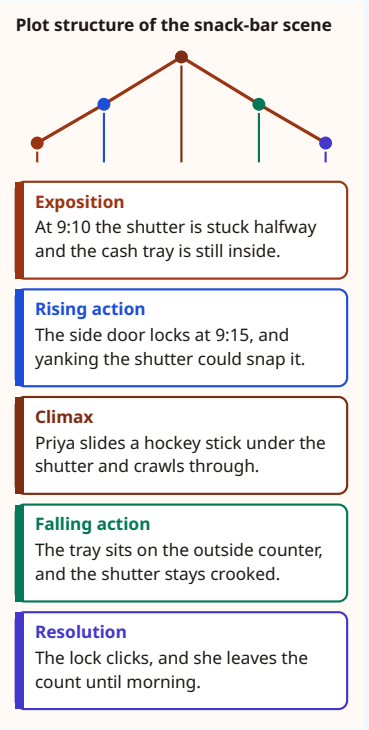
English Language Arts 10-2

## Unit 2: Comprehend and respond to texts

# Plot and character

## Five minutes and a stuck shutter

- At 9:10, as Priya closes up, the snack-bar shutter at the community rink sticks halfway down. The cash tray is still on the inside counter. The manager locks the side door at 9:15.
- Exposition. The shutter is stuck, the tray is inside, and the door is still open.
- Rising action. She has five minutes, and a hard yank could snap the shutter.
- Climax. She slides a hockey stick under the shutter and crawls through.
- Falling action. The tray is on the outside counter and the shutter stays crooked. Resolution. The lock clicks, and the count waits until morning.



## Plotting stages and conflict

- Plot structure is those five stages in order. Each stage gives the crawl its cause or its result.
- Setting is the snack bar at the rink, 9:10, shutter halfway, tray inside.
- Conflict pulls the stuck shutter against the 9:15 lock. Both sides need words.
- Character motivation is why she crawls: she wants to save the cash and keep the metal whole.

# Key terms

**plot structure**

The order of events from the opening situation, through the rise and the turn, to the last change.

**conflict**

The pull between two forces in the scene, both of which can be named.

**character motivation**

The reason a person acts, shown by what they protect and what they refuse to break.

## Character motivation

- She protects the cash by getting the tray outside before the door locks.
- She protects the shutter by refusing the yank that would snap it.
- Her attitude in the moment is careful and hurried at once. The relationship is employee to the manager who set the lock time.
- A trait you can defend is responsible. The evidence is the tray on the counter.

# A full reading of the snack bar

- Setting: community-rink snack bar, 9:10 to 9:15, shutter halfway, tray inside.
- Plot: stuck shutter, five-minute threat, crawl with the stick, tray outside, lock clicks and the count waits.
- Conflict: immovable shutter against a lock that is coming.
- Priya is careful and responsible. She gets the cash out without snapping the shutter. She is trying to meet the manager’s lock time.

## The bike cage

- Sam’s cable lock jams in the school bike cage. The late bus is already at the curb with the doors open.
- He threads the cable through a neighbour’s rack, tapes a note to his own seat, and boards as the doors fold shut.
- Map setting, five stages, the conflict, and what the note shows about him.

## Review

- Cover the snack bar and the bike cage.
- Nia must return a first-aid kit before the custodian bars the equipment-room door at 6. The bin lid is stuck. She tips the bin, slides the kit out, and the bar drops.
- Give setting, conflict, the climax, and one trait with evidence.