

IDENTIFYING ELEMENTS OF A PLOT

Amy's Day at the Lake

"Finally... a hot day!" thought Amy. She had been waiting for a hot summer day to conquer her goal of learning to water ski. She had attempted the feat countless times last year, but had never succeeded. This summer, she was determined to get up out of the water and actually ski! She had convinced her parents to load up the boat and head to Brown's Lake, a short 15-minute drive from their house.

Now she was out in the water. Her life jacket was secured, and she gripped the rope. "Okay, you can do this!" Amy whispered to herself. She nodded to her dad in the boat, and soon felt the rope tighten up as the boat pulled forward. Before she knew it, though, her skis were behind her, and she knew there was no hope of getting up. She let go of the rope. She slapped the water in frustration.

The boat circled around, her dad returning the rope to her to try again. "Okay, now you remember what it feels like when I take off. Keep those skis in front of you and the boat will take it from there," her dad said.

"Okay," Amy replied.

Soon she was ready for her second attempt. She nodded to her dad. The boat pulled forward as she focused on keeping the skis in front of her. Up...up...up... WOAH! Too far! She had gotten out of the water, but then fell back into the water on her back. She was so excited, though, as this was the first time she had actually gotten out of the water! She cheered and pumped her fist in the air.

"You were up!" Amy's mom exclaimed as they circled around her again.

"I know!" Amy shrieked, grinning from ear to ear. "Get ready... I'm going to nail it this next time!"

She was right. On her third attempt, she got out of the water and stayed up! In fact, she skied for almost two minutes before her skis hit a wave and she fell.

The boat circled around. "You did it! Congratulations!" Her parents told her.

"Thanks! That was so much fun!" she exclaimed. "Am I ever exhausted now, though. I'm ready for a break."

At home that night, she recalled her three attempts, and the two minutes she spent skiing atop the water. "What an incredible feeling," she thought, "I can't wait to go skiing again!"

Read the short story "Amy's Day at the Lake". Briefly describe the plot elements of the story in the correct boxes below.

