
Literary Element: Plot

K-2

Birdsall, Jeanne. *Flora's Very Windy Day*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2010. Flora's protests over her annoying little brother result in being sent outside with him. The wind sweeps them into the sky, where sky creatures offer to take her brother off her hands. Instead, Flora defends and keeps her sibling. (problem-solution, episodic story order).

Monroe, Chris. *Sneaky Sheep*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda, 2010. Rocky and Blossom are two sheep notorious for past bad decisions. Their repeated attempts to escape to the high meadow are foiled by Murphy, the watchful sheepdog. In a climactic episode, they come face-to-face with the wolf. (problem-solution, episodic story order, setting).

3-4

Cox, Judy. *Nora and the Texas Terror*. New York: Holiday House, 2010. Nora's cousin's family moves from Texas to live in Nora's Oregon home, due to the aunt & uncle's loss of jobs and house. Nora finds cousin Ellie to be mean and sloppy, and she brings a pet tarantula into Nora's bedroom. Conflicts at home and at school escalate until a crisis causes the girls to work together. (problem-climax-resolution).

Yee, Lisa. *Bobby the Brave (Sometimes)*. New York: Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2010. Everyone in Bobby's family is good at something except for Bobby. He overhears his father, a former pro linebacker, say that Bobby is "not like him," and ponders his inadequacies. His mishaps, worries, and asthma provide challenges for Bobby, with opportunities for empathy and humor. (multiple problems and solutions).

5-6

Coman, Carolyn. *The Memory Bank*. New York: Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2010. Two parallel plots evolve as Hope and her little sister Honey are separated by their cruel parents. Both girls are on their own, and while Hope is taken to the Memory Bank, Honey's plot is told exclusively through illustrations, as she is taken by the Clean Slate Gang. The Memory Bank is a large, bureaucratic edifice that stores the memories of all people. Hope desperately strives to locate her missing sister, while observing the workings of the Bank and the strange appearance of lollipops. (parallel plots, plot told visually)

Weeks, Sarah. *As Simple as It Seems*. New York : Laura Geringer/HarperCollins, 2010. Verbena discovers that, not only was she adopted, but her father was a criminal and her mother gave her fetal alcohol syndrome. While struggling with moodiness, she fills with self-loathing, believing she is doomed to be a bad person. She meets a vulnerable new neighbor boy, and convinces him she is the ghost of the girl who died while living in his rental house. A climactic encounter with anaphylactic shock brings issues into resolution. (Plot theme of self-against-self; problem-climax-resolution)