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Sequence of Events:

The Prince and the Pauper

In Mark Twain's tale of switched identities, the pauper lives a royal life in the palace and the prince wanders the cruel, poverty-stricken streets of sixteenth-century London. Use context clues to put these events in chronological order. Number them from 1 to 13.

- _____ The prince and Tom both wonder what it would be like to live like the other. At the prince's suggestion, they switch clothes. When they look in the mirror, they see how much they resemble one another.
- _____ Edward is crowned King Edward XVI.
- _____ Edward tries to explain to the jeering crowd who he is, but no one believes him. He wanders deeper and deeper into the squalid alley and eventually meets John Canty, who thinks he is his son. Canty beats him for coming home empty-handed.
- _____ The setting is sixteenth-century London. Tom Canty, a poor boy, dreams of seeing a prince in royal attire and puts his face against the palace gate.
- _____ Edward manages to escape from Canty and is befriended by Miles Hendon. Although Hendon does not believe his claims, he decides to humor him and to be his protector.
- _____ Meanwhile, back at the palace, Tom Canty is being treated like Prince Edward. He has grown accustomed to the role and has even come to accept the fact that he is about to be crowned king.
- _____ Tom is questioned about the Great Seal, which will be needed for the coronation. Tom cannot tell where it is because he does not know *what* it is.
- _____ A soldier rudely snatches Tom away from the gate. The prince sees and tells the soldier to let the boy in.
- _____ Miles Hendon, who becomes Earl of Kent, and Tom Canty become favorites of King Edward VI during his brief but merciful reign.
- _____ The king dies. Although no one believes him—including Miles Hendon—Edward is now king.
- _____ Now in Tom's clothes, Prince Edward is mistaken for the pauper and forced off the palace grounds and onto the roadway; there he is met by a jeering crowd.
- _____ It is Coronation Day. Although the seal has not been found, the archbishop is about to place the crown on Tom's head. Edward calls out, "I forbid you to set the crown upon that forfeited head. *I am the king!*"
- _____ With Tom's help, Edward finds the seal, proving he really is Edward and not an imposter.

Sequence of Events: Where in the Plot Is It?

Re-read the events of *The Prince in the Pauper* in the order in which you numbered them. Then answer the following questions. You may refer to the event number rather than write them out.

1. Which events belong to the section known as the exposition?

2. Which events could be labeled rising action?

3. Which event represents the moment at which the conflict is most intense?

4. How would you label the event described in the previous question?

5. Which events are part of the falling action?

6. What would be the proper label for Event #13?

Character

Character is a very important literary element. A **character** is an imaginary person (or animal or fantasy being) created by the author. There are two types of main characters: protagonists and antagonists. The main character is called the **protagonist**. The character or force that opposes the protagonist is called the **antagonist**. Some works also have a character foil, a character with traits that are opposite to those of the protagonist. Usually, the foil is a minor character.

We also describe characters as either static or dynamic and flat or round. A **static character** stays pretty much the same throughout the work. A **dynamic character** changes in an important way. **Flat characters** are not fully developed; we see only one aspect of them. **Stereotypes**, characters with traits associated with a particular class, are flat characters. So are **stock characters**, or characters meant to represent an entire class of people. **Well-rounded** characters, on the other hand, are well developed; we see many traits—both good and bad. If a character is well developed, we almost feel as if we really know the person. Dynamic, round characters are usually the most interesting.

EXAMPLES FROM LITERATURE:

DYNAMIC CHARACTER

A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens

One of the best examples of a dynamic character is Ebenezer Scrooge, the protagonist of *A Christmas Carol*. At the start of the novel, Scrooge is an emotionless, heartless miser who thinks only of his own well being and who keeps to himself. Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. With each visit, we see changes in Scrooge. By the end of the novel, he is a generous, caring, and loving man.



STATIC CHARACTER

Cinderella

Although dynamic characters are more interesting, characters in stories for young children are often static. By showing only one type of trait, it makes it easier for the youngsters to understand. In the story of *Cinderella*, for example, Cinderella is shown to be kind and generous. Her stepmother and stepsisters are shown to be cruel and selfish.

Character Traits

When describing a character, we use the term “character trait.” **Character traits** are descriptive adjectives that tell us about a character's qualities. They are the same traits that could be used to describe a real person as well.

Brainstorm a list of character traits. See how many you can write. Think about characters in the books you have read. The list has been started for you.

1. *kind*
2. *cruel*

Follow-up Activities

1. Look at the list of traits on the following page. Do you have any that are not on the list? If so, insert them in the appropriate place.
2. Use the list of character traits to create analogies. EXAMPLE: good : bad :: kind : cruel
3. Categorize the traits as Positive, Negative, and Neutral. Not everyone will agree!
4. Use the traits to write an acrostic poem about someone.