

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Organizing Literary Elements

In "After Twenty Years"

Fill in the circles to tell about characters and the literary elements that develop the story.

1. Characters
The Main Character is _____
Other characters _____

2. Setting
What time of year was it?
Where did the action occur?

Author & Title

3. Conflict
What is the conflict?

4. Complication
What events occur that help end the conflict?

5. Climax
What happens to bring about the climax?

6. Resolution
How does the story end?

Name _____ Date _____

“After Twenty Years” by O. Henry Period _____

Literary Analysis: Surprise Ending

A **surprise ending** in a story is just what it sounds like—something the reader is not quite expecting. In “After Twenty Years,” since the story is told through the eyes of an outside observer, the reader does not know what is going on in the mind of the police officer. When Bob finds out who the police officer is, the reader shares his surprise. For a surprise ending to work, it must be believable—meaning that there should be some clues along the way to prepare a careful reader for the surprise.

DIRECTIONS: After you read “After Twenty Years,” think back on the details of the characters’ actions, appearance, and conversation. Fill in the following chart to compare the two characters. A sample entry has been given.

	Actions	Appearance	Conversation
Police Officer	Tries doors, twirls club, looks down street		
What It Suggests	He takes his job seriously.		
Man in Doorway			
What It Suggests			