Grade 8: Reading Benchmark

Literary Elements

8.R.1.1: Analyze the interaction between character development, setting, and plot in a literary text.

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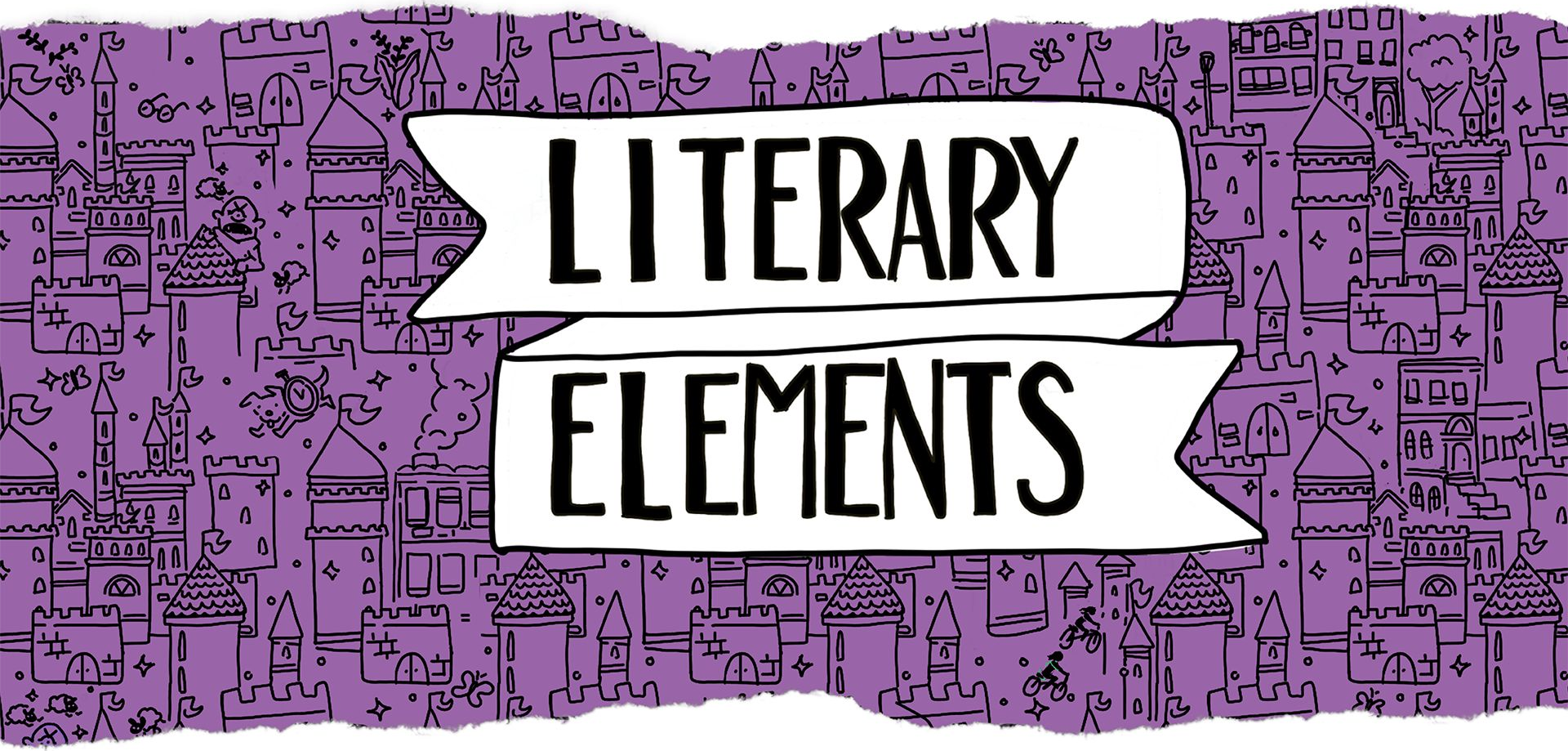
Benchmark Introduction



Benchmark:

Analyze how character development, setting, and plot interact in literature.

Definition of Literary Elements

Literary elements are the parts of a literary or dramatic text. Key literary elements are:

- Plot: the plan or main story
- Setting: the time, place, or circumstances of the action
- Character: an individual in a work of fiction

Interaction of Literary Elements

Analyze the interactions between character development, setting, and plot in a literary text to better understand the story.

How character development, setting, and plot interact

The setting can shape events or influence characters’ actions, emotions, or decisions.

How character development, setting, and plot interact

Characters’ actions, emotions, and decisions drive the central conflicts and resolution of the plot.

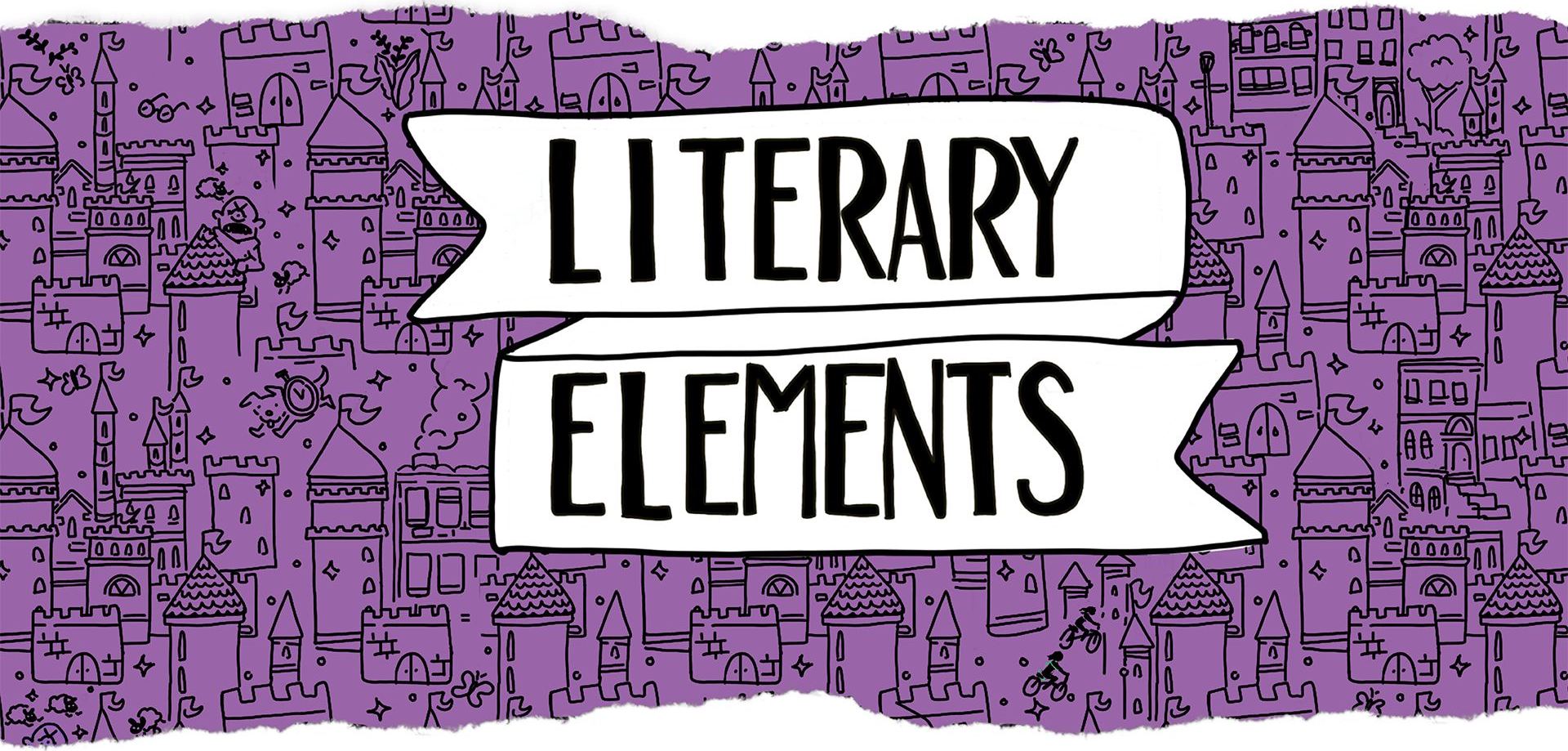
How character development, setting, and plot interact

Key events and conflicts impact characters' actions, emotions, and decisions.

Example of how character development, setting, and plot interact

In *Finding Nemo*, Nemo goes into the open ocean against his father's instructions. While exploring, Nemo is captured and his father must try to save him.

Benchmark Skill Routine



How to analyze the interaction of character development, setting, and plot

Read closely and identify key elements.

Highlight and annotate specific details about the characters, setting, and plot.

How to analyze the interaction of character development, setting, and plot

Pay attention to the impact of character development:

How do the characters’ actions, emotions, or decisions drive what happens?

How to analyze the interaction of character development, setting, and plot

Pay attention to the impact of setting:

How does setting affect the characters' emotions or decisions? How does it shape what happens?

How to analyze the interaction of character development, setting, and plot

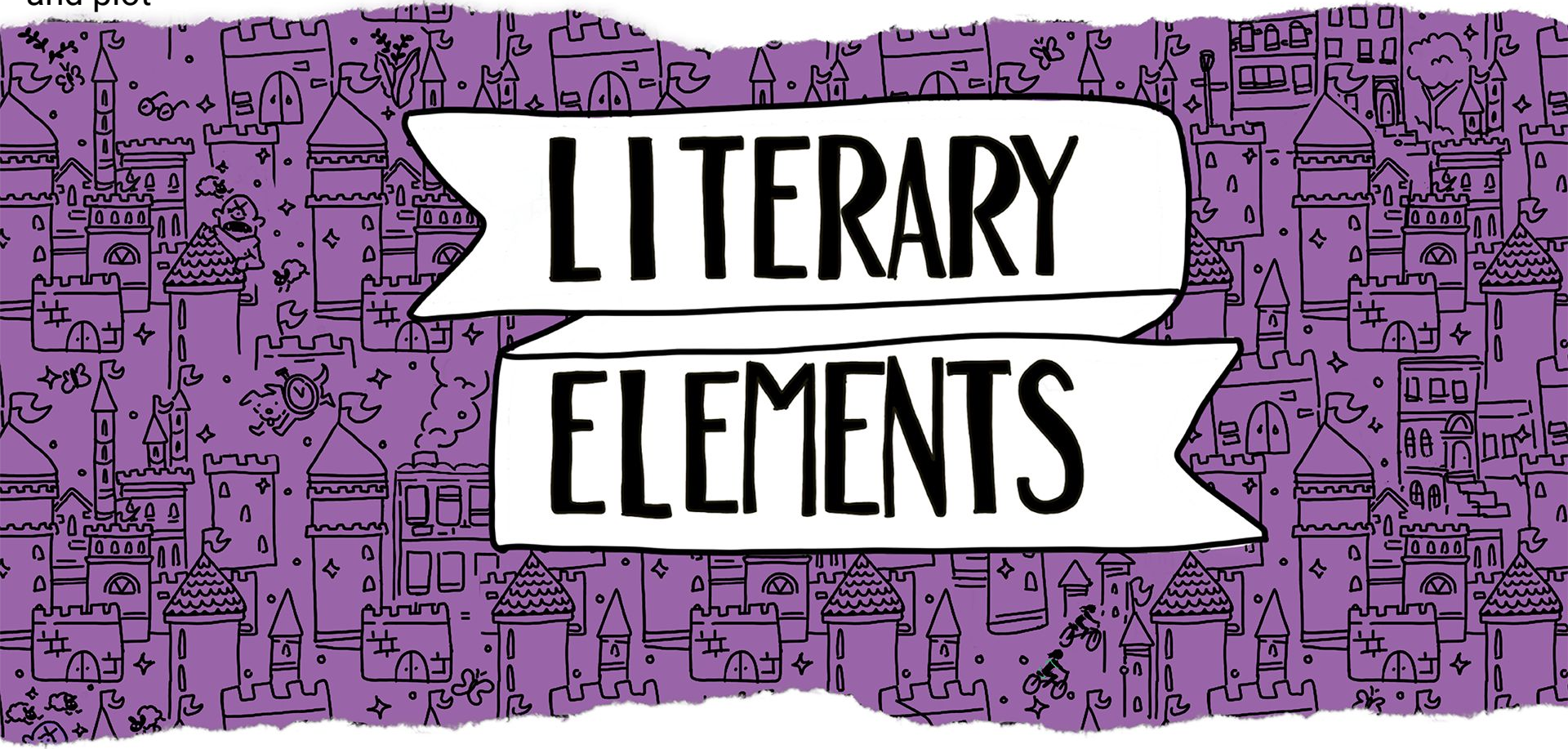
Pay attention to the impact of plot:

How do events change the characters’ actions, emotions, or decisions?

Remember

1. Read closely, highlight, and annotate key details about the characters, setting, and plot.
2. Think about how character development, setting, and plot influence one another.
3. At the end, how have the characters or setting changed? What is the impact of those changes?

Benchmark in Action: Example of how to analyze the interaction of character development, setting, and plot



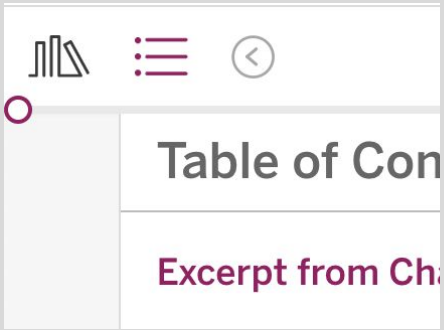
Get ready to read two passages from *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok.



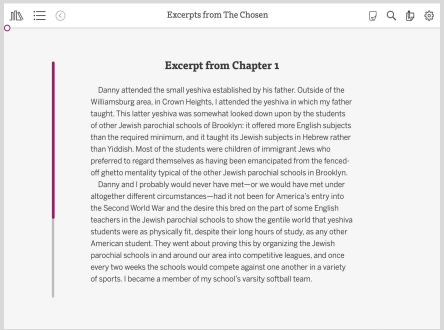
1. Open the Library app.



2. Type “The Chosen” into the search bar. Click on the title of the book to open it.



3. Click on the Table of Contents.



4. Find and go to Excerpt from Chapter 1.

The Chosen

Context for Passage 1

Reuven Malter narrates his experiences as a Jewish teen grappling with identity, religion, and friendship in Brooklyn during World War II. When Reuven joins a softball team, he meets another teen with whom his life becomes entangled.

Read Excerpt from Chapter 1 in *The Chosen*.

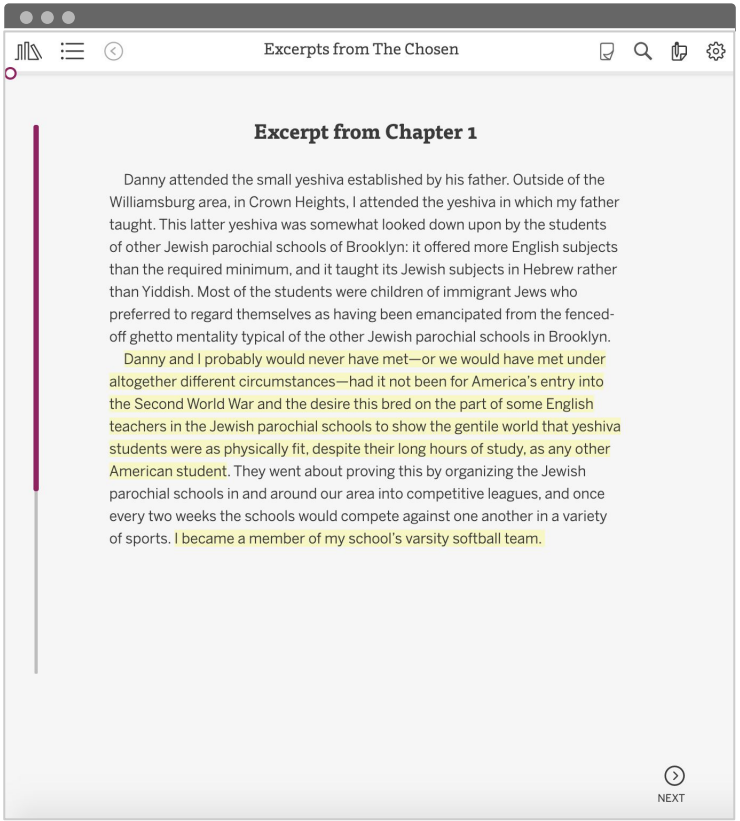
As you read...

- look for details about the characters, setting, and plot.
- think about how the characters, setting, and plot influence one another.

Practice Step 1

Read closely and identify key elements. Highlight and annotate specific details about the characters, setting, and plot.

Practice Step 1

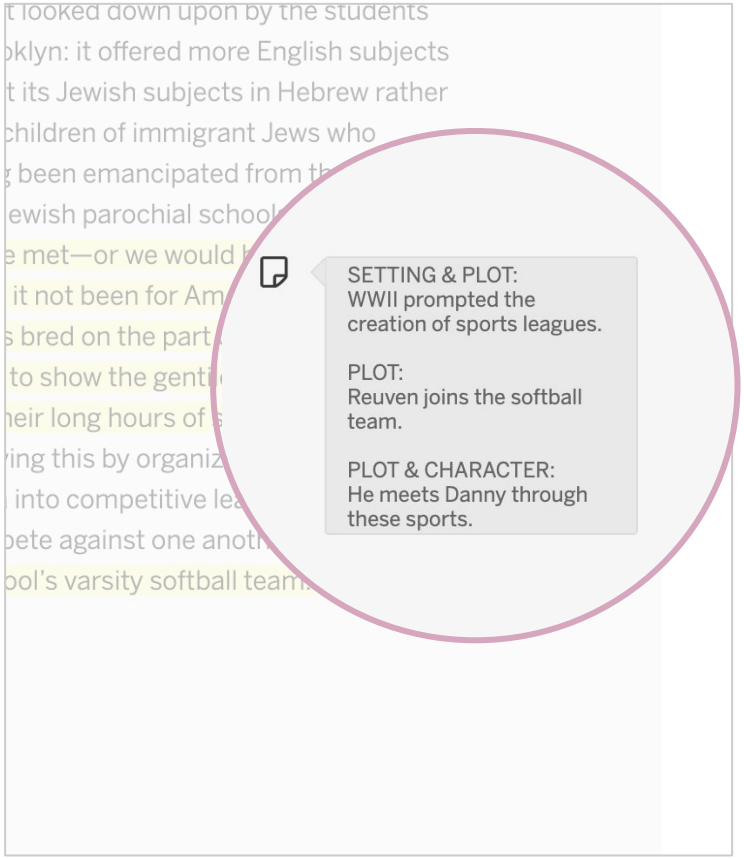


Highlight key details about the characters, setting, and plot.

"Danny and I probably would never have met…had it not been for America's entry into the Second World War and the desire this bred...to show the gentile world that yeshiva students were as physically fit...as any other American student."

"I became a member of my school's varsity softball team."

Practice Step 1



Annotate your highlights of key details about the characters, setting, and plot.

Setting and plot: WWII prompted the creation of sports leagues.

Plot: Reuven joins the softball team.

Plot and character: He meets Danny through these sports.

Practice Step 2

Ask yourself:

How do character development, setting, and plot influence one another?

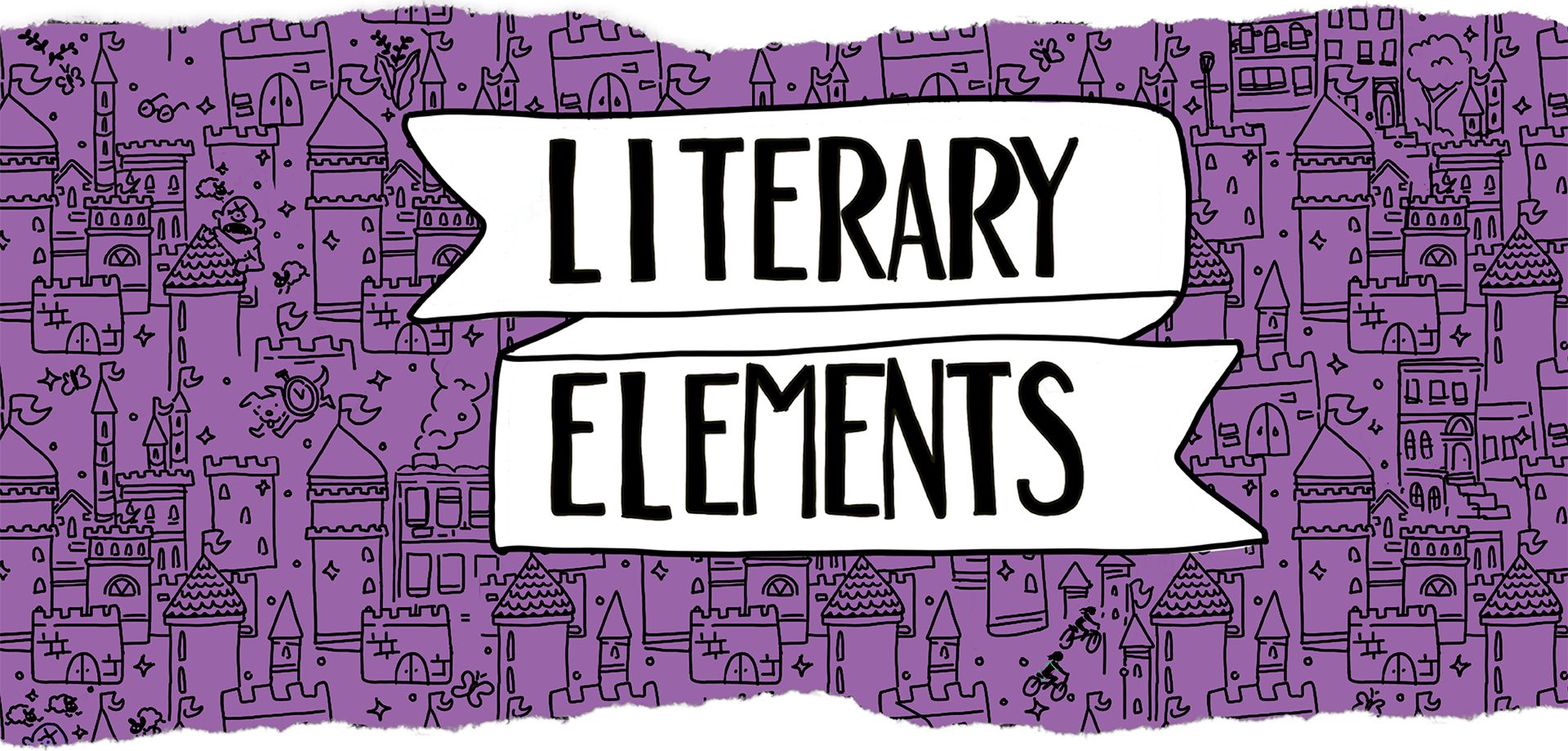
Practice Step 2 Example:

Some Jewish teachers and students are motivated to create competitive sports leagues as a way to demonstrate their physical fitness (plot) during a time of war (setting). Reuven's decision to join his school's softball team (plot) leads to his friendship with Danny (character).

Remember

1. Read closely, highlight, and annotate key details about the characters, setting, and plot.
2. Ask yourself how character development, setting, and plot influence one another.
3. At the end, how have the characters or setting changed? What is the impact of those changes?

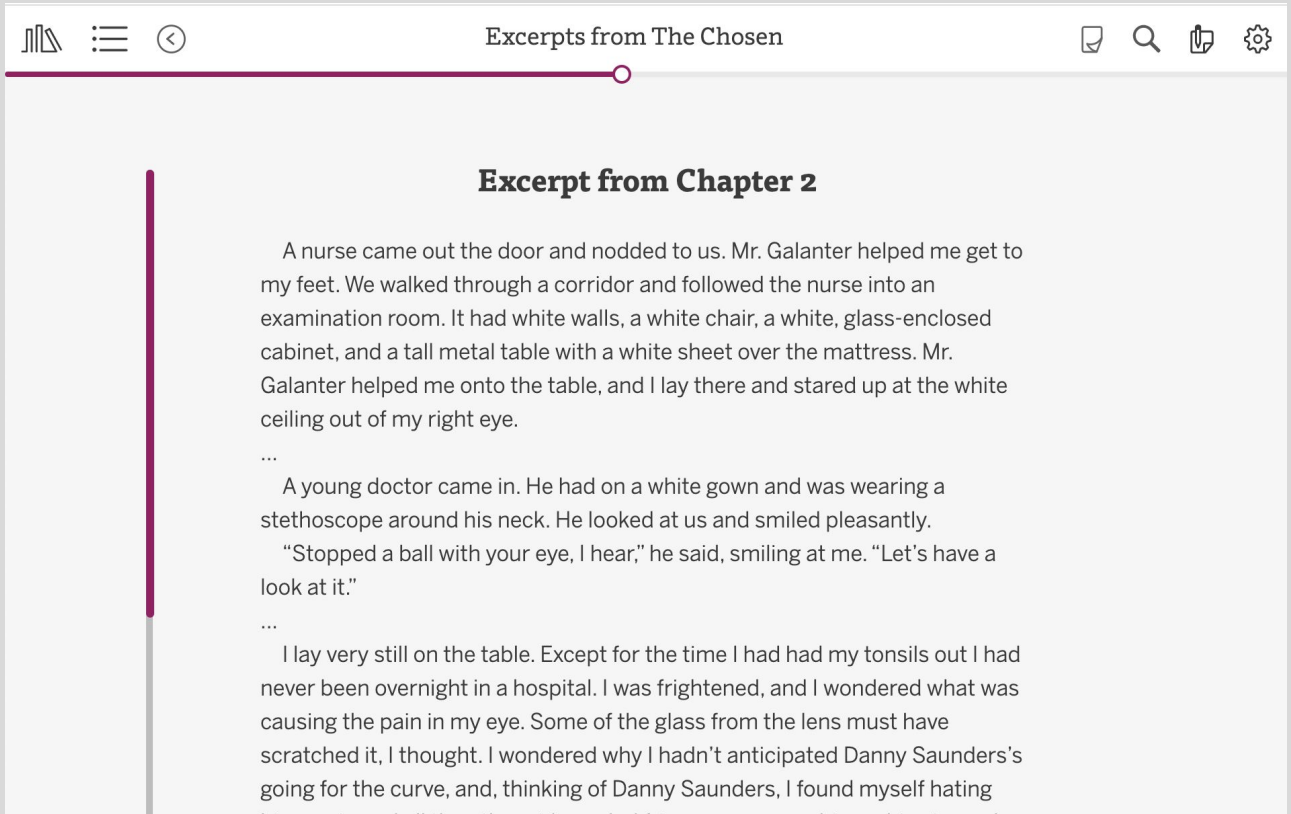
Independent Practice



Benchmark:

Analyze how character development, setting, and plot interact in literature.

Navigate to and read Excerpt from Chapter 2 in *The Chosen*.



The Chosen

Context for Passage 2

Danny Saunders, a good ballplayer and the son of a religious leader, hits a ball that strikes Reuven in the face, breaking Reuven’s glasses and injuring his eye. Reuven’s coach, Mr. Galanter, accompanies him to the hospital.

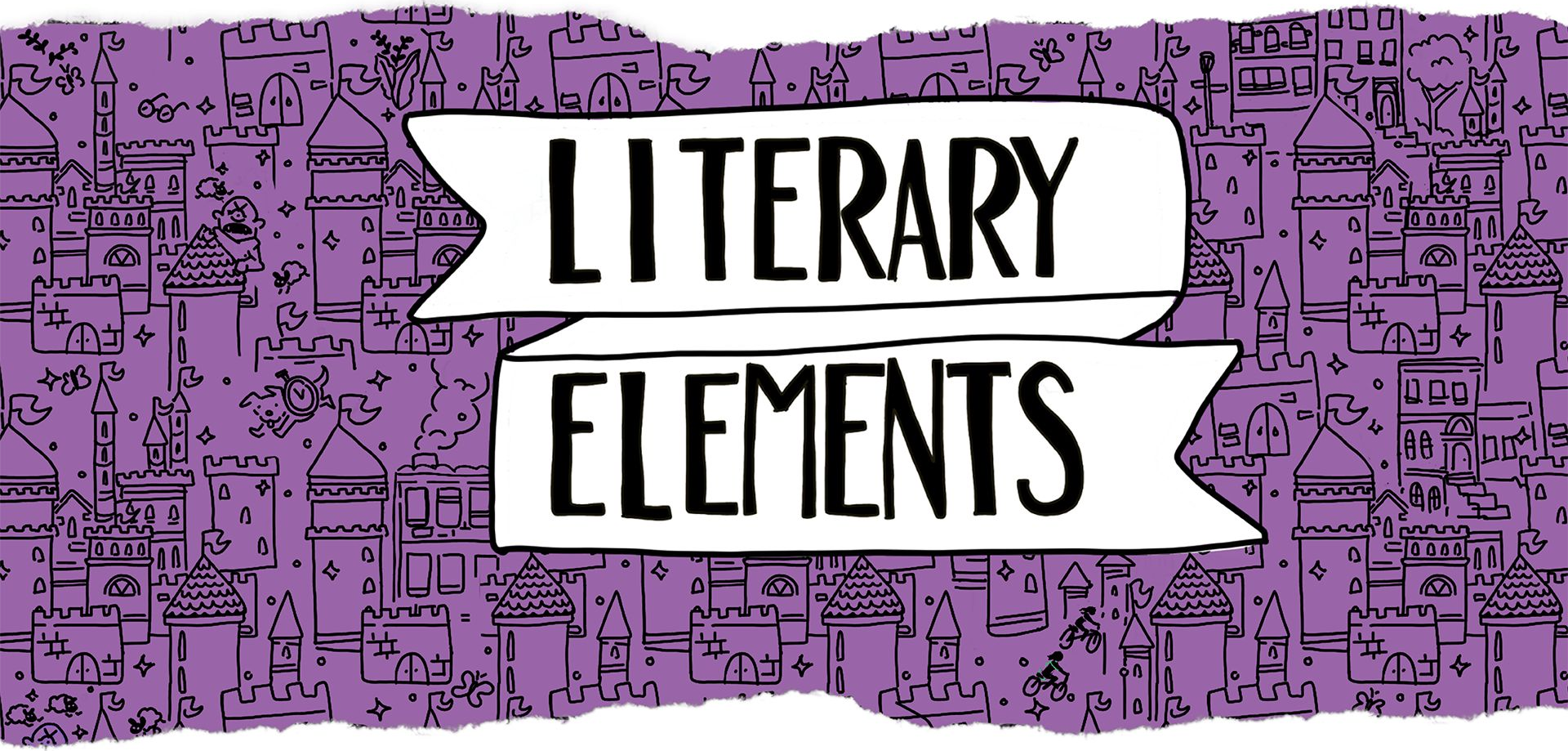
Practice analyzing the interaction between character development, setting, and plot

Step 1
Highlight and annotate important details about the characters, setting, and plot.

Step 2
Connect the key elements: How do character development, setting, and plot influence one another in this passage?

Step 3
What has changed since Passage 1? What effect have these changes had on the characters, setting, or plot?

Check for Understanding



Share and Discuss

1. What are a few key details about the characters, setting, and plot?

Share and Discuss

2. How do the characters, setting, and plot influence one another in this passage?

Share and Discuss

3. How have the characters, setting, and plot changed since the previous passage? What were the effects of these changes?