

**One Thousand Dollars (page 386)****Active Reading SkillBuilder****Cause and Effect**

Events that make up the plot in a work of fiction are often related by **cause and effect**. One event in a story can cause another, which is the effect. The effect may in turn cause another event, and so on. The events in "One Thousand Dollars" unfold through a series of conversations, each one leading to the next. As you read the story, use the graphic below to record a summary of each conversation and to show how these conversations are related.

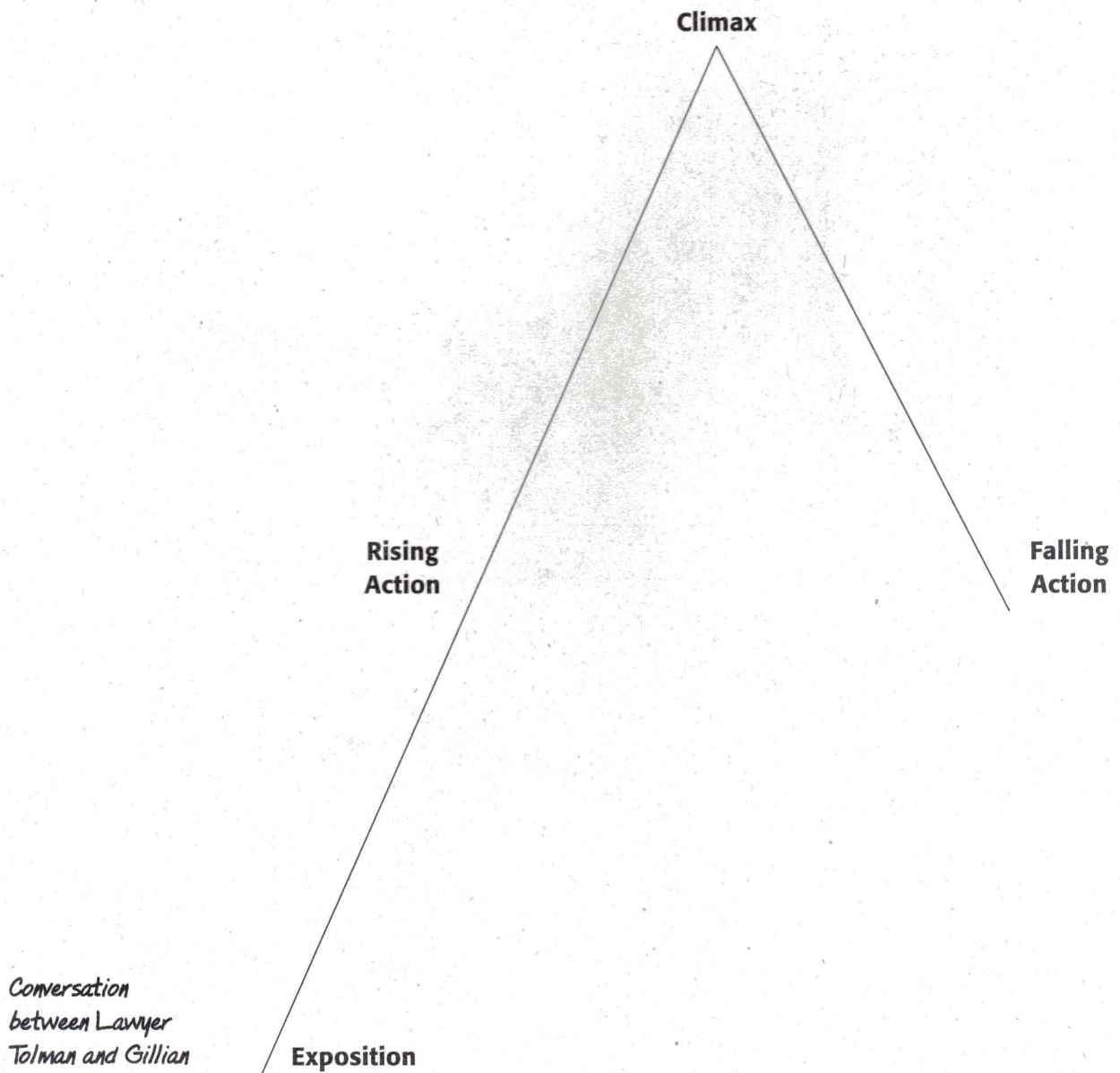
**Cause****Conversation****Conversation**

*Conversation between  
Lawyer Tolman and  
Young Gillian; \$1,000  
given to Gillian*



**One Thousand Dollars (page 386)****Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Plot**

**Plot** refers to the chain of related events that take place in a story. Most plots include these stages: the exposition, in which essential background information is given; the rising action, in which complications arise that make the conflict more difficult for the main characters to resolve; the climax, or turning point, of the story, usually involving an important event, decision, or discovery; and the falling action, in which the conflict is resolved. Using the plot diagram below, list each conversation in this story next to the plot stage in which it falls. One example has been given.



**One Thousand Dollars (page 386)****Words to Know SkillBuilder****Words to Know**

acquaint                      encumber                      genially                      precariousness                      stipulate  
disreputable                      expenditure                      pendant                      prudent                      venerable

**A.** Complete each sentence with the correct Word to Know.

1. Someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ with money is not likely to spend it all on lottery tickets.
2. People who keep track of an \_\_\_\_\_ can tell you exactly how much money they have spent.
3. Friends who are celebrating a happy occasion are likely to greet each other \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A man with only a few dollars feels the uncertainty and \_\_\_\_\_ of his position.
5. The diamond \_\_\_\_\_ in the jewelry store window is magnificent.
6. Did the contract \_\_\_\_\_ when and where the project will take place, as well as when it is to be completed?
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ physician received several awards at his retirement dinner.
8. Did you \_\_\_\_\_ yourself with the rules and regulations of the contest?
9. A \_\_\_\_\_ person is not likely to be trustworthy or respected.
10. While a lack of money would \_\_\_\_\_ most people, others might feel oppressed by their wealth.

**B.** Before directors cast the parts in a play, they often provide actors with a description of each character. Write a description of Mr. Gillian that might be useful to an actor playing the role of Mr. Gillian in a production of "One Thousand Dollars." Use at least **four** Words to Know in your description.

**One Thousand Dollars (page 386)****Selection Quiz**

Read over the questions and think about the events described in the story. Then answer each question in sentences or phrases.

1. Why is Gillian displeased with the amount of his inheritance?

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2. Who is Miss Hayden?

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3. How does Gillian react to Old Bryson's suggestions?

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4. Why does Gillian give Miss Hayden the thousand dollars?

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5. Why does Gillian tear up the note that he wrote?

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**One Thousand Dollars (page 386)****Selection Test**

**A.** Think about the four stages of plot development. In the boxes below, write notes describing what happens in each stage of the plot of "One Thousand Dollars."  
(6 points each)

Stage	Description of Events
1. Exposition	
2. Rising Action	
3. Climax	
4. Falling Action	

**B.** Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page.  
(5 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The only condition that Gillian is given when he receives the one thousand dollars is that he must
- a. spend it wisely.                      c. invest it in stocks.  
b. show how he spent it.              d. give it to a charity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. At the end of the story, Tolman and Sharp shake their heads because they think
- a. Gillian is very much like his uncle.  
b. the uncle never should have tested Gillian.  
c. Gillian has a broken heart.  
d. Gillian is foolish and irresponsible.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Gillian tells Sharp and Tolman that he
- a. lost the money at the races.  
b. bought a pendant for a girlfriend.  
c. gave the money to Miriam Hayden.  
d. invested the money in a saloon.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which saying **best** expresses a theme of this story?
- "You can't judge a book by its cover."
  - "The early bird catches the worm."
  - "Don't cry over spilled milk."
  - "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones."

**C. Words to Know.** Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When your teacher greets your class genially, he or she is
- angry.
  - friendly.
  - reserved.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. You have made an expenditure when you have
- earned money.
  - saved money.
  - spent money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which document is most likely to stipulate certain requirements?
- a friendly letter
  - a personal diary
  - a contract.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which person would be most venerable?
- a teenager
  - a grandmother
  - a baby
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. A prudent person can best be described as
- wise.
  - foolish.
  - reckless.

**D. Answer one** of the following questions based on your understanding of the story. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

- If Tolman and Sharp had read Gillian's account of what he did with the money, do you think they would have determined that Gillian's account demonstrated responsibility? Why or why not?
- Biographer C. Alphonso Smith describes four stages in O. Henry's short stories. First, a fascinating beginning quickly draws a reader in. Next, a reader predicts, or guesses, how the story will turn out. Third, a reader discovers that his or her prediction is wrong. Finally, O. Henry closes with a surprise ending. Explain how "One Thousand Dollars" fits this formula.

**E. Linking Literature to Life.** Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (16 points)

In "One Thousand Dollars," O. Henry makes use of several character types: the indifferent but kindhearted hero, the stodgy lawyer, the showgirl, the virtuous young woman, and so on. Suppose that you are going to write a new version of this story set in the present. Describe where you would set your story, at least two of the character types that you would use, and why.