

### Examining a Short Story Chart 1

Story Elements	Information in the Text.	Questioning Beyond the Text.
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry “Nerdy” Nguyen</li> <li>• Mom</li> <li>• Dad</li> <li>• Craig Nale</li> <li>• Mr. Stello</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is Henry’s mother sick? What is wrong with her?</li> <li>• When did Henry learn how to draw?</li> <li>• Does his comic book have anything to do with his personal life?</li> <li>• What makes Mr. Stello strange?</li> <li>• Does Henry take art with Mr. Stello or just hang out there on his own time?</li> <li>• Is Henry’s dad raising Henry by himself?</li> <li>• Is that why he makes fish ball soup every day?</li> <li>• Why does Craig pick on Henry?</li> <li>• When did Craig start reading comic books?</li> </ul>
Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern California</li> <li>• Alhambra Middle School</li> <li>• Cafeteria</li> <li>• Art Room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did Henry move to Alhambra from Vietnam or somewhere else?</li> <li>• What does the art room look like?</li> <li>• Is Henry the only Vietnamese kid in school?</li> <li>• Is the school in a urban or suburban place?</li> </ul>
Plot Problem and Solution	<p>The problem is that Henry is teased for being quiet and nerdy by the other students at Alhambra, especially Craig Nale.</p> <p>The solution is that Craig and Henry bond over their love of comic books, and Craig calls Henry by his real name, rather than the nickname that he usually teases him with.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did the kids say in the hallway that they thought Henry couldn’t understand?</li> <li>• Why was Henry the target of so much teasing?</li> <li>• Why didn’t Craig apologize in the end?</li> <li>• Why did Henry feel satisfied with the resolution?</li> </ul>

### Examining a Short Story Chart 2

Story Elements	Information in the Text	Backstory Questions
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vanessa</li> <li>• Vanessa’s mother</li> <li>• Mr. Laugherty</li> <li>• Thief</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why was the family so poor?</li> <li>• Where was Vanessa’s other parent?</li> <li>• Why did Mr. Laugherty need Vanessa to read to him?</li> <li>• Who was the thief?</li> <li>• Why did the thief steal the pennies?</li> </ul>
Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queens, NY</li> <li>• The World’s Fair</li> <li>• 1938-1939</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was Queens like in the 1930s?</li> <li>• Did Vanessa live in a townhouse or an apartment?</li> <li>• What was happening in the 1930s that seemed so hopeless?</li> <li>• Were there rides at the World’s Fair?</li> <li>• What could visitors do there? How big was the fair?</li> <li>• When did the fair start?</li> <li>• Where else was it held?</li> </ul>
Plot Problem and Solution	<p>The problem is that Vanessa wants to take her mother to the World’s Fair, to give her a sense of hope for the future, but she has no money.</p> <p>The solution is that Vanessa’s mom had hope for the future all along, and had also been secretly saving up to take Vanessa to the World’s Fair.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much did it cost to attend the World’s Fair?</li> <li>• How much did Vanessa make working odd jobs?</li> <li>• Did she enjoy the work she was doing to save up for the fair?</li> <li>• How did Vanessa’s mom find the same newspaper headline?</li> <li>• Why did she think Vanessa needed hope in the future?</li> <li>• How did she make all the money that she saved?</li> </ul>