

# Lesson 7

## Recounting Stories



### Learning Target




Retell or recount stories from around the world by telling key events in the order in which they happened.

- ▶ **Read** When you **recount** a story, you are retelling the story in your own words. Be sure that you include the key details and **events** that happened in the beginning, middle, and end. Tell the events in the **sequence**, or order, in which they happened.

**Read this story. Think about what happens at the beginning, middle, and end. Then reread the story. What are the most important details?**

### A Bundle of Sticks

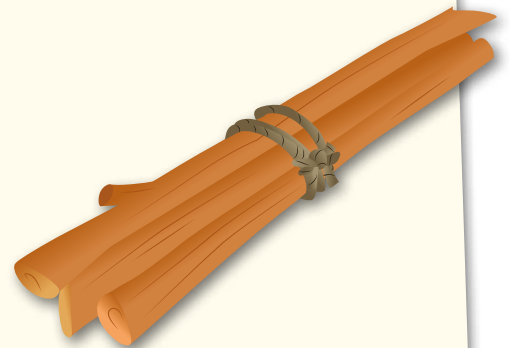


Long ago, a mother had three children who were always arguing. “Your arguing sounds worse than the clucking of all the hens in the world,” their mother told them. She wanted them to stop!

One day she got an idea. She gathered the children around her. Then she took a stick and broke it. “See how easy it is to break one stick?” she asked. Then she tied three sticks together. She asked each child to try to break the sticks. None of the children could break the bundle.

The mother told the children, “We’re just like the sticks. When we don’t stay together, our family is weak. When we stay together, nothing can break us apart.”

The children understood! From that day forward, they didn’t argue (as much).



► **Think** The chart below will help you to organize the most important details of a story. Think about what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Then add those details to the chart.

Beginning	Middle	End

► **Talk** Using the key details in your chart, retell the story to your partner.



### Academic Talk

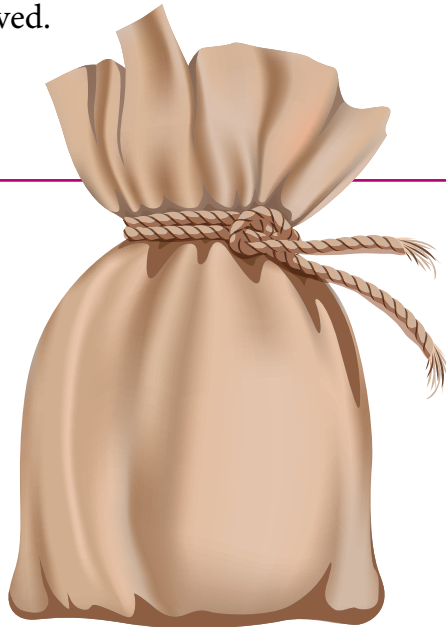
Use these words to talk about the text.

- **recount**
- **sequence**
- **character**
- **setting**
- **events**

# Brother and Sister

a folktale from Korea

- 1 Long ago, a brother and sister grew rice to sell. Through the long summer, they worked together to care for the rice paddies. In the fall, they harvested all the rice and put the rice into bags. Each got the same number of bags.
- 2 After one harvest, the brother announced he was soon to be married. The sister knew her brother would need money to buy a new house for his bride. She didn't feel the rice was divided fairly, so that night, she took an extra bag of rice to her brother's house in secret.
- 3 The brother, too, felt the rice was not divided fairly. His sister had a large family. She would need more rice. So that night, the brother took an extra bag to his sister's house in secret.
- 4 The next day, the brother and sister counted their rice bags. Strange! Both had the same number as before. So that night, when the moon was full, they made another attempt. In the moonlight, the brother and sister each saw the other carrying a bag of rice! They laughed. The mystery was solved.



## Close Reader Habits

**Underline** the sentences that tell the key events.



**Explore**

**How do you choose which details to include when you recount a story?**

To decide whether a detail is important, think about whether the story makes sense without it.

**Think**

- 1 Recount the folktale "Brother and Sister" by adding key details to the chart below.

<b>Beginning</b>	<i>A brother and sister grow and sell rice. They each get the same number of bags of rice.</i>
<b>Middle</b>	<i>Sister</i>  <i>Brother</i>
<b>End</b>	

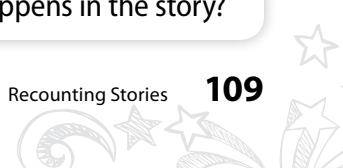
**Talk**

- 2 Using the details from your chart, take turns retelling the story with your partner.

**Write**

- 3 **Short Response** Which details from the chart do you think are most important? List them and tell why you chose them. Use the space provided on page 112 to write your answer.

**HINT** What details would you need to help a friend understand what happens in the story?



# HOW THE BAT GOT WINGS

## A CHEROKEE NATION TALE

- 1 A long time ago, the bat was a tiny mammal. It had no wings. One day, the mammals and birds decided to play a game. The birds played on one team, and the mammals played on the other team.
- 2 The bat wanted to play with the mammals, but the mammals laughed at her size. "You are too small," they said.
- 3 So the bat asked to play with the birds. The birds said, "You don't have wings, but we can make you some out of a drum." The birds stretched the skin of a drum into wings.
- 4 The birds put the wings on the bat and said, "Flap your wings." The bat jumped off a tree and flapped her wings, but she didn't fly in a straight line like the birds. Instead, she flew every which way in a crazy, zigzag pattern.
- 5 The birds let the bat play on their team. Just as she had done before, the bat flew in a crazy, zigzag pattern. The mammals on the other team could not catch the bat. The bat scored the winning points for the birds.
- 6 When the game was over, the mammals said, "Who is that superstar on your team?"
- 7 The birds said, "It is the bat. We gave her wings."
- 8 The mammals did not know what to say. After all, they had refused to let the tiny bat play on their team. The mammals had learned their lesson. From that day on, they let any animal of any size play on their team.



### Close Reader Habits

Which details would you include to recount the story? **Underline** the most important ones.



When you get ready to recount a story, choose the most important details.

**Think**

**1** Number the items to show the order of some events in the story.

\_\_\_ The bat flies in a crazy, zigzag pattern.

\_\_\_ The birds make wings for the bat.

\_\_\_ The mammals do not let the bat play on their team.

**2** Why do the birds win the game?

- A** The mammals cannot follow the bat’s movements.
- B** The mammals are surprised to see the bat on the team.
- C** The mammals refuse to play against a bat.
- D** The birds fly in a crazy, zigzag pattern.

**Talk**

**3** Using key details from the text, talk to your partner about how the bat’s way of flying helps the birds win.

**Write**

**4 Short Response** In your own words, recount what happens when the bat plays the game with the birds. Be sure to include the most important details from the story. Use the space provided on page 113 to write your answer.

**HINT** Review the game in paragraphs 5 to 8.

