



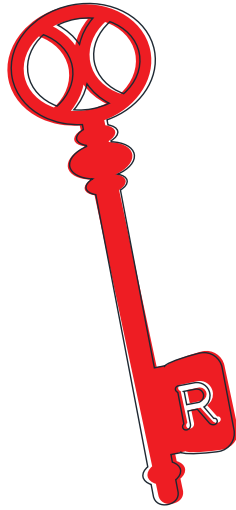
Name the Problem-Solution

Keys to
Comprehension

**Ruby
Reader**

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Name the Problem-Solution



Keys for the Teacher

Identifying the problem and solution helps a reader follow the progression of the action from beginning to end. Since the problem and solution are directly tied to the meaning of the story, understanding these elements enhances comprehension.

Keys for the Children

Good readers try to find the problem and solution in a story. It helps them understand and remember details about the story.

Lesson

Begin by telling a story that includes the meaning of the words “problem” and “solution.” Many children will understand “problem” but might not know the meaning of “solution.” Provide a vocabulary link by hooking the meaning of “solution” to the word “fix.” Here’s an example:

I had a problem over the weekend. When I went to get in my car to go to the store, my tire was flat. I couldn’t go anywhere! I had to fix the problem so I thought of a solution. I changed the tire all by myself. Then I went to the store.

To illustrate the connection between problem and solution make a two-column chart. Ask students to generate a list of several problems and record in the left column. Next, have a “turn and talk” session to brainstorm fixes or solutions and record suggestions in the right column. Draw an arrow from left to right, from each problem to each solution. This is a visual clue to support the idea that we start with the problem and move to a solution.

A discussion of problems and solutions within stories is next. Often children are confused because of a mindset that all problems are bad. Many have never considered that problems actually make stories more interesting. Share that authors purposefully add problems to stories and that watching characters fix problems is often entertaining. Once children can conceptualize this, finding the problem and solution can turn into a fun thinking game.

Some stories have more than one problem and solution. Brainstorm ways to identify the most important problem in the story. Which is the biggest problem that is woven throughout the story? How do you know? Is there a problem that is solved close to the end?

