Name: # Date:

How much do you already know about plot?

Read the story. Then label underlined events (#1-7) by writing the plot element for each part on the matching number line on the backside. The plot elements are in the Word Bank below.

Word Bank (Cross the plot elements out as you use them.)

Denouement Turning Point Exposition

Rising Action Inciting Incident Falling Action Climax

At eight years old, Melissa Muffett believed herself to be the bravest of heroes. She never backed down from a challenge, even if it was from a smelly boy. She had more scars and scabs on her knees than Blake, her best friend. She wasn’t even afraid of the dark! Every day, she took the long way home from school through the forest and across a noisy creek that she had to cross by leaping from stone to stone. It was good practice for being a hero. Her neighborhood lay on the other side of the creek, a calm cluster of white houses with red rooftops. Melissa just knew she was destined to be a superhero because she had no weaknesses.

#1.

Well, there was one thing Melissa was afraid of, but it was only one, so that didn’t count. She couldn’t stand spiders. Everything about them, from their hairy bodies to their long, glistening legs, grossed her out. Melissa was convinced that they were the silent, creeping menaces of doom. On a fateful day in April, Blake found out her secret on the way to school. A black, spindly spider sped towards her feet as she walked on the sidewalk. She hurdled over it and ran for twenty yards before she stopped and turned to see Blake looking at her in complete amazement. A smile split his face as he began chuckling. Melissa then swore him to silence so that no one would know her weakness.

#3

#2

The next day, as Melissa played with Blake in her backyard, she sprinted straight into a spider web. She shrieked and ran back into her house, dancing in circles as she tried to sweep the sticky web off of her. When she looked up, she found Blake crouching on the floor just inside the sliding glass door with his hands cupped together like he’d just picked something up. Blake had a grin on his face as he stood and held his cupped hands out to her. Inside was a large, hairy wolf spider. Melissa squealed and ran to her bedroom. She could hear Blake’s loud laughter as he pounded up the steps to her door. Leaning down to the crack under the door, Blake jeered at Melissa, telling her she couldn’t be a superhero if she was afraid. Gritting her teeth, Melissa decided she’d show him she wasn’t afraid. She wrenched open her door and held out her hand. Blake’s grin froze and he slowly tipped his hands over her palm. The fat spider landed on her fingers. Melissa bit back a yelp as it began to crawl quickly toward her wrist. As it continued to crawl, Melissa began to giggle. It tickled! Blake’s face was a mess of confusion as she began laughing. Finally, she caught her breath and looked at him with a proud smirk. Melissa then marched out of her bedroom, down the stairs, through the living room and out the back door. She knelt down by bush and gently held her hand out until the spider crept back into the shrub. A second later, Melissa stood in the middle of the yard with her hands in the air and yelled “I am no longer afraid of spiders! I fear nothing! I will be the greatest superhero ever!” Blake joined her outside and smiled at her triumph. The two friends began to dash around the lawn, fighting invisible villains and saving the day.

#5

#6

#4

#6

#7





Kyllingstad, René. “Spider.” 2007. Photograph. Flickr. <https://www.flickr.com/search/?l=commderiv&q=spider>. June 16, 2016.