

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

The Contextual Bible Reading Study Guide has two sections. The first section provides general information to help students better understand the genre of the book(s) for LTCNW (Section IA). This section is additive. This means that the 7th-12th graders will need to be familiar with both the 3rd-6th grade material and their own. The Contextual Bible Reading Quiz will use the terms in this section. The Quiz Questions will not ask students to define these terms. Instead, the students will need to apply these concepts to the passage in question (See Section II for examples). It may help to create flashcards to remember the meaning of each term. This first section also includes a study guide and strategy (Section IB) to help students move carefully through the text and prepare for this year's Contextual Bible Reading Quiz.

The second section will include example questions from this year's book(s) for students to practice and apply the knowledge they gained in the first section. Unlike the Bible Bowl study guide, these passages and questions will not be used at the Convention Event.

SECTION 1A: GENRE STUDY GUIDE

This year's book: Joshua, Judges, and Ruth

This year's genre: Ancient Hebrew Narrative

Narrative is a fancy word for a story. Almost half of the Bible is narrative (~43%). This means that God's spirit, which filled the human authors, knew that stories were among the best ways to help us understand God and our role in the cosmos. Some stories are about the author's own experiences, while others recount other experiences. We can't confuse the actual historical event with the story about the event. The story is always a "re"-presentation of what happened, where the author tries to teach, show, and help us understand ideas much more critical than "did the event described happen exactly as described in space-time?"

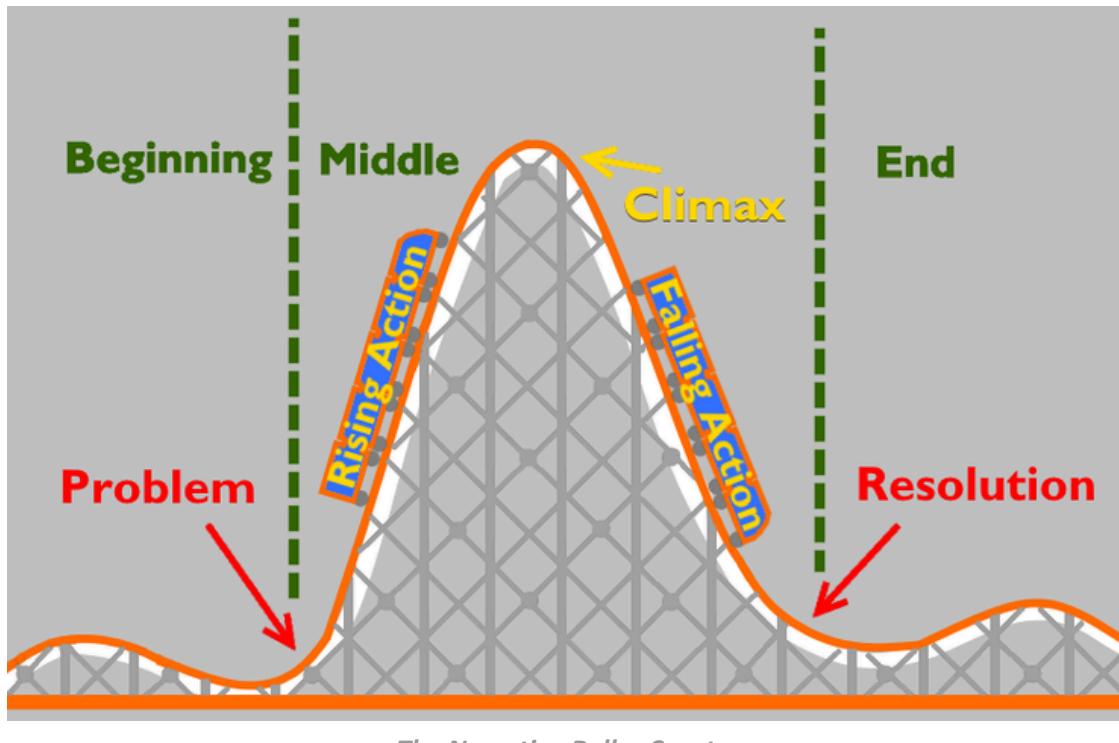
What is the shape of a story? Narratives are like a rollercoaster. All stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. Imagine hearing a story without one of these key pieces; the story wouldn't make much sense! Narrative characters will encounter problems (usually one big problem) and then have a series of experiences until the problem is resolved or addressed. Unlike actual roller coasters, characters will end in a different place than where they started. Either they or the world will have changed in some way. These structures are present at all levels of a story; this means that authors structure their narratives to "stack" up, forming larger narratives that span an entire book, a section of books, or even the entire Bible. Detecting the edges of the smaller "stories" that make up a larger story will be a useful skill for understanding the big picture.

NARRATIVE REFERENCES:

- **3-6th Grade Terms and Definitions**
 - **Characters:** The characters are those people, spiritual beings, and animals that are a part of the narrative arc.
 - **Main Character:** The main character (or protagonist) of a story is the primary character (or sometimes a group of characters) that faces the main problem. Their lives are changed as a result of the problem, and the story revolves around their experience. Readers are meant to consider the story from this perspective first.
 - **Adversary:** The primary character that opposes the main character (sometimes called the antagonist). Some stories have antagonists, and sometimes problems are created by

non-characters (like the setting or circumstances). A careful audience will also consider the story from this person or group's perspective.

- **Supporting Characters:** Those characters who help, hinder, or interact with the main character in various ways. These characters' perspectives should also be taken into consideration.
- **Main problem:** The central dilemma that the protagonist is trying to overcome. Sometimes the main problem is resolved, and the protagonist no longer has to worry about the dilemma. Sometimes the dilemma gets worse or changes in nature. Regardless, the main problem will always be central to the plot of the story and will be addressed in some way before the story concludes.
- **Resolution:** When the main problem is addressed in a significant manner, this is referred to as a resolution. The resolution brings the story to a close. Sometimes, some details follow, which wrap up the loose ends of the narrative, but the resolution brings the narrative to a conclusion.
- **Additional Concepts for 3rd-6th Grade**
 - **Author's meaning:** Authors write their stories to shape and change an audience. They do this by giving us an account of events in such a way to teach us about God, humans, and how we ought to live. The ultimate author is God through his spirit, so we seek to understand God's meaning when we seek the author's meaning.
 - **Hebrew texts:** The Old Testament is primarily written in Hebrew. Hebrew texts are typically concise in their details. Unlike our own writing, ancient authors provide bare-bones accounts, mentioning details only when they are critical to the meaning of their stories. This means that when they mention a detail, it will be very important. These authors also love to write in puzzles and riddles (Prov 1:6), which means that if you read something strange, the author wants you to pay close attention and study more.



- **7th-12th Grade Terms and Definitions**

- **Introduction:** The introduction of a story includes the setting, characters, and context for the reader. The introduction typically provides these details before the main character encounters the main problem.
- **Setting:** The setting refers to the location and place where the events in the narrative unfold. In the Bible, places are often important for the events that took place there before. For example, Bethel appears many times as a place of worship throughout Israel's history. The names of places often have meanings significant to the narrative (Bethel means "house of God").
- **Rising Action:** After the main problem of a story occurs, things usually get worse and worse for the main character. This part of the story is called the rising action.
- **Climax:** Just when the main problem seems overwhelming, something happens in the story that moves it toward resolution. This part of the story is also known as "the turn" because of how it turns events away from disaster and toward resolution. The climax is also a great way for the author to embed meaning and explain how they think a problem is or ought to be solved.
- **Falling Action:** The problem is not yet solved, but the main character is now working toward the solution, which may seem inevitable.
- **Conclusion:** After the resolution, the author often wraps up the story by giving out details that the reader might be curious about, or preparing the reader for subsequent stories.

- **Additional Terms for 7th-12th Grade**

- **Narrative Patterns:** To connect stories in interesting ways, the author of the narratives often patterns the way they tell the story to evoke another story in the reader's mind. For instance, when Sarai gives her servant Hagar to Abram (Genesis 16), the same language and phrases are used as when Eve gives the fruit of the tree to her husband Adam (Genesis 3). The authors intend for us to consider the similarities and differences between two (or more) stories when they use these kinds of patterns.
- **Ancient Meditation Literature:** The Bible isn't meant to be read once, figured out, and then discarded or put on a shelf. The spirit-filled authors devoted their lives to crafting a beautiful, rich, and profound collection of texts intended to be read over a lifetime. We should heed the advice of the Psalmist in Psalm 1 and meditate on these scriptures day and night to receive God's blessing (Psalm 1:1-2).
- **Ancient Context:** The Bible was written for us, but it was not written to us. We have to remember that the authors of the Bible were real people in a real context. Their context is far removed from our own, but we honor them by attempting to understand it within its own context as best we can. When we approach narratives, we set our own questions, issues, and preconceptions aside and let the author teach us. Once we have done that for a good while, we can return to some of our own questions and concerns (if they are still relevant).

SECTION 1B: GETTING STARTED

Some students may be new to critical reading. If they have not approached biblical texts in a way that allows them to notice and learn from the narrative details before, these steps can help them develop confidence in this skill. It would be helpful to have a printed copy of the ESV text. Crossway offers ESV scripture journals for individual books or for printing from the free version of the Bible Gateway website.

Step 1: Read with your eyes. Read through the narrative; you can do this either as a group or individually.

Write: What do you think the narrative is about?

Step 2: Read with a pencil. Read the narrative again; do this individually. Circle two or three words (or phrases) that you don't understand. Discuss your current understanding of the word or phrase before looking it up or asking someone more knowledgeable.

Define: Select one of the circled words and write down what you think it means.

Build on it: Write down one additional thing you know about your word (or phrase).

Step 3: Read with color. Read the narrative closely. Select two of these reading strategies to add to your understanding. Use a different color for each strategy. Create a key to keep track of your colors.

- Highlight phrases that support the main idea (what you wrote in step 1)
- Label parts of the narrative (use the rollercoaster diagram)
- Draw a picture illustrating the story:

- Look for and mark patterns in the text
- Underline connections to other stories that you know from this book or the whole bible
- Write down a question you still have about the text and discuss it with a fellow Bible student:

SECTION 2: EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

Example passage and questions for 3rd-6th Grade (Teacher's Guide):

Read this passage (Joshua 10:5-16 ESV) and answer the questions:

Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.” So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. And the **Lord** said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. And the **Lord** threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the **Lord** threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

At that time Joshua spoke to the **Lord** in the day when the **Lord** gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“Sun, stand still at Gibeon,
and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”

And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. There has been no day like it before or since, when the **Lord** heeded the voice of a man, for the **Lord** fought for Israel.

So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah.

1. Who is the main character (or protagonist)?
 - A. Amorites
 - B. Gilgal
 - C. Israel**
 - D. Gibeon

2. What is the main problem of the story?
 - A. The Lord threw down hailstones.
 - B. Five kings join together to attack Gibeon.**
 - C. The Amorites attack Israel.
 - D. Five kings hide in a cave.

3. What is the resolution for the story?
 - A. The moon stops.
 - B. The Lord throws the Amorites into a panic.
 - C. Joshua and Israel return to their camp.
 - D. The Amorites flee from Israel.**
4. Who is the adversary in this narrative?
 - A. Makkedah
 - B. Joshua
 - C. The five kings**
 - D. Gibeon
5. Why did Joshua bring the Israelite army against the Amorites?
 - A. The Amorites were attacking the Gibeonites.**
 - B. They challenged Israel to a battle.
 - C. The Amorites were Israel's servants.
 - D. The sun was not moving.
6. Cite two details that show that God was with the Israelites. Explain how these details support this idea?
(Short Answer)

God tells Joshua not to be afraid because he has given the Amorites into his hands. This means that God will cause the Israelites to win the battle.

Joshua commands the sun to stand still and God makes the sun stand still. The Israelites are given extra time to defeat their attacker because of this wonder that God did.

God made it rain down hailstones. Though the Israelites were fighting in battle, more people were killed by the hailstones than by the sword. This shows that the mighty hand of God won the battle for the Israelites.

Example Passage and Questions (7th-12th Grade)

Read this passage (Joshua 10:1-21 ESV) and answer the questions:

As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors. So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, “Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel.”

Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.” So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. And the **Lord** said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. And the **Lord** threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the **Lord** threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

At that time Joshua spoke to the **Lord** in the day when the **Lord** gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

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Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. There has been no day like it before or since, when the **Lord** heeded the voice of a man, for the **Lord** fought for Israel.

So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah. And it was told to Joshua, “The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah.” And Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them, but do not stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard. Do not let them enter their cities, for the **Lord** your God has given them into your hand.” When Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished striking them with a great blow until they were wiped out, and when the remnant that remained of them had entered into the fortified cities, then all the people returned safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah. Not a man moved his tongue against any of the people of Israel.

1. Which detail is part of the conclusion?
 - A. Gibeon made peace with Israel.
 - B. The Israelites rolled large stones over the mouth of the cave.**
 - C. The Lord threw down large stones from heaven.
 - D. The sun stood still and the moon stopped.
2. Which event is part of the rising action?
 - A. The Lord threw down hailstones.
 - B. The Amorites flee to their fortified cities.
 - C. The Amorites attack Israel.
 - D. The men of Gibeon ask Joshua for help.**
3. Which event is the climax (or turn) of the story?
 - A. The five kings make war against Gibeon.
 - B. God tells Joshua that He will deliver their enemies into his hands.**
 - C. Joshua asks the sun to stand still.
 - D. The Amorites flee from Israel.
4. Which event is part of the falling action of the story?
 - A. Five Amorite kings hide in a cave.**
 - B. Israel goes to war to protect the Gibeonites.
 - C. The city of Ai is devoted to destruction.
 - D. The king of Jerusalem gathers a large army.
5. How did causing the sun to stand still benefit the Israelites?
 - A. It allowed Joshua and his army to sneak up on the Amorites.
 - B. The Israelites blocked the army with large stones.
 - C. It gave the Amorites time to rest and refresh their army.
 - D. It gave the Israelites more time to attack the enemy.**
6. How do the events mentioned in the introduction influence the five kings of the Amorites to join their armies together? (Short Answer)

The people of Ai and Jericho were wiped out by Joshua and the Israelites as God had commanded. This made the Amorite people greatly afraid. The king of Jerusalem gathered the kings of the Amorites to increase the strength of his army. The Gibeonites had made a treaty with Israel by deceiving them. Because of this treaty, they were not completely destroyed but were made servants and woodcutters for the Israelites. The band of the five kings joined forces to attack the Gibeonites who had made the peace treaty with the Israelites.

Example passage and questions for 3rd-6th Grade (Teacher's Guide):

Read this passage (Ruth 2:3-19 ESV) and answer the questions:

So [Ruth] set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, “The Lord be with you!” And they answered, “The Lord bless you.” Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?” And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.’ So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest.”

Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.” Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?” But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”

And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”

So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.”

1. Who is the main character (or protagonist)?

- A. Naomi
- B. Ruth**
- C. Boaz
- D. The Reapers

2. What is the main problem of the story?

- A. Ruth needs food for her and her mother-in-law.**
- B. Boaz comes from Bethlehem.
- C. Boaz gives Ruth food and water.
- D. Ruth gleans until evening.

3. What is the resolution for the story?

- A. Boaz comes from Bethlehem.
- B. Boaz gives Ruth food and water.
- C. Ruth brings home food for her and Naomi.**
- D. Ruth gleans until evening.

4. Who is not a supporting character?

- A. Ruth**
- B. Naomi
- C. Boaz
- D. The Reapers

5. Who is the adversary of this story?

- A. There is no adversary.**
- B. Naomi
- C. Boaz
- D. The Reapers

6. Name and explain two reasons why the resolution to Ruth and Naomi's problem is surprising.

(Short Answer)

- 1. Ruth is a foreigner, but she is receiving special positive attention.**
- 2. Ruth is poor, but she is getting loaded down with food to take home.**
- 3. Ruth is a stranger, but Boaz feeds her from his table.**
- 4. Boaz takes her in and tells her to only glean in his field.**
- 5. Boaz even secretly tells his people to leave her extra stuff.**

Example Passage and Questions (7th-12th Grade)

Read this passage (Ruth 2:1-23 ESV) and answer the questions:

Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers." And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted." So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

1. What is the setting of this narrative?
 - A. Naomi's home
 - B. The field of Boaz**
 - C. Bethlehem
 - D. The city
2. What is the main problem of the story?
 - A. Ruth and Naomi need food.
 - B. Ruth and Naomi need to find the favor of a relative.**
 - C. Ruth needs to glean in a field.
 - D. Boaz does not know the woman gleaning in his field.
3. Which event is not part of the rising action?
 - A. Ruth goes to a field to try to find favor with a landowner.
 - B. Boaz greets his workers.
 - C. Boaz inquires about Ruth.
 - D. Boaz invites Ruth to eat with them.**
4. Which event is part of the falling action?
 - A. Boaz invites Ruth to eat with them.**
 - B. Boaz greets his workers.
 - C. Ruth gleans with them until the end of the harvest.
 - D. Ruth lives with her mother-in-law.
5. What is the resolution to this story?
 - A. Ruth returns home safe.
 - B. Ruth reveals that Boaz has taken notice of her.**
 - C. Ruth and Naomi have food.
 - D. Ruth continues to glean in Boaz's field.
6. This story is meant to echo parts of the Torah (Law/Instruction) found in Leviticus 19:9-10. Explain why Boaz's actions might be surprising based on reading this law. (Short Answer)

Boaz goes above and beyond the 'requirements' of the law and instead focuses on the heart of the Torah, which is God's concern for the vulnerable. He sees Ruth not as a foreigner taking resources that belong to his family, but rather as a part of that family. He treats her as a relative who has fallen on hard times by giving her gifts, protection, and even secretly arranging for her and her mother-in-law.

Example passages and questions for 3rd-6th Grade (Student's Guide):

Read this passage (Joshua 10:5-16 ESV) and answer the questions:

Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.” So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. And the **Lord** said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. And the **Lord** threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the **Lord** threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

At that time Joshua spoke to the **Lord** in the day when the **Lord** gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“Sun, stand still at Gibeon,
and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”

And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. There has been no day like it before or since, when the **Lord** heeded the voice of a man, for the **Lord** fought for Israel.

So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah.

1. Who is the main character (or protagonist)?

- A. Amorites
- B. Gilgal
- C. Israel
- D. Gibeon

2. What is the main problem of the story?

- A. The Lord threw down hailstones.
- B. Five kings join together to attack Gibeon.
- C. The Amorites attack Israel.
- D. Five kings hide in a cave.

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3. What is the resolution for the story?
 - A. The moon stops.
 - B. The Lord throws the Amorites into a panic.
 - C. Joshua and Israel return to their camp.
 - D. The Amorites flee from Israel.
4. Who is the adversary in this narrative?
 - A. Makkedah
 - B. Joshua
 - C. The five kings
 - D. Gibeon
5. Why did Joshua bring the Israelite army against the Amorites?
 - A. The Amorites were attacking the Gibeonites.
 - B. They challenged Israel to a battle.
 - C. The Amorites were Israel's servants.
 - D. The sun was not moving.
6. Cite two details that show that God was with the Israelites. Explain how these details support this idea?
(Short Answer)

Read this passage (Ruth 2:3-19 ESV) and answer the questions:

So [Ruth] set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, “The Lord be with you!” And they answered, “The Lord bless you.” Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?” And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.’ So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest.”

Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.” Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?” But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”

And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”

So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.”

1. Who is the main character (or protagonist)?
 - A. Naomi
 - B. Ruth
 - C. Boaz
 - D. The Reapers
2. What is the main problem of the story?
 - A. Ruth needs food for her and her mother-in-law.
 - B. Boaz comes from Bethlehem.
 - C. Boaz gives Ruth food and water.
 - D. Ruth gleans until evening.
3. What is the resolution for the story?

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- A. Boaz comes from Bethlehem.
- B. Boaz gives Ruth food and water.
- C. Ruth brings home food for her and Naomi.
- D. Ruth gleans until evening.

4. Who is not a supporting character?

- A. Ruth
- B. Naomi
- C. Boaz
- D. The Reapers

5. Who is the adversary of this story?

- A. There is no adversary.
- B. Naomi
- C. Boaz
- D. The Reapers

6. Name and explain two reasons why the resolution to Ruth and Naomi's problem is surprising.

(Short Answer)

Example Passages and Questions for 7th-12th Grade (Student's Guide):

Read this passage (Joshua 10:1-21 ESV) and answer the questions:

As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors. So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, “Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel.”

Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, “Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.” So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. And the **Lord** said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. And the **Lord** threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the **Lord** threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

At that time Joshua spoke to the **Lord** in the day when the **Lord** gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“Sun, stand still at Gibeon,
and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”

And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. There has been no day like it before or since, when the **Lord** heeded the voice of a man, for the **Lord** fought for Israel.

So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah. And it was told to Joshua, “The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah.” And Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them, but do not stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard. Do not let them enter their cities, for the **Lord** your God has given them into your hand.” When Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished striking them with a great blow until they were wiped out, and when the remnant that remained of them had entered into the fortified cities, then all the people returned safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah. Not a man moved his tongue against any of the people of Israel.

1. Which detail is part of the conclusion?
 - A. Gibeon made peace with Israel.
 - B. The Israelites rolled large stones over the mouth of the cave.
 - C. The Lord threw down large stones from heaven.
 - D. The sun stood still and the moon stopped.
2. Which event is part of the rising action?
 - A. The Lord threw down hailstones.
 - B. The Amorites flee to their fortified cities.
 - C. The Amorites attack Israel.
 - D. The men of Gibeon ask Joshua for help.
3. Which event is the climax (or turn) of the story?
 - A. The five kings make war against Gibeon.
 - B. God tells Joshua that He will deliver their enemies into his hands.
 - C. Joshua asks the sun to stand still.
 - D. The Amorites flee from Israel.
4. Which event is part of the falling action of the story?
 - A. Five Amorite kings hide in a cave.
 - B. Israel goes to war to protect the Gibeonites.
 - C. The city of Ai is devoted to destruction.
 - D. The king of Jerusalem gathers a large army.
5. How did causing the sun to stand still benefit the Israelites?
 - A. It allowed Joshua and his army to sneak up on the Amorites.
 - B. The Israelites blocked the army with large stones.
 - C. It gave the Amorites time to rest and refresh their army.
 - D. It gave the Israelites more time to attack the enemy.
6. How do the events mentioned in the introduction influence the five kings of the Amorites to join their armies together? (Short Answer)

Read this passage (Ruth 2:1-23 ESV) and answer the questions:

Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers." And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted." So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

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1. What is the setting of this narrative?
 - A. Naomi's home
 - B. The field of Boaz
 - C. Bethlehem
 - D. The city
2. What is the main problem of the story?
 - A. Ruth and Naomi need food.
 - B. Ruth and Naomi need to find the favor of a relative.
 - C. Ruth needs to glean in a field.
 - D. Boaz does not know the woman gleaning in his field.
3. Which event is not part of the rising action?
 - A. Ruth goes to a field to try to find favor with a landowner.
 - B. Boaz greets his workers.
 - C. Boaz inquires about Ruth.
 - D. Boaz invites Ruth to eat with them.
4. Which event is part of the falling action?
 - A. Boaz invites Ruth to eat with them.
 - B. Boaz greets his workers.
 - C. Ruth gleans with them until the end of the harvest.
 - D. Ruth lives with her mother-in-law.
5. What is the resolution to this story?
 - A. Ruth returns home safe.
 - B. Ruth reveals that Boaz has taken notice of her.
 - C. Ruth and Naomi have food.
 - D. Ruth continues to glean in Boaz's field.
6. This story is meant to echo parts of the Torah (Law/Instruction) found in Leviticus 19:9-10. Explain why Boaz's actions might be surprising based on reading this law. (Short Answer)