

## The Story of Mary Walker

How would you feel if you weren't allowed to wear pants? In the 1800s, many people felt that women should not wear pants. Dr. Mary Walker did not agree. She thought people should wear what they wanted.

In Walker's time, women wore long skirts or dresses that came down to their ankles. Their clothing was bulky, hard to move around in and often heavy. Walker had good reasons for not wanting to dress this way.


Walker was a young doctor when the Civil War started in 1861. She became the first woman doctor in the U.S. Army. Walker rode on horseback to the battlefield and took care of soldiers who were hurt.

Walker thought that long skirts were not right for this kind of work. So she created her own uniform. She wore a blouse, a long blue coat, and blue pants. Dressed that way, Walker could sit on a horse like a man. She could get on and off a horse quickly, and she could travel a long way on horseback.

After the war, Walker was given a medal for bravery. She showed up to get her medal dressed in a man's suit and hat. She felt comfortable in men's clothing and dressed that way for the rest of her life.

Sometimes she suffered because of her beliefs. During Walker's time, it was against the law for women to wear men's clothes. She was arrested several times. Sometimes children ran after her and threw rotten eggs.

But Mary Walker kept speaking out for her rights and the rights of other women. She worked to help women get the right to vote. She also worked to get better health care for women. And, through it all, Mary Walker kept right on wearing her pants and hat.

**Resource Links** RDI Book 1: p. 355

SAM Keyword: Problem

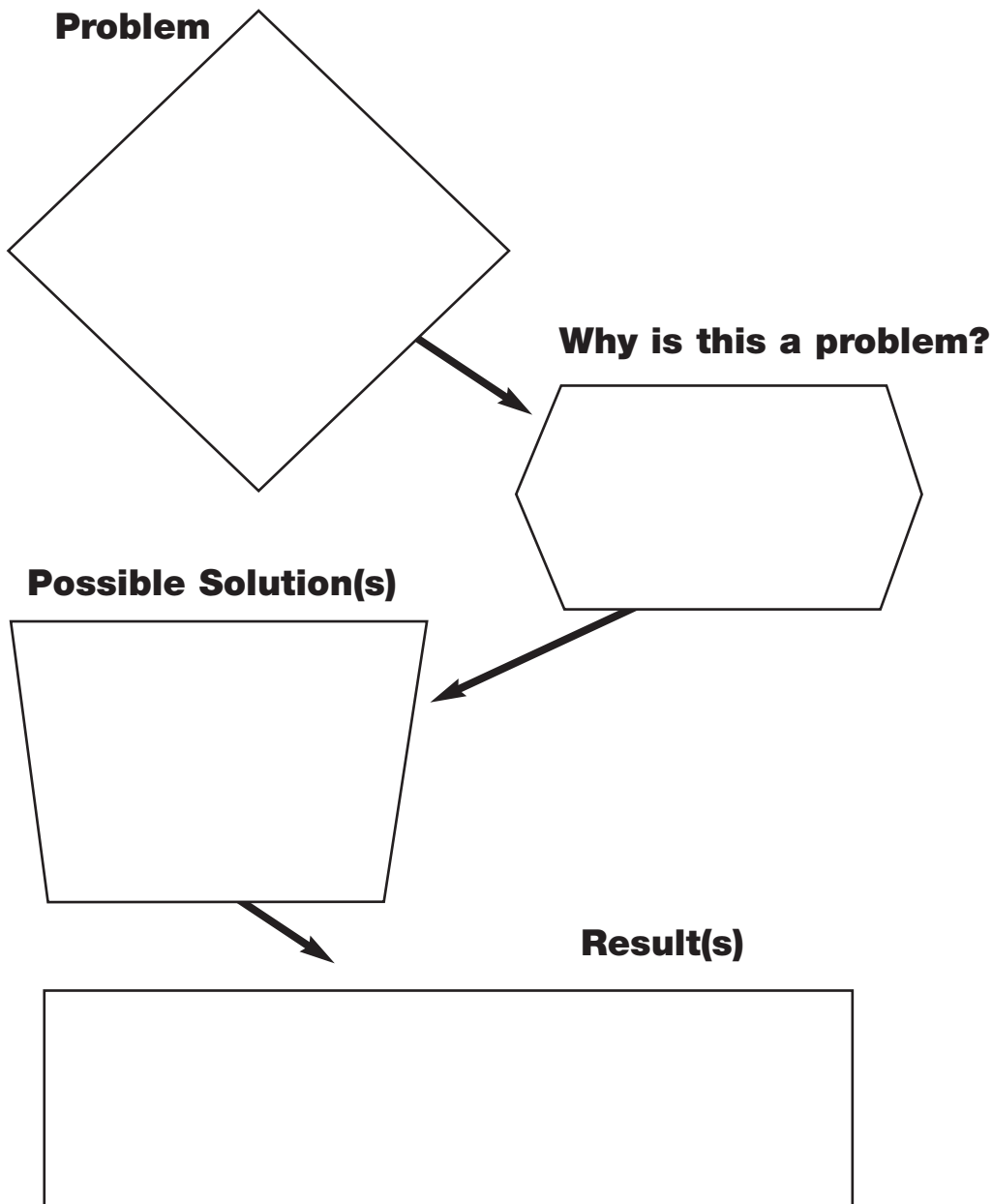
*Use with page 300.*

# Problem and Solution

Sometimes an article is organized into sets of **problems** and **solutions**. Identifying these sets can help you to understand what you are reading.

Use this chart to help you find problems and solutions.

Passage: \_\_\_\_\_



Copyright © Scholastic Inc. All rights reserved.

Use with page 300.

**Resource Links**

 RDI Book 1: p. 402

**SAM Keyword:** Problem