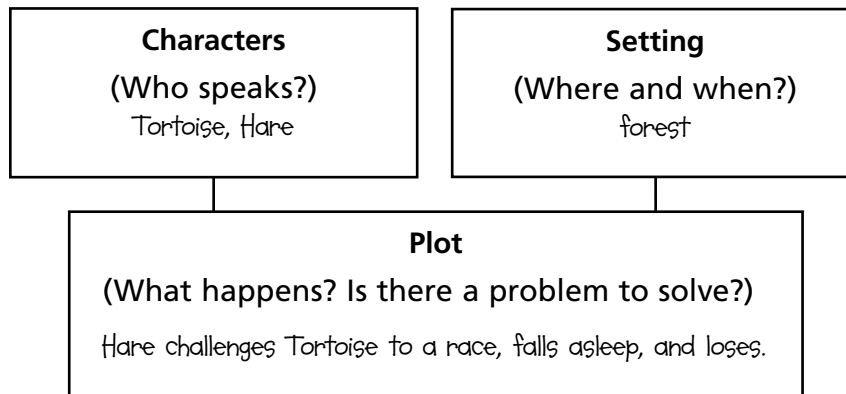


# Character, Setting, and Plot

## 1 Teach/Model

Display the following Story Map. Tell the story of “The Tortoise and the Hare.”



### Character, Setting, and Plot

- The characters speak in a story. Their dialogue tells a lot about them.
- The setting tells where and when a story takes place.
- The plot is what happens.

Point to each part of the map as you model using story elements:

- I look for what the characters say, or their dialogue. It tells me about the characters and why they do things.
- I ask: *Where are the characters? When does the story happen?*
- The plot, or series of events in a story, tells me what happens to the characters.

## 2 Practice

Use the **Multi-Level Strategies** to tailor the practice to students' proficiency levels:

### BEGINNING

Tell students the story of “The Lion and the Mouse.” Create a new chart with labels for the story elements. Help students complete the chart by asking questions: Who are the characters in this story? (*Lion, Mouse*) Where does the story take place? (*jungle*) What is the plot? (*Lion catches Mouse; Mouse escapes; Mouse saves Lion's life.*)

### INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED

Tell students the story of “The Lion and the Mouse.” Fill out a new story chart for the story elements, but leave off the labels Characters, Setting, and Plot. Read the entries for each box aloud and have students complete sentences to identify and describe the story element: The lion and the mouse are the (*characters*). The story takes place in (*a jungle*). This is the (*setting*). The lion catching the mouse and the mouse escaping are events in the story. They are part of (*the plot*).

## 3 Apply

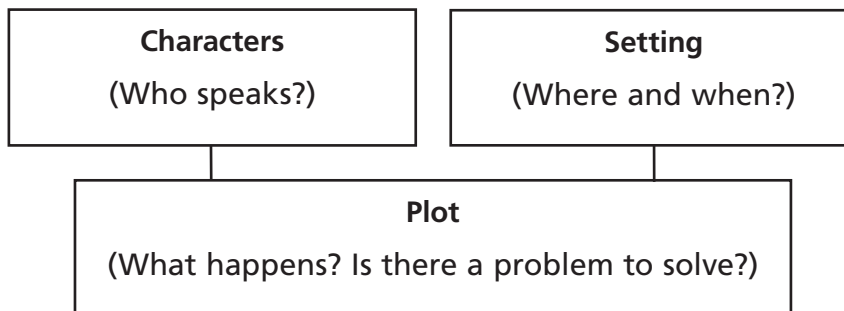
Have students apply the skill in one of these books:

- 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
- ● ● The Color of My Words

Have students read the book summary on the back cover of either of the books. Say: **Imagine that you are going to read this book. You want to learn the characters, setting, and plot so that you can better understand what happens and why.**

Ask: **How do you find the characters?** (*ask who is speaking*)  
**How do you find the setting?** (*ask when and where the story takes place*) **How do you find the plot?** (*ask what happens*)

Students can complete a story map for one of the books with a group. Use this map to guide them.



### CLOSE AND ASSESS

Ask students: *What are three important elements in a story? Why should you think about them as you read?* (You should think about the characters, setting, and plot so you can better understand what happens and why.)