

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# The Golden Touch

## The Story of King Midas

### retold by Mary Pope Osborne

**Part 1** Bacchus, the merry god of the vine, raised his goblet. “King Midas,” he said, “because you have been so hospitable to me, ask for anything you wish, and I will grant it to you.”

“Ah, well,” said the king, chuckling. “I wish that everything I touch would turn to gold. One never has enough gold!”

“Well, if that’s what you wish for, I suppose I will have to grant it,” said Bacchus. “Voilà, it’s done,” he said. Bacchus soon took his leave.

**Part 2** As Midas waved good-bye, his hand brushed an oak twig hanging from a tree. The twig turned to gold! The king screamed with joy, “It’s real gold! My wish has come true! Thank you! Thank you!”

The god disappeared down the road. Midas looked around excitedly. He picked up a stone and the stone turned into a golden nugget! Then he rushed around touching everything. And everything turned to gold: ears of corn in his fields, apples plucked from the trees, the pillars of his mansion!

**Part 3** Overjoyed, King Midas called for his dinner. A servant placed a huge meal before him.

“I’m so hungry!” Midas said, as he speared a piece of meat. But the moment he bit down on the meat, it too turned to gold. Midas laughed uneasily, then reached for a piece of bread. But as soon as his hands touched the bread, it also became golden! Midas reached for his goblet of water. But, alas! His lips touched only hard, cold gold. Moaning, King Midas realized his great wish was going to kill him. He would starve to death, or die of thirst! The sobbing king fell to his knees. His servants grieved for him, but none dared go near him. They feared he might accidentally turn them to gold, too.

**Part 4** Bacchus suddenly appeared. King Midas begged Bacchus to take away the curse. “You were greedy and foolish,” said Bacchus. “But I forgive you. Now go wash yourself in the Pactolus River and you’ll be cleansed of this desire.” King Midas washed in the river, leaving behind streams of gold in the river’s sands. Then he returned home and happily ate his dinner.

**Resource Links**

**1** RDI Book 1: p. 375  
SAM Keywords: Plot

Use with page 310.

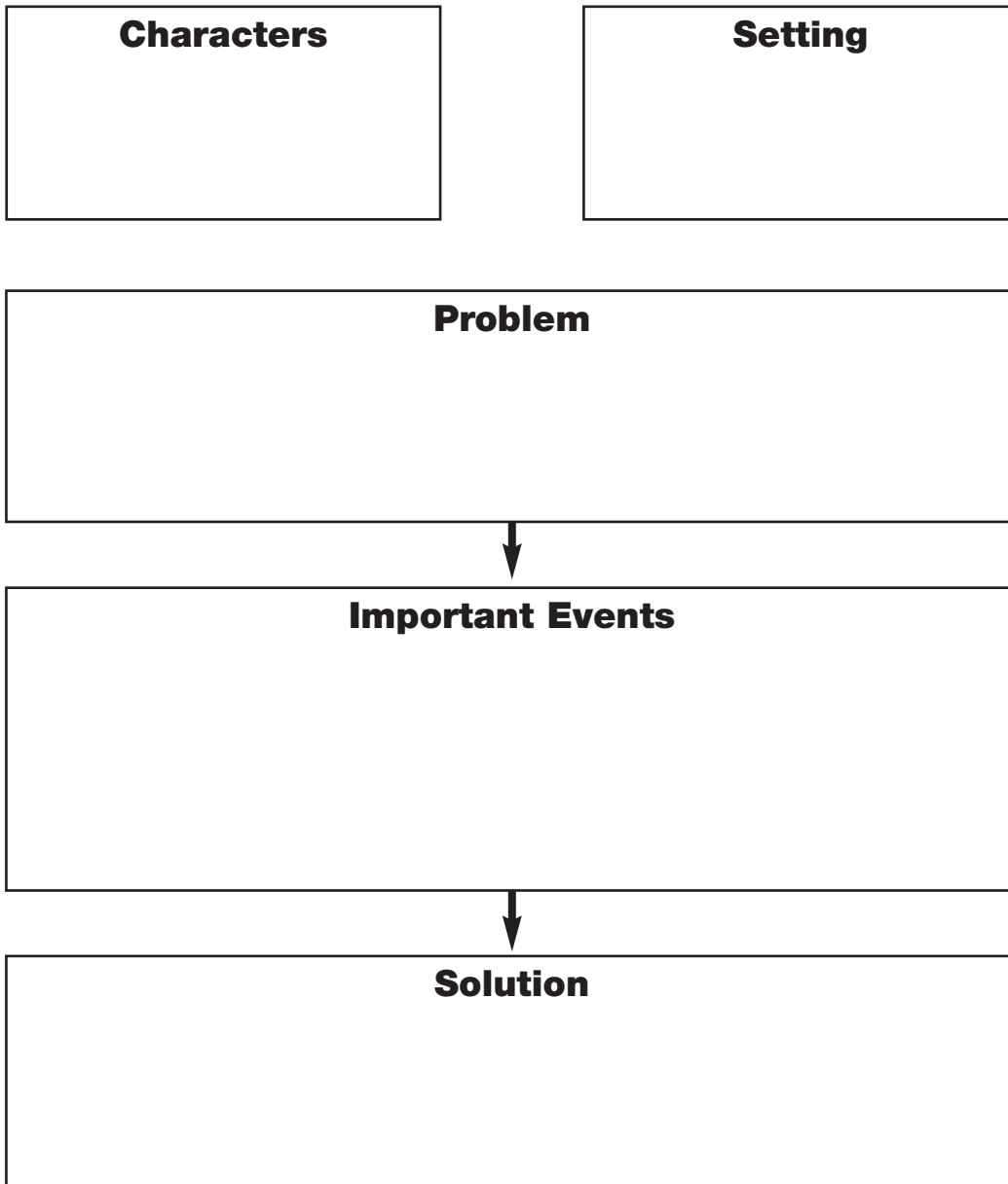


# Analyze Plot

**Plot** is the series of events that take place in a story. It includes the story problem, the events that lead to solving the problem, and the solution to the problem.

Use this chart to organize information about plot.

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



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**Resource Links**

 RDI Book 1: p. 434

**SAM** Keywords: Plot

