REVIEW STRATEGIES FOR CHARACTER ACTIONS/PLOT

5TH GRADE

Stories begin with the introduction of characters, their relationships with each other, and the kind of persons they are. The PLOT develops from these elements. The characters interact in certain ways with each other, with nature, with society, or with themselves. These interactions create a conflict that must be resolved at the end of the story. This creates the plot: rising action, climax, falling action, resolution. A discussion of these conflicts is illustrated below:

Plot: Conflict

Conflict is the dramatic struggle between two forces in a story. Without conflict, there is no plot.

Plot: Character vs. Character Conflict

This type of conflict finds the main character in conflict with another character, human or not human.

"The new one is the most beautiful of all; he is so young and pretty." And the old swans bowed their heads before him.

Then he felt quite ashamed, and hid his head under his wing; for he did not know what to do, he was so happy, and yet not at all proud. He had been persecuted and despised for his ugliness, and now he heard them say he was the most beautiful of all the birds.

The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Anderson

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was the most beautiful of all the birds.*

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Plot: Character vs. Nature Conflict

**This type of conflict finds the main character in conflict
with the forces of nature, which serve as the antagonist.**

*It´s a Truffula Seed.
It´s the last one of all!
You´re in charge of the last of the Truffula Seeds.
And Truffula Trees are what everyone needs.
Plant a new Truffula. Treat it with care.
Give it clean water. And feed it fresh air.
Grow a forest. Protect it from axes that hack.
Then the Lorax
and all of his friends
may come back.*
The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

Plot: Character vs. Society Conflict

This type of conflict has the main character in conflict with a larger group: a community, society, culture, etc.

"I'm tired of living in a hole," said Jenny.
"Let's fight for freedom!" cried Bouncer. "We'll be soldiers!
Rough-riding Rowdies! I'll be the general and
commander-in-chief!"

The Island of the Skog by Steven Kellogg

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Without these characters and their conflicts, there is no plot; therefore, no story.

Plot Skeleton

Name: _____

Main Character NEEDS:

1. OBVIOUS:

2. HIDDEN:

INCITING INCIDENT: ("Then one day....")
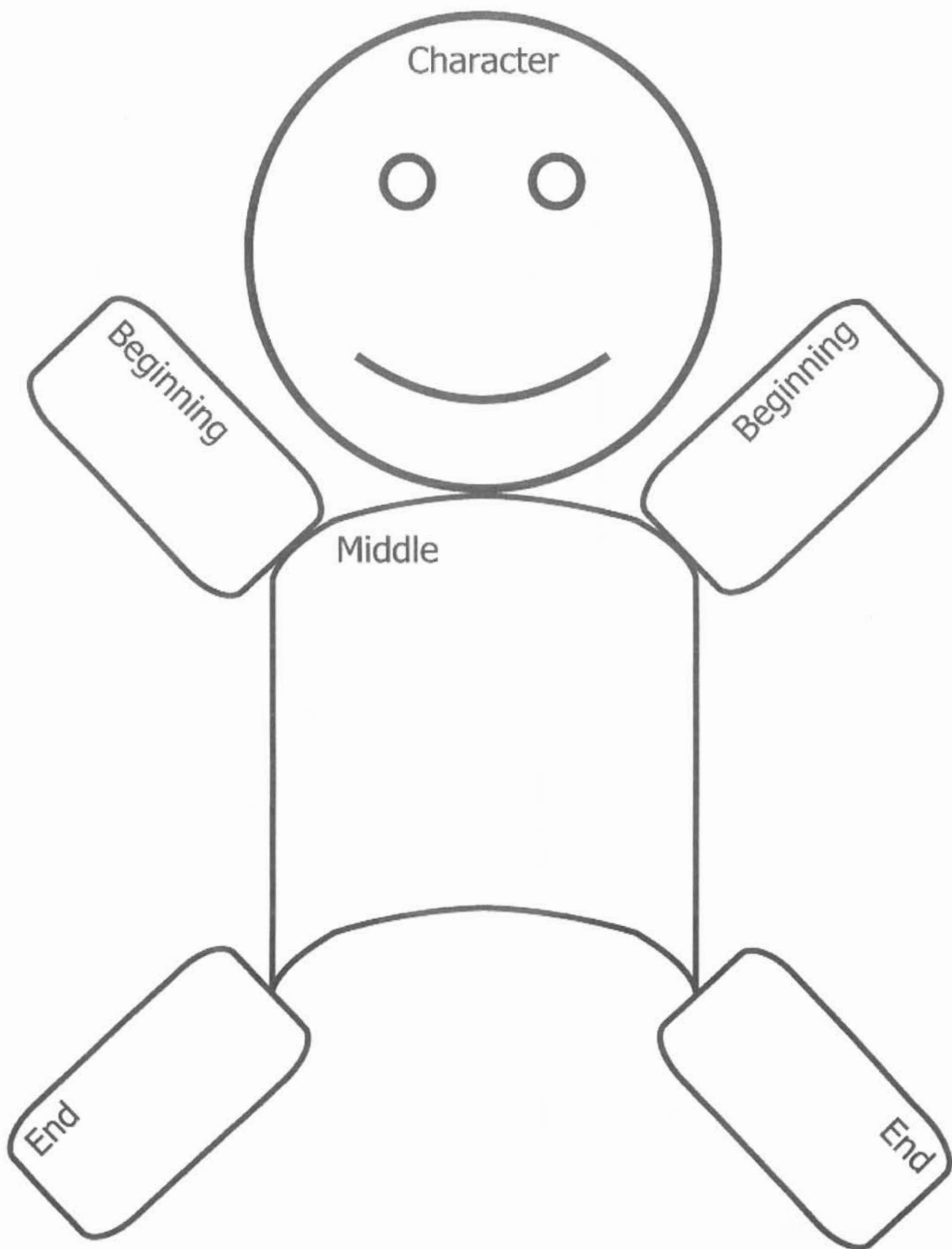
3 COMPLICATIONS:

1.

2.

3. The Bleakest Moment:

HELP:

LESSON OR DECISION:

RESOLUTION:

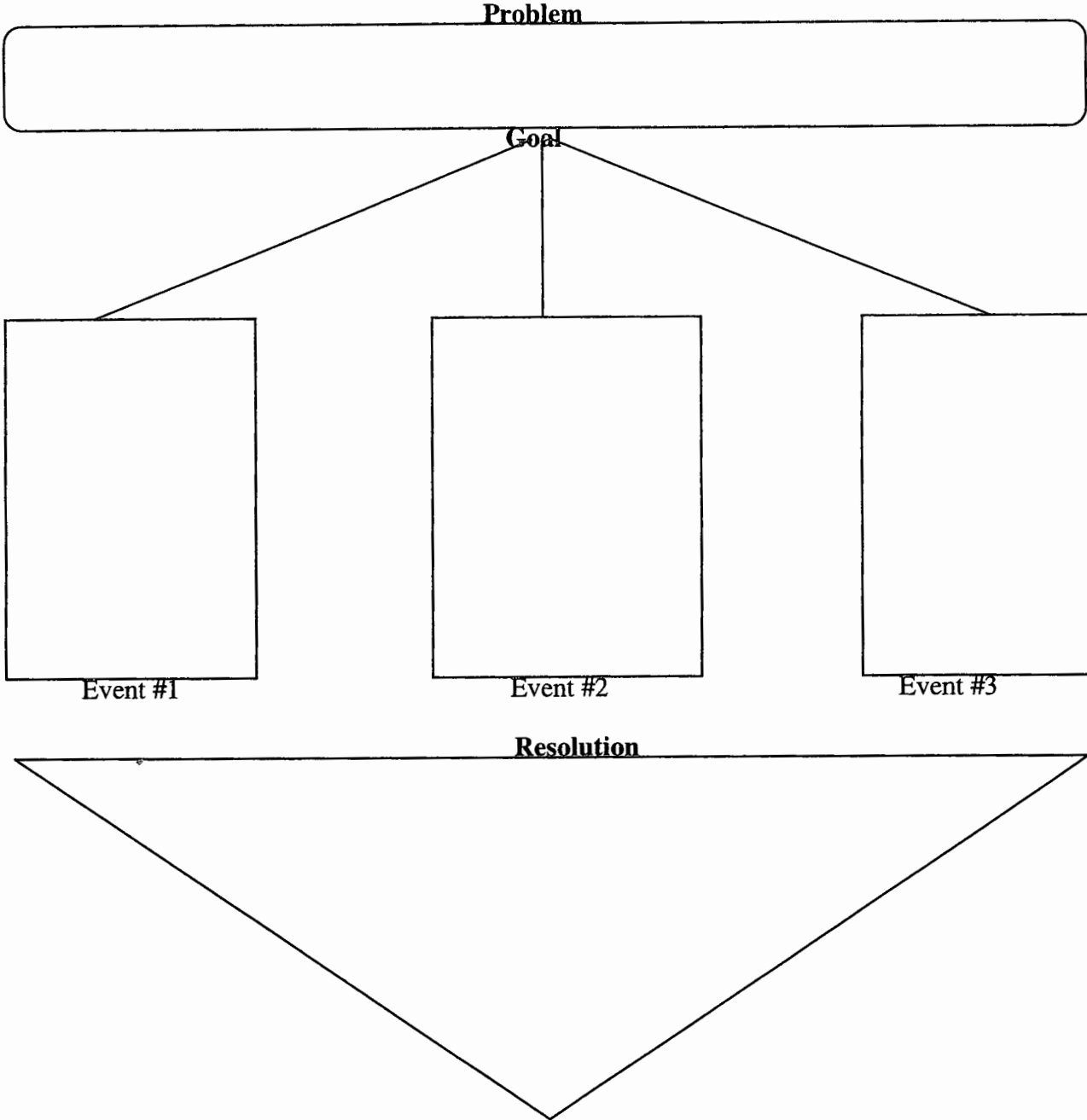*Adapted from Angela E. Hunt*

Character

Beginning

Beginning

Middle

End

End

Graphic Organizer: Problem and Solution Diagram

Character_____

Problem & Solution Diagram

Problem

Goal

Event #1

Event #2

Event #3

Resolution

Character Frame

Directions: Use the following character frame to study the characters from your reading selection.

CHARACTER	PERSONALITY TRAITS	ACTIONS WHICH SUPPORT TRAIT	CONVERSATION BY OR ABOUT THE CHARACTER WHICH ILLUSTRATES TRAIT

Common Character Traits

adventurous	friendly	proud
awesome	fun-loving	pretty
artistic	gentle	protective
athletic	generous	quiet
active	grumpy	rich
beautiful	happy	respectful
brave	hideous	sad
bold	humble	sloppy
bossy	hostile	serious
caring	honest	successful
charming	intelligent	shy
cheerful	independent	short
curious	inventive	smart
creative	a leader	studious
courageous	lazy	selfish
considerate	messy	simple
cunning	mischievous	tall
daring	mean	timid
a dreamer	neat	trustworthy
dangerous	nervous	thoughtful
exciting	nasty	unselfish
entertaining	nice	warm
energetic	nosy	witty
ferocious	open	wild
funny	persistent	wise
a fighter	poor	wonderful

✧✦✧ Character Study ✧✦✧

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Author: _____

Character: _____

1. Does the character seem real to you? Yes ☐ No ☐
    Explain your answer.
    _____
    _____
    _____

2. Do the character's actions fit what you know about him/her? Yes ☐ No ☐
    Explain your answer.
    _____
    _____
    _____

3. This character is: ☐ Flat (stays the same)
                        ☐ Round (changes)

4. Use the "Common Character Traits" chart below to list the traits that describe the character.
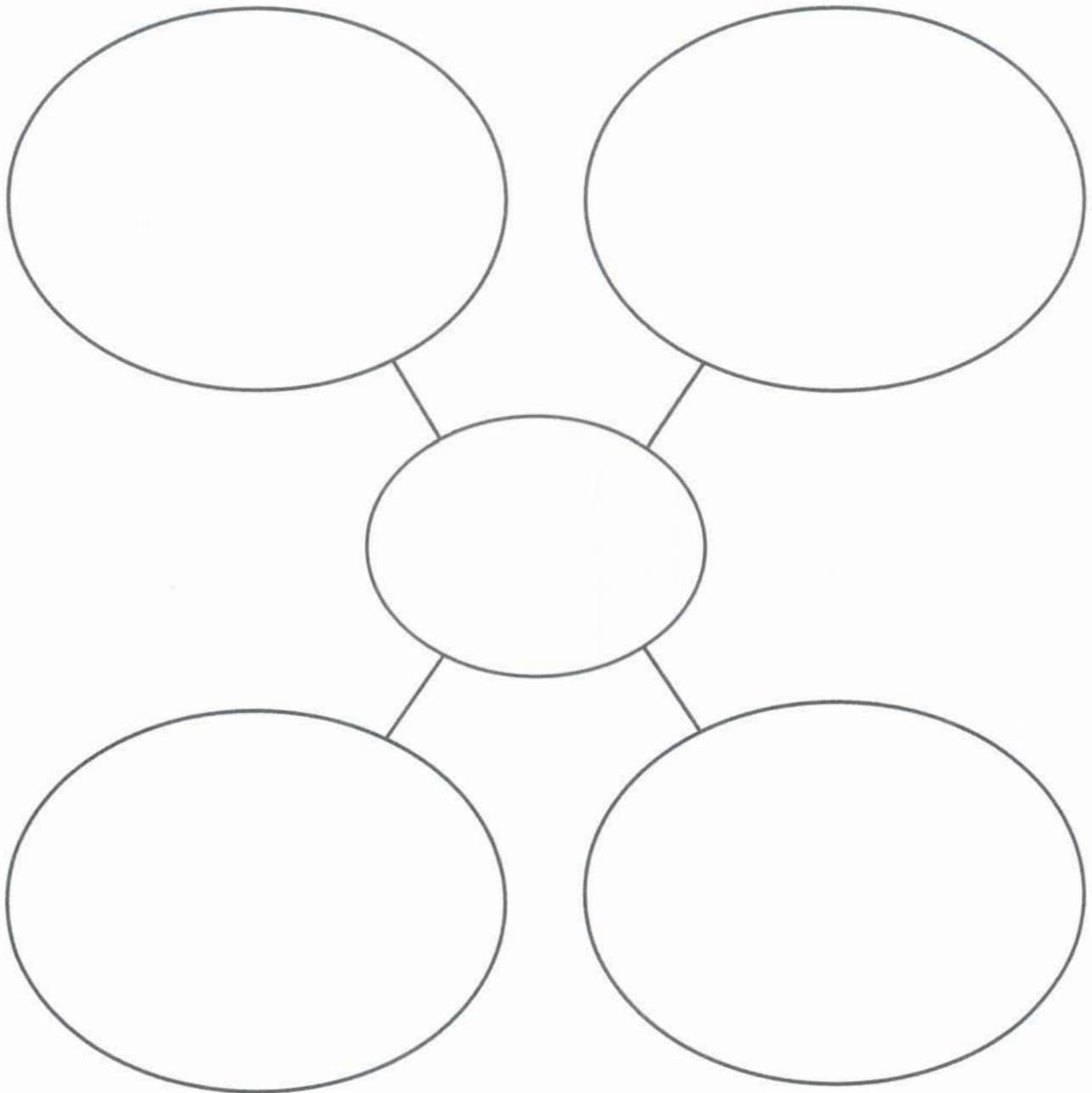   _____   _____   _____   _____
    _____   _____   _____   _____

Common Character Traits					
adventurous	creative	friendly	a leader	proud	studious
awesome	courageous	fun-loving	lazy	pretty	selfish
artistic	considerate	gentle	messy	protective	simple
athletic	cunning	generous	mischievous	quiet	tall
active	daring	grumpy	mean	rich	timid
beautiful	a dreamer	happy	neat	respectful	trustworthy
brave	dangerous	hideous	nervous	sad	thoughtful
bold	exciting	humble	nasty	sloppy	unselfish
bossy	entertaining	hostile	nice	serious	warm
caring	energetic	honest	nosy	successful	witty
charming	ferocious	intelligent	open	shy	wild
cheerful	funny	independent	persistent	short	wise
curious	a fighter	inventive	poor	smart	wonderful

Characterization

Directions: One way in which an author develops characters is through what is said about them. As you read, consider what is said about the main character. First, write his or her name in the center. Second, in one of the satellite bubbles write what that character says about himself or herself. Third, in the remaining bubbles, record what other characters say about the main character.

Character Analysis Pyramid

Name/Title

Physical Appearance

Character's Role

Character's Problems/Challenges

Major Accomplishments