

LESSON

7

RETEACHING WORKSHEET

COPYMASTER

Parallel Plots and Subplots

Review: **Plot** is a chain of causally related events in a narrative, which traces a conflict faced by main characters. **Parallel plot** features two important narratives told in the same story, each with its own main characters and conflicts. **Subplots** are additional plot lines with secondary conflicts of lesser importance. They support the main plot or story’s overall effect.

A. Directions: Read the following statements. Circle the correct answer *true* or *false*.

true false 1. **Plot** shows how events in a story are casually linked. In a good plot, however, readers must “fill in the blanks” much of the time to understand the action.

true false 2. A **parallel plot** refers to a plot structure in which a main character has an alter ego, such as Peter Parker and Spider-Man, having its own story line.

true false 3. **Subplots** cannot feature tension or suspense, which would distract readers from the main plot’s action.

B. Directions: Read each item below. Circle the letter of the *best* answer.

4. In *Star Wars*, the story of how Han Solo handles his debts to Jabba the Hutt forms—
- a. a parallel plot that reinforces the film’s theme of good versus evil.
 - b. a parallel plot that develops Solo’s character, showing him to be “street smart,” and his help to be motivated by money.
 - c. a subplot with a complete plot structure, thus a parallel plot as well.
 - d. a brief subplot that defines the character of Solo, thereby heightening the suspense surrounding Luke’s efforts to rescue Princess Leia.
5. Which of the following features identify a **subplot**?
- a. well-rounded main characters that are sustained throughout a work
 - b. secondary plot lines, characters, and story events that are limited to supporting the main plot line
 - c. developed story lines that if read separately make sense and entertain
 - d. story lines that deal with underlying, deep, or buried feelings