

## Lesson 13: The Return

### Getting Started

#### ? Big Ideas

- How did people in the past depend on natural resources to solve problems?



#### Facts and Definitions

- **Setting** is when and where the story takes place.
- **Theme** is the message or lesson the author wants to communicate with the reader.
- **Characters** are the people in the story.
- **Plot** is the series of major events that occurs in the story.
- **Problem** is the major obstacle or situation the main character is trying to overcome.
- **Resolution** is how the problem in the story is resolved or solved.



#### Skills

- Identify and interpret elements of fiction and nonfiction. (LA)
- Determine the author's purpose, plot, conflict, sequence of events, resolution, and theme of a text. (LA)
- Respond to fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama using interpretive, critical, and evaluative processes by participating in creative interpretations. (LA)



#### Materials

- ✓ *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare
- ✓ journal

### Introduction

Tell your child that today she will finish reading the novel. Ask her if she would recommend the novel to someone else and to explain why or why not.

### Reading and Questions

Have your child finish the book today. Your child can use three or four of these questions in her journal. The rest can be discussion questions.

1. How had Matt prepared for the winter?

- He had filled all the holes in the cabin walls and piled firewood high. He also gathered lots of food to eat and had his harvest of corn and pumpkins carefully stored away.

2. How did Matt make warm clothing for himself?

- He made one of his blanket into warm pants, stuffed his moccasins with moss and feathers, made mittens out of rabbit skins, and even trapped a larger animal to get fur for a hat.

3. Why did Matt dream of his mother?

- He thought about her as he did the chores that she would often do.

4. What gifts did Matt make for his family?

- He made new dishes, a broom, a brush, a cradle for the new baby, and a doll for Sarah.

5. How did the snowshoes help Matt?

- They allowed him to move through the heavy snows to check his snares and fish.

6. Why did it take Matt's family so long to get to him?

- They had all contracted typhus and had to wait to get better.

## Activities

### Activity 1: Character Timelines

Today, your child will record her last entry on the "Character Timelines" page.

### Activity 2: Story Elements

Review the different story elements. Your child will fill in the information about the story on the page, "Story Elements."

- **Setting** — when and where the story takes place.
- **Theme** — the message or lesson the author wants to communicate with the reader.
- **Characters** — the people in the story.
- **Problem** — the major obstacle or situation the main character is trying to overcome.
- **Resolution** — how the problem in the story is resolved or solved.

### Activity 3: Solving Problems

This creative thinking activity will encourage your child to consider alternative solutions to problems.

#### Option 1

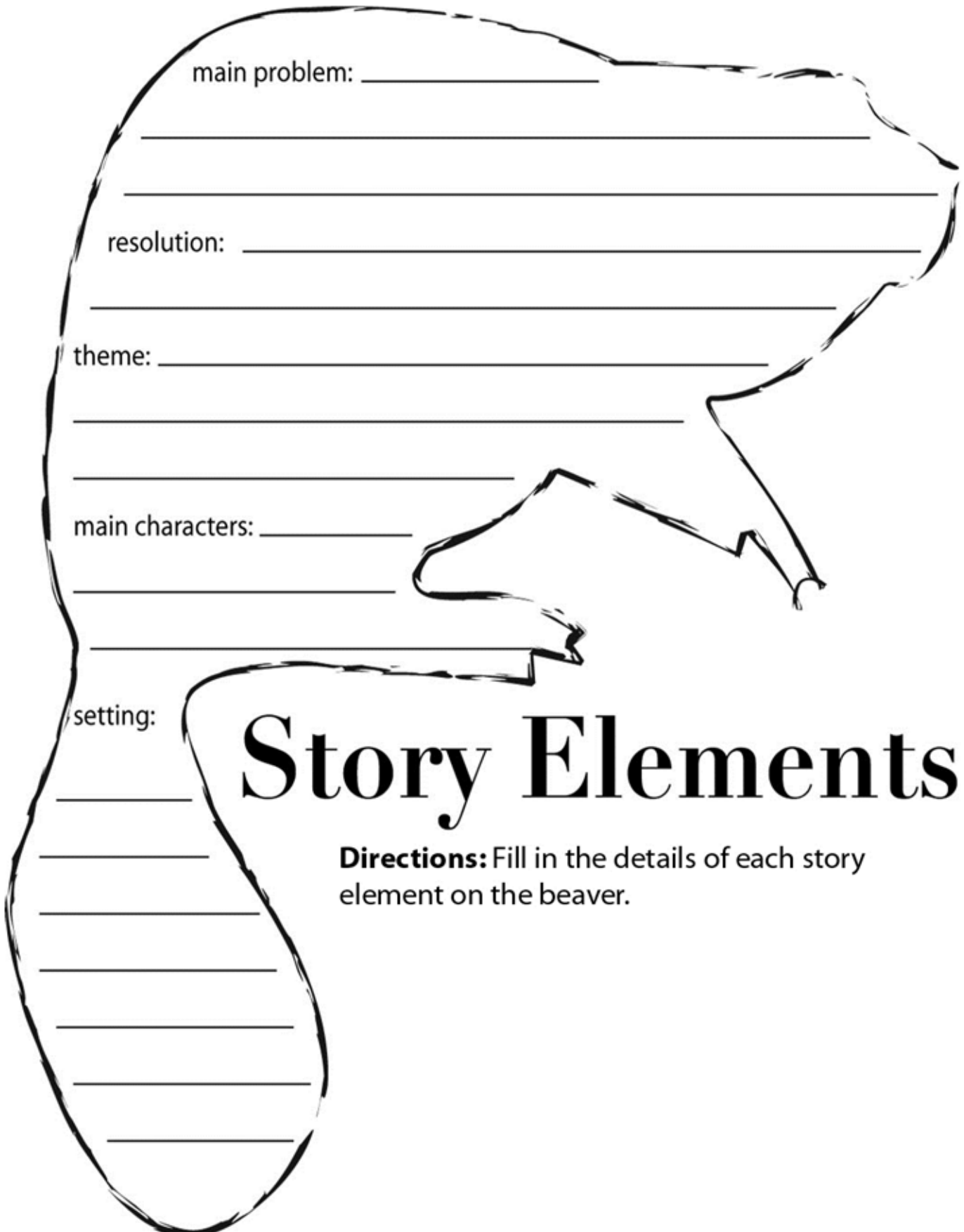
Ask your child to think back to some of the problems Matt faced as he lived alone in the woods. On the page, "Solving Problems" (Option 1), your child will find four problems Matt experienced in the book. She will describe how Matt solved each problem using resources and taking advice from Attean about the environment. In the third column, your child will think of a new solution for how Matt could have solved the problem. Remind your child to think about the natural resources and people Matt could use to solve his problems.

#### Option 2 (Advanced)

Ask your child to think back to some of the problems Matt faced because of his situation in the woods. On the page, "Solving Problems" (Option 2), your child will record four problems Matt experienced in the book. Then she will describe how Matt solved these problems using resources and taking advice from Attean about the environment. In the third column, she will think of a new solution for how Matt could have solved the problem. Remind her to think about the natural resources and people Matt can use to help him solve his problems.

## Wrapping Up

Ask your child to think about what she enjoyed most about the story. Discuss her feelings about the main characters and whether she liked the way the author ended the story. Ask her if she can think of a better way to end the story.



main problem: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

theme: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

main characters: \_\_\_\_\_

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setting:

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# Story Elements

**Directions:** Fill in the details of each story element on the beaver.

# Solving Problems

**Directions:** Describe how Matt used resources to solve each of the problems listed below. Then come up with your own solution for how Matt could have solved the problem.

**Problem:**

**Book's Solution:**

**Your Solution:**

**1. A bear eats the food supplies in Matt's barn.**



**2. Matt does not have a gun to hunt with after Ben steals it.**



**3. Matt finds Attean's dog stuck in a trap.**



**4. Matt is cold when the winter comes.**



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# Solving Problems

**Directions:** Describe four problems Matt experienced in the book. Then describe how he solved these problems using natural resources. Finally, think of a new solution for how Matt could have solved the problem.



**Problem:**

**Book's Solution:**

**Your Solution:**

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