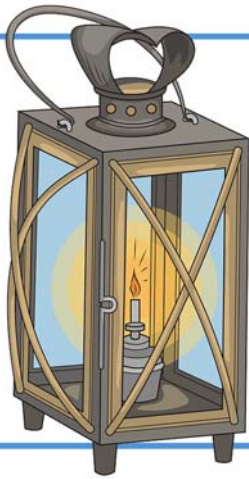


Name _____



Attic Mystery

Directions: Read the story below carefully. Then, complete the plot diagramming activity. Break the story into its five parts: **exposition**, **rising action**, **climax**, **falling action**, and **resolution**. Write your answers on the back of this sheet or on a separate paper, using text evidence to support each part.

The Lantern in the Attic

Maya had always been curious about her grandmother's attic, but she was never allowed to go inside. One rainy afternoon, while the family prepared dinner downstairs, she noticed the attic door was left slightly open. Heart pounding, she climbed the stairs and stepped into the dusty room filled with old trunks, broken furniture, and cobwebs.

In the corner, she spotted a rusty lantern that gave off a faint glow even though it had no flame. She picked it up, and suddenly the attic shimmered as though it were alive with whispers. The glow brightened, and for a moment, Maya felt as if she could see the past—her grandmother as a child, laughing with friends inside that very attic.

Suddenly, the lantern flared, and a sharp crack echoed through the rafters. Startled, Maya nearly dropped it. She realized the lantern was showing her memories, and the louder her heart raced, the stronger the images became. She steadied her breath, trying to calm down.

The glow softened, and the attic returned to its quiet, dusty state. Maya carefully placed the lantern back in the corner, feeling both awed and unsettled. When she went back downstairs, she decided not to mention her adventure—but she knew she had just uncovered one of her family's hidden secrets.