Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

BUILDING STORIES

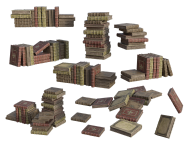
How chapters, scenes, and stanzas fit together

About 30 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Parts Make a Whole

Long texts are made of small parts. Stories use **chapters**, dramas use **scenes**, and poems use **stanzas**. Each new part builds on earlier parts.

- Each chapter adds a new event to the story.
- Each scene moves the play forward.
- Each stanza adds an idea to the poem.



Task A

/3

Pick one box from each column to build a sentence about structure. Write three sentences.

Chapters and scenes	build on	earlier parts
Stanzas and chapters	add to	what came before
Scenes and stanzas	connect with	the whole story
		your own idea

Write three sentences

Chapters and scenes build on earlier parts.

Key words

chapter: a part of a story book

scene: a part of a play

stanza: a group of lines in a poem

structure: how all the parts fit together

build on: add to what came before

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WHO IS RIGHT?

Hear three ideas about story structure.

Task B

/3

Read the cartoon. Decide about each idea.



Student A

How do **chapters**, scenes, or stanzas fit together?

Each part **builds** on the parts before it, so beginning, middle, and ending make one story.



Student B

Each chapter is on its **own**. Order does not change anything.



Student C

Only the **last** part matters. You can skip the rest.



Student D

What do you think of each idea? Why?

Student B: .....

Student C: .....

Student D: .....

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STRUCTURE BINGO TIME

Play bingo with story structure words.

Task C

Listen for each structure word. Cover it. Get three in a row to win!

BINGO 1

 beginning	 stanza	 build on
 poem	scene	 act
middle	ending	 drama

BINGO 2

 stanza	story	ending
scene	structure	 poem
 act	 build on	 chapter

BINGO 3

structure	 chapter	 act
 poem	 stanza	 beginning
middle	ending	 drama

BINGO 4

 stanza	story	 chapter
 drama	 build on	scene
 beginning	structure	ending

Caller: chapter · scene · stanza · beginning · middle · ending · build on · structure · drama · poem · story · act

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HOW IT CONNECTS

Use the story to explain how parts fit.

The Lighthouse Key

1. A girl stays with her uncle by a tall lighthouse. In the first chapter, she finds a small brass key under the wooden steps. She wonders what door it opens. The reader meets the girl and learns the place and the **problem**.
2. In the next chapter, the girl tries the key in the boathouse and the shed. Neither door opens. Then she sees a tiny door at the bottom of the lighthouse. This part builds on the first part and adds a **clue**.
3. In the third chapter, the girl turns the key and climbs the dark stairs. Wind bangs the door shut behind her. She must find another way out. This part adds danger and leads to the **ending**.
4. In the last chapter, the girl finds a window rope and slides safely down. She shows the key to her uncle, and they laugh together. All the chapters fit together to make one complete **story**.

Task D

/3

Answer using the paragraphs in The Lighthouse Key.

1. In paragraph 2, how does the girl build on paragraph 1? Give one **detail**.

   Paragraph 2 builds on paragraph 1 because...

2. How do paragraphs 1 to 4 fit together to show the overall **structure**?

   They fit together because...

3. In paragraph 4, what ending finishes the **story**?

   The ending is...

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can tell what chapters, scenes, and stanzas are.	☹	😐	☺
I can explain how parts build on earlier parts.	☹	😐	☺
I can show how parts make the whole structure.	☹	😐	☺

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Answer sheet: Building Stories

Task A

Answers will vary, e.g. Chapters and scenes build on earlier parts. Stanzas and chapters add to the whole story.

Task B

Student B: right
Student C: not right
Student D: not right
Student B is right because each part adds to earlier parts to build the overall structure.

Task C

A game: no written answers.

Task D

1. She tries the brass key from under the steps in the boathouse and the shed, then finds the tiny door.
2. She finds the key, tries new doors, faces danger on the stairs, then slides down and shows the key to her uncle.
3. The girl slides safely down the window rope and shows the key to her uncle.

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