down for this meet!" Her fiercest competitor was going to swim Saturday, after all. Ariel looked around to make sure no one had heard her then tore off her required swim cap, grabbed her towel, and ran outside to her father's waiting van.

"It's my last chance to actually make Olympics finals, Dad. And Maria is going to be there. Maria and her stupid pink swim cap. High-fiving her dad for good luck before every single race. Ugh."

"Remember what I've told you, Ari," her dad started. "The only thing that matters is what you do, not what you win." She put up her hand to block the glare of the sun just peeking up over the horizon. Every morning she was at that pool, doing laps and practicing her strokes. Ariel pictured herself so many times holding that trophy and smiling triumphantly as she advanced to the Olympic finals. No matter what her dad said, she wanted to win.

Saturday morning, Ariel stood by the pool—waiting for Maria to come out—hoping that she wouldn't. She did—crying. Ariel could barely hear what Maria was saying to the coach over the noise in the pool area.

"...lucky swim cap. gone ... without it." The coach was trying to convince Maria to just wear another one when Ariel saw a pink blob, peeking out from under the bleachers. For an instant, she saw herself again, making it to the finals, and living her dream. This time, however, her vision was different. She held the trophy, but her smile was nowhere to be seen.

The world came into focus again, and Ariel knew what she had to do.

Moments later, she approached Maria and looked her rival in the eye. "Here," she said, handing her the pink cap. "It was under the bleachers."

"Oh, Ariel. Thankyou! Thankyou! Thankyou!" Maria said through her sobs. "If I could not compete today, I don't know what I would do."

Ariel watched Maria greet her father and receive her customary high-five. As Ariel turned away, she felt a tap on her shoulder. Maria's father stood smiling, his flat hand raised and ready.

"One for you, too!"

Ariel high fived the man and saw a flash of embarrassment flush across Maria's face.

Ariel turned to her own dad, who was sitting in his usual place in the bleachers. He gave her a thumbs-up as she walked to the platform and took her place next to Maria.

Maria tightened her pink cap and gave Ariel a smile. "Thanks again. And good luck."

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“You’re welcome. And good luck, too.” Ariel replied. She smiled back, triumphantly.

**Step 2:** Explain how each of the five plot elements unfolds in the story “The Meet.” Make sure to write at least two full sentences to explain each plot element.



1. Describe the events in the **exposition** of this story (*Be sure to identify the **characters** and **setting***):
  -
2. Describe the events in the **rising action** of this story (*Be sure to explain the **conflict***):
  -
3. Describe the events in the **climax** of this story:
  -
4. Describe the events in the **falling action** of the story:
  -
5. Describe the events in the **resolution** of the story (*Be sure to explain the **theme***):
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**Step 3:** Describe in two or three detailed sentences how a character, or characters, changed because of the events, interactions, or setting in the story.

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Review the rubric below to see how you will be graded:

	<b>On Target</b>	<b>Almost There</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>
<b>Plot Structure Graphic Organizer</b>	<b>20–16 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each element of the plot is clearly identified.</li> <li>The characters and setting are listed.</li> <li>The theme reflects the message of the short story and is clearly stated in one complete sentence.</li> </ul>	<b>15–11 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One element of the plot graphic organizer is missing.</li> <li>Either character and/or setting is not present.</li> <li>The theme may not fully reflect the message of the short story.</li> </ul>	<b>10–0 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than one element of the plot is missing.</li> <li>The characters and/or setting are not present.</li> <li>The theme is stated in only one word or does not reflect the message of the short story.</li> </ul>
<b>Changing Character Response</b>	<b>20–16 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The change the character experiences is thoroughly explained in 2–3 sentences.</li> <li>Specific examples from the short story are included.</li> </ul>	<b>15–11 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The change the character experiences is explained in 1–2 sentences.</li> <li>Specific examples from the short story may have been included.</li> </ul>	<b>10–0 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The change the character experiences is not thoroughly explained. Sentences may not be complete.</li> <li>Specific examples from the short story are not used.</li> </ul>
<b>Spelling, Usage, and Grammar</b>	<b>10–7 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar are used throughout the graphic organizer and written response.</li> </ul>	<b>6–4 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A few errors exist in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.</li> </ul>	<b>3–0 points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar are present.</li> </ul>