

Plot Relationships Chart

What is a Plot Relationships Chart and why is it important?

A Plot Relationships Chart (Macon et al., 1991) helps students focus on the problems and the solutions in a story. The chart helps students understand the relationships among characters, their goals, the problems they had, the reasons that events occurred, and the solution or resolution of these goals or problems.

How can I use a Plot Relationships Chart with my students?

Help students pull out the key parts of the story plot and record them on the graphic organizer. In the first column, have students write the name of the character being discussed. In the second column, ask students to explain what the character wanted. In the third column, have students list the obstacles that stood in the character's way. And in the fourth column, have students write the conclusion of the story. You may follow this procedure for one or more characters in the story.

Once the Plot Relationships Chart has been completed, students can write summaries based on the information in the chart. Following is an example of a Plot Relationships Chart and summary for *Stone Fox*.

Somebody	Wanted	But	So
Little Willy	to win the dogsled race and earn the first prize of \$500 so he could pay the back taxes on Grandpa's farm.	Stone Fox, a Shoshone Indian, entered the race with his dog team of Samoyeds so he could win the \$500 prize and buy back the lands his tribe had lost.	Little Willy and Stone Fox raced, and close to the finish line, when they were neck-and-neck, Willy's dog, Searchlight, dropped dead from exhaustion. Stone Fox let Willy carry Searchlight across the finish line and win the \$500 prize.
<p>Summary: Little Willy wanted to win the dogsled race and earn the first prize of \$500 so he could pay the back taxes on Grandpa's farm. But Stone Fox, a Shoshone Indian, entered the race with his dog team of Samoyeds so he could win the \$500 prize and buy back the lands his tribe had lost. So Little Willy and Stone Fox raced, and close to the finish line, when they were neck-and-neck, Willy's dog, Searchlight, dropped dead from exhaustion. Stone Fox let Willie carry Searchlight across the finish line and win the \$500 prize.</p>			



Name: _____ Date: _____

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Somebody	Wanted	But	So



Name: _____ Date: _____

Plot Relationships Chart with Summary

Somebody	Wanted	But	So

Summary:

Summary area for student response.

