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## Literary Element: Plot

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### K-2

Joose, Barbara. *Roawr!* New York: Philomel, 2009. In the midst of imaginative play, young Liam must go to bed. Then Mama goes to sleep, while Liam remains wakeful, intent on protecting Mama from the lurking “forest things.” A huge, hungry bear threatens, and Liam uses his ingenuity to create a series of interventions to thwart and placate the bear. Finally, the boy can sleep. (Beginning-middle-end; sequence of events)

Perlman, Janet. *The Delicious Bug*. Toronto: Kids Can, 2009. Two chameleons are locked in conflict when they simultaneously flick their tongues to catch the same bug. Their tongues and egos refuse to budge, as they lisp humorously. When two hungry crocodiles enter the scene, the chameleons learn to cooperate. (conflict, resolution, sequence of events)

### 3-4

Gaiman, Neil. *Odd and the Frost Giants*. New York: Harper, 2009. Odd is a strange but clever young boy, who, after his father’s death, meets with an accident that shatters his leg. Crippled and harassed by the villagers, whom the never-ending winter is beginning to unhinge, Odd runs away to his father’s hunting cabin. It is there that Odd meets an eagle, a bear, and a fox who are in fact gods Odin, Thor, and Loki, imprisoned in animal shapes. These shapes will become permanent if Odd doesn’t help them win Asgard, the city of the gods, back from the Frost Giant. (adventure, conflict, simple & clever solution)

Thompson, Kate. *Highway Robbery*. Greenwillow Books, 2008, first published in U.S. 2009. “Hold the mare for me, lad. And when I come back, I’ll give you a golden guinea.” A dark stranger leaves his magnificent horse in the care of a young beggar boy he’s never met. As night falls, other grifters offer to pay the boy good money for the animal. Soldiers eventually arrive demanding to know where the horse’s owner has gone, suspecting the horse is the legendary Black Bess, belonging to the notorious Dick Turpin, known for his daring holdups and amazing exploits. It is up to the boy to decide what to do with the horse. Will he keep it or not? (suspense-driven plot, sequence of events, unreliable narrator)

### 5-6

Weissman, Elissa Brent. *The Trouble with Mark Hopper*. New York: Dutton Children’s Books, 2009. Two boys with identical names start middle school. One Mark Hopper is a smug know-it-all; the other is shy and uncertain. While mistaken identity issues threaten each other’s reputations, a teacher requires them to be study partners. Although the two learn to become friendly, “mean Mark” steals “nice Mark’s” artwork to win a prestigious competition. (conflict, plot climax, resolution)

Preller, James. *Bystander*. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2009. Eric is the new kid in seventh grade and Griffin wants to be his friend. Seeing that Griffin is the cool and confident popular kid Eric decides to join his group. He soon finds out that Griffin is not the great kid he thought, but always seems to be in the middle of bad things. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin’s dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin: he’s a liar, a bully, a thief. Eric wants to break away and do the right thing, but with one wrong move, he goes from being a bystander to the bully’s next victim. (conflict, suspense-driven plot)

### Notable & useful:

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Spot the Plot : a Riddle Book of Book Riddles*. San Francisco : Chronicle Books, 2009. Rhymed riddles hint at plots from fairy tales, picture books, and classic fiction.