

Lesson One - Worksheet

This lesson coincides with Chapter 1 of the book, 'Finding Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to analyze the reason for the main character's problem using key points from the text.

Chapter One – "Before Mother Left"

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Place an X on the line beside the main idea of the text.

- _____ The author's father physically harmed her mother.
- _____ The author's mother was mentally unfit to care for her family.
- _____ The author empathized with her father because he cared for her.

The four statements below "support" the main idea. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- (a) Mother would often experience _____, which resulted in the harming of the author and her siblings.
- (b) Jerome told the author that their _____ is not to be blamed for their mother's condition.
- (c) Father experienced a lot of _____ and _____ due to his wife having a mental illness.
- (d) Father did not receive the _____ he desired from his wife.

Sequencing

Rearrange the following lines from Chapter 1 by numbering them correctly.

- () The author blamed her father for her mother's emotional state.
- () The author has some very heartbreaking memories of her mother.
- () Father was disappointed due to his wife having a mental illness.
- () Mother left when the author was only two years old.
- () Father had called the authorities to take mother to a mental hospital.
- () The author remembers her mother beating her with a broomstick once.

Literary Techniques: Flashback

Using flashbacks as a story device, the author takes readers back in time to explain something that happened. Answer the following questions in a word or more.

- (a) Which year or decade is the author recalling events from? _____
- (b) How old was the author during that time? _____

Identifying Cause and Effect

"I heard stories about my mother's mental illness causing her to experience episodes, which resulted in her harming my siblings and me."

What is the Cause? _____

What is the Effect? _____

Point of View

'Point of view' means the position from which something or someone is observed.

'First Person' is when the story is told from the point of view of a character. *E.g. I, we, me, us*

'Second Person' is when the narrator talks to the reader. *E.g. you, yours*

'Third Person' is when the narrator is not a part of the story. *E.g. he, she, it*

(a) Who is telling the story in Chapter 1? _____

(b) Circle the narrator's point of view in Chapter 1: First Second Third

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 1 is "empathetic".

Empathetic means showing the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

Read the statement below. Then choose one of the questions below and answer it. Write your answer in the space provided then discuss it with your group.

The author has expressed sorrow for her mother's predicament in the story. She even says that her mother did not deserve any abuse from her father.

1. Would you feel empathy if someone you loved was treated badly? Explain why or why not.
2. Describe a situation where you felt empathetic towards someone or something.
3. Do you think it is important to show empathy to those who are going through something difficult? Explain and include an example if possible.

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