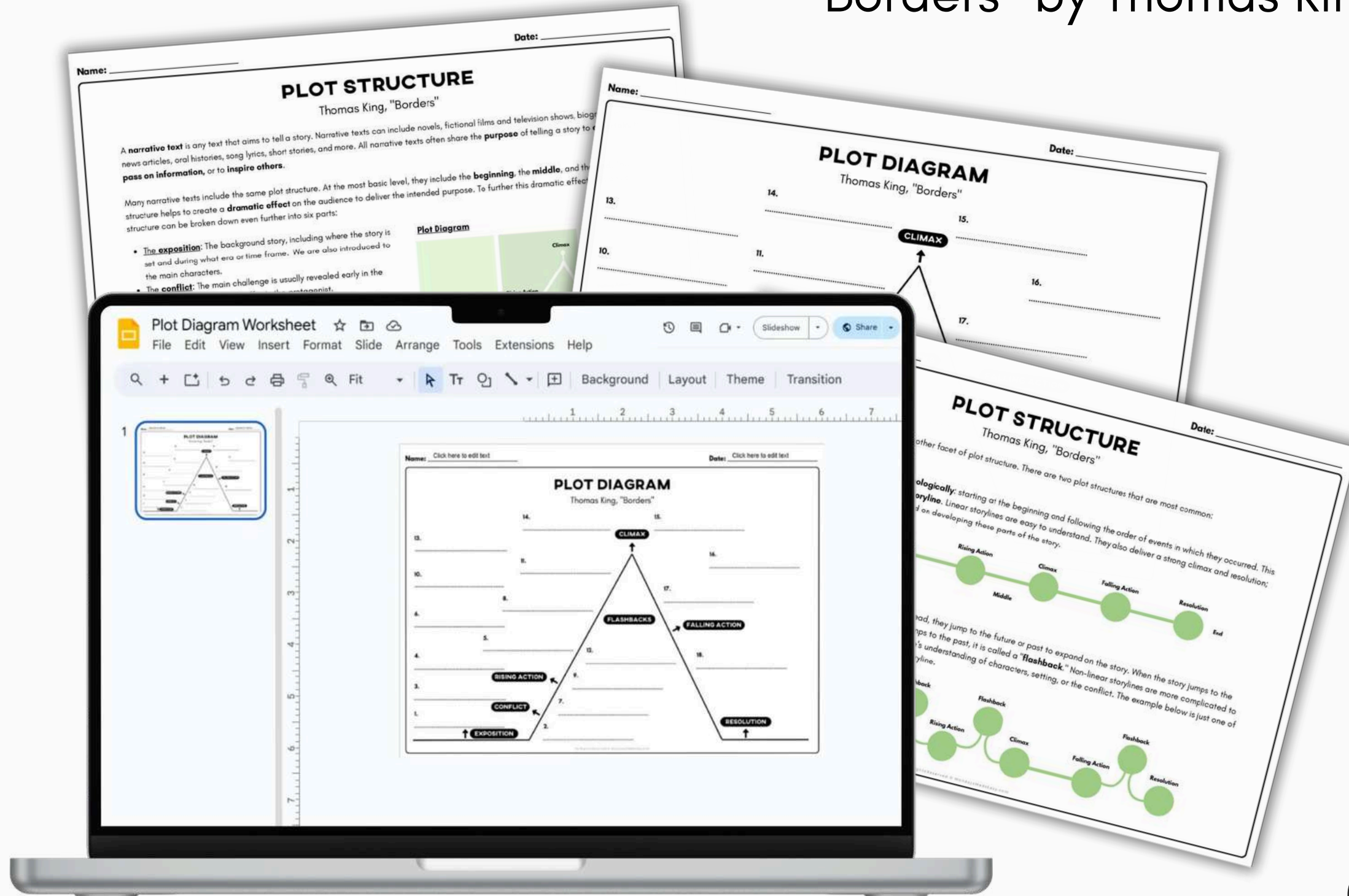


Plot Structure Lesson & Activity

Teach students about plot structure using this plot diagram activity for “Borders” by Thomas King!



- **Introduce plot structure** with clear informational handouts that break down narrative elements and compare linear and non-linear storytelling models.
- **Guide independent reading** using activities that help students identify, sequence, and analyze key plot events in the story.
- **Reinforce narrative understanding** through a visual and kinetic plot diagram task.

Examine the unique plot structure of “Borders” by Thomas King

PURCHASE HERE

Included with this resource:



Plot Structure Informational Handouts

- Explore parts of a plot's structure (exposition, conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution) using visual diagrams
- Compare linear storylines to non-linear storylines



Plot Diagram Worksheet

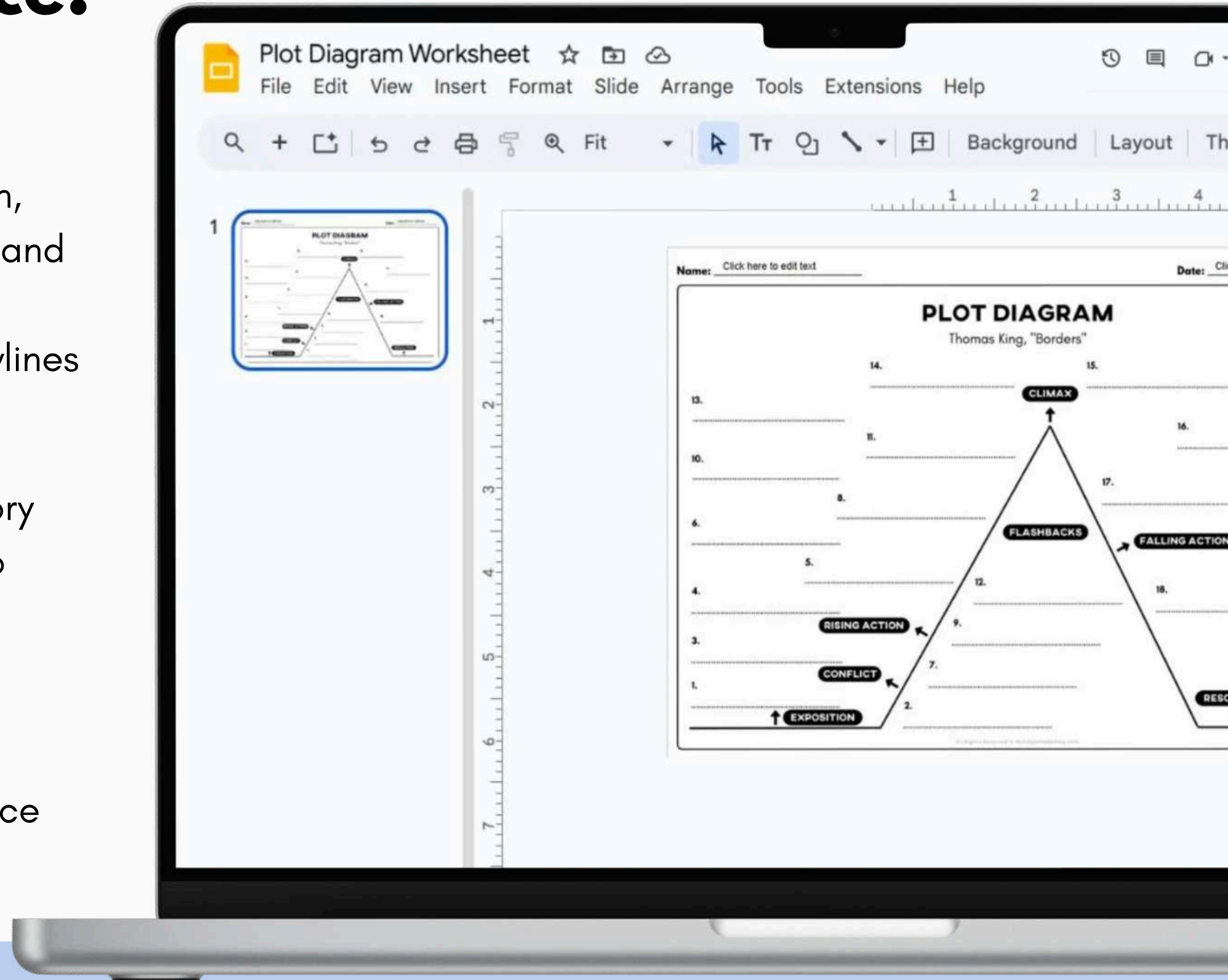
- Guide students through key events in the story
- Map out the narrative arc from exposition to resolution



Answer Key



Teacher Instructions for how to use this resource



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®

Compare Linear and Non-Linear Storytelling Models

Introduce plot structure with clear informational handouts that break down narrative elements

Name: _____ Date: _____

PLOT STRUCTURE

Thomas King, "Borders"

A **narrative text** is any text that aims to tell a story. Narrative texts can include novels, fictional films and television shows, biographies, news articles, oral histories, song lyrics, short stories, and more. All narrative texts often share the **purpose** of telling a story to **entertain**, to **pass on information**, or to **inspire others**.

Many narrative texts include the same plot structure. At the most basic level, they include the **beginning**, the **middle**, and the **end**. This structure helps to create a **dramatic effect** on the audience to deliver the intended purpose. To further this dramatic effect, this basic structure can be broken down even further into six parts:

- **The exposition:** The background story, including where the story is set and during what era or time frame. We are also introduced to the main characters.
- **The conflict:** The main challenge is usually revealed early in the story. The conflict usually affects the protagonist.
- **The rising action:** The conflict continues to develop. The audience begins to feel excitement, curiosity, or suspense.
- **The climax:** The story reaches a "turning point" in which the protagonist must face the challenge to resolve the conflict.
- **The falling action:** The conflict is no longer developing, so the tension or curiosity begins to diminish.
- **The resolution:** The protagonist is left with the satisfaction, consequences, or ramifications of resolving the conflict.

These parts of plot structure can be illustrated using a **plot diagram** (see image on right).

Plot Diagram

Beginning Middle End

All Rights Reserved © MondaysMadeEasy.com

Review exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution

Date: _____

PLOT STRUCTURE

Thomas King, "Borders"

which a story is told is another facet of plot structure. There are two plot structures that are most common:

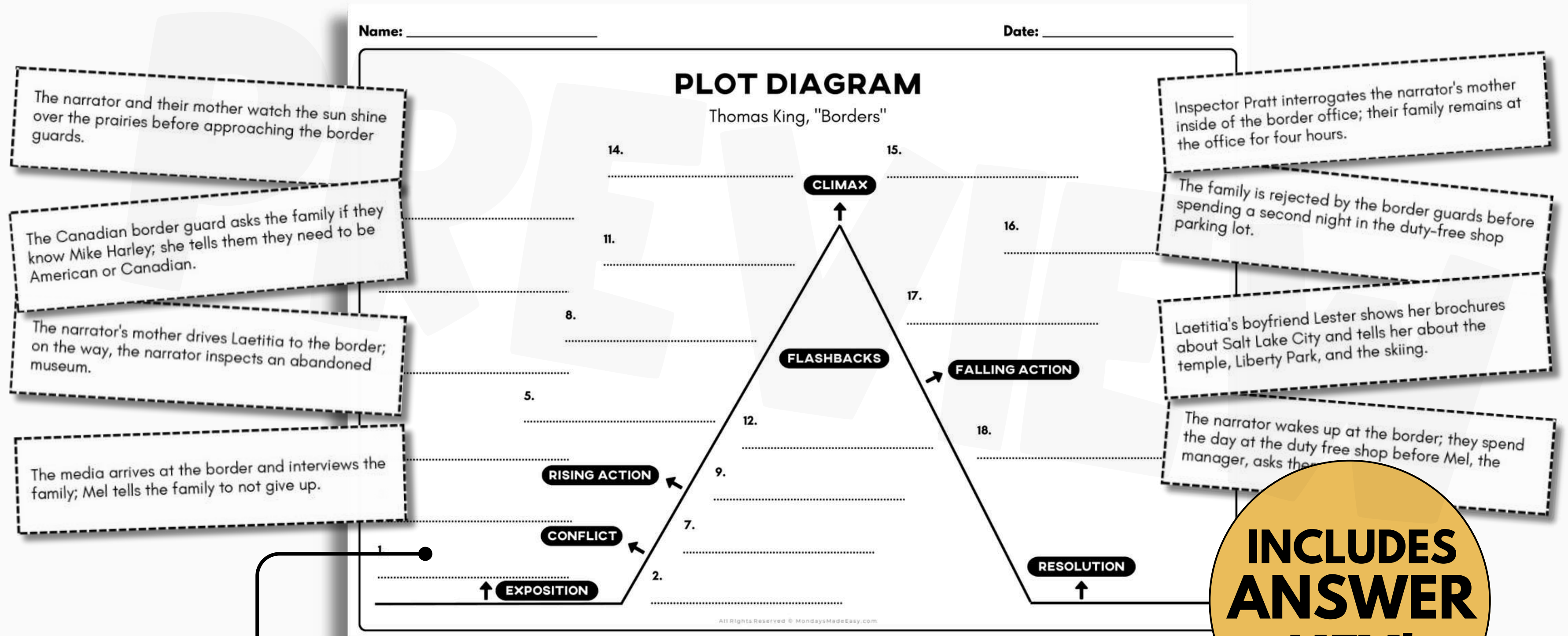
Linear Storylines:
A story is told **chronologically**: starting at the beginning and following the order of events in which they occurred. This structure is called a **linear storyline**. Linear storylines are easy to understand. They also deliver a strong climax and resolution; the plot structure is focused on developing these parts of the story.

Non-Linear Storylines:
Non-linear storylines are not chronological; instead, they jump to the future or past to expand on the story. When the story jumps to the future, it is called a **"flashforward."** When it jumps to the past, it is called a **"flashback."** Non-linear storylines are more complicated to understand, but they can also deepen the audience's understanding of characters, setting, or the conflict. The example below is just one of the ways an author can construct a non-linear storyline.

All Rights Reserved © MondaysMadeEasy.com

Plot Diagram Activity for "Borders"

Using the story's major plot events, students will map out the plot from exposition to resolution



INCLUDES ANSWER KEY!

This visual format helps solidify their understanding of narrative structure and theme.

See what others are saying...

Here's what teachers like you are loving about this **Plot Diagram Activity!**

 **Extremely Satisfied**

Our world literature textbook contains Thomas King's short story "Borders;" however, its instructional resources are limited, so this material helped review the story's nonlinear plot well.

– Kari C.

 **Extremely Satisfied**

I used this story to reinforce the Plot Diagram with my students. It was a very nice resource. Would definitely recommend to others and buy again.

– Gagan P.