

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

TEKS 3.4A, 3.5A, 3.8A,  
3.8B, RC-3(D), RC-3(E)

# Fiction

## Genre Overview

**Fiction** refers to a story that is made up. In every fiction story, there is at least one **character**, at least one **setting**, and a **plot**. These parts work together in the **story structure**.

As you read a fiction story, identify the **characters**. Notice how the characters act towards one another. Pay attention to what they think, do, and say. Ask yourself how a character changes in the story.

The **setting** is the place and time in which the story happens. To identify the setting, ask yourself, "Where and when does this story take place?"

The **plot** is what happens in a story. The plot is made up of a series of events. The **problem** is usually introduced near the beginning of the story. The **solution**, how the problem is solved, comes towards the end of the story. The **theme** refers to the message that the author wants to send to the reader.

The **narrator** is the person who tells a story. When a character tells the story, he or she is called a **first-person** narrator. A first-person narrator uses words such as *I* and *we* to tell the story. When the narrator is not a character in the story, he or she is called a **third-person** narrator. A third-person narrator tells the story using words such as *he*, *she*, *it*, and *they*.

Sometimes an author will provide details that clearly explain his or her main points. Sometimes the reader needs to tie details together to **infer**, or figure out, what the author does not state directly.

As you read, you may need to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words. Word parts at the beginning and end of words can help you. A **prefix** is a word part added to the beginning of a base word or root word. A **suffix** is a word part added to the end of a base word or root word. Each prefix or suffix changes the meaning of the root word or base word. For example, the prefix *dis-* means "not." So the word *dislike* means "not like." The suffix *-y* means "full of," so the word *rusty* means "full of rust."

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## Fiction

Read this selection. Then answer the questions that follow it.  
Fill in the circle of the correct answer.

### Big Brother and the Bats

- 1 Clara was excited to visit her brother in Austin. Andrew may have been ten years older than Clara, but she still thought of him as her best friend. She had missed him terribly since he had moved away to attend the University of Texas. So far, she only saw him when he visited on weekends. Now her parents were taking her to Austin. As the family car pulled up to Andrew's new home, Clara was thrilled.
- 2 "Hey, Squirt!" Andrew called as Clara ran to meet him at the front of his building. "Welcome to Austin! I have lots of fun stuff planned. We're going to hear some music, and then eat lunch by the river, and don't forget the bats—"
- 3 *Oh no*, Clara thought. Andrew had said that he wanted to take her to see the famous Congress Street Bridge bats, but she had hoped he'd forget about it. Just the thought of one creepy bat flying at her head made her want to jump back into the car.
- 4 "I don't really love bats," Clara said, trying to hide her worry.
- 5 "Aww, a few bats won't hurt you," Dad said. "Besides, it's amazing to see. Just as the sun goes down, the bats fly out from under the Congress Street Bridge. They look beautiful against the colorful sky."

#### Tip

Think about what Clara and Andrew think, say, and do. What do these clues tell you about the relationship between Clara and Andrew?

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- 6 "Dad's right," Andrew said with a smile. "It's awesome. Though we're not talking about a *few* bats. More like a million!" Clara gulped.
- 7 Clara tried all afternoon not to think of the bats. She tried not to think of them as Andrew introduced her to his new friends. She tried not to think of them as she munched on a barbecued turkey sandwich. She tried not to think of them as the sun fell lower and lower in the sky.
- 8 Fortunately, Andrew knew his little sister. "You're really freaked out, aren't you?" he asked as the family walked through the park where they planned to watch the bats. Clara nodded.
- 9 "Well, I'll tell you what. We don't have to get too close. We'll stay here under this tree and watch them from here!"
- 10 Clara was relieved. She could see the bridge, but it was far away. Surely the bats could not get to her from that distance. Then, as she sat down and watched the sky turn pink over the bridge, she saw them.
- 11 First, she just saw a few. Then she saw a few more. Before she knew it, what seemed like a hundred million bats were flying out from under the bridge in every direction. She'd never seen so many bats before! Dad was right, it really was amazing. Her jaw dropped.
- 12 Andrew gave her a squeeze. "What do you think, Squirt?"
- 13 "Well, I still don't like bats," Clara said, hugging him back. "But I'm always happy to see *you!*"

Tip

Stop every few paragraphs to think about what has happened so far. Think about what might happen next.

Tip

Think about how Andrew helps Clara get over her fear. Use this clue to help you figure out the theme of the selection.



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1 In paragraph 5, the word colorful means having —

- no color at all
- few colors or dull colors
- many colors or bright colors
- colors that fade away

TEKS 3.4A

**Tip**

Identify the suffix and the base word. How does adding the suffix change the meaning of the base word?

2 Which of these best describes the relationship between Clara and Andrew?

- They are good friends and love each other.
- They do not like each other very much.
- They like to play tricks on each other.
- They do not know each other very well.

TEKS 3.8B

3 Why is it important to the plot that Clara has to wait until sundown to see the bats?

- So that Clara figures out the bats will not harm her if it is dark
- To show Clara getting more nervous as the day goes on
- So that Clara is able to forget about the bats completely
- To show that the longer Clara waits, the more excited she gets

TEKS RC-3(D)

**Tip**

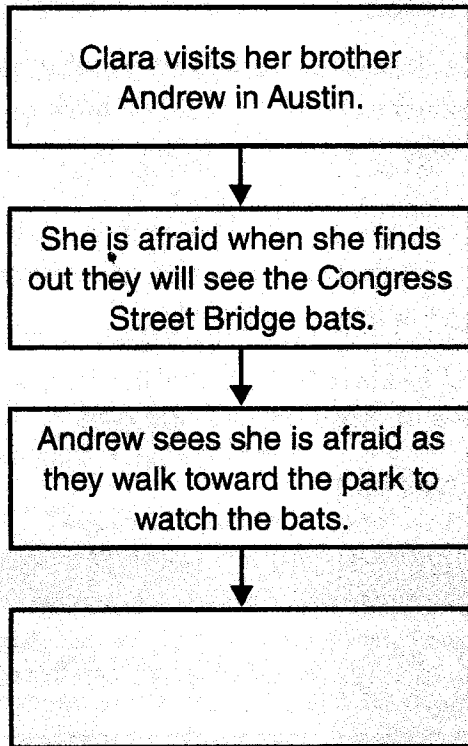
Think about why the author has made the main character wait so long to face her fear. What effect does this have on the plot?

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4 Use the diagram to answer the question.



Which sentence belongs in the box?

- Clara tries not to think about the bats as she munches on a sandwich.
- To hide her worry, Clara explains, "I don't really love bats."
- Clara gulps when Dad says, "Aww, a few bats won't hurt you."
- Clara is relieved when Andrew suggests they watch the bats from far away.

TEKS 3.8A

**Tip**

This question is about the order of events. Look back at the story to see when each event happened.

5 Which sentence best states the theme?

- A kind act from a loved one can mean a lot.
- Fear can make someone do strange things.
- Parents always know what is best for their children.
- People should always try to overcome their fears.

TEKS 3.5A

6 Which is the best summary of this selection?

- Clara is excited to visit her brother Andrew. He plans to take her to see the bats. Clara really fears bats and does not want to go. Her father tells her that it is an amazing sight.
- Clara was afraid of bats. Clara came to visit Andrew. Clara finds the bats amazing, but she still says she doesn't like them. She is always happy to see her brother, though.
- Clara hoped her brother Andrew would forget about taking her to see the bats. He tells her not to worry. Afterwards, Clara and Andrew hug.
- Clara and her family go to visit her brother. Clara is afraid of bats so Andrew suggests watching the bats from far away. Clara is relieved and is able to enjoy the bats without fear.

TEKS RC-3(E)

