

Puzzle Plot Mapper Answer Key

There are many correct responses. Strong answers will include:

- A **beginning** that explains why Rina was working on the clay project, how class started, or what she planned to create.
- A **middle** (already given) that clearly presents the problem involving the cracked clay.
- An **ending** that shows a reasonable solution, such as smoothing the clay, adding water, reshaping the project, or asking for help.
- A clear cause and effect relationship between the three parts.

Teacher's Guide

- Emphasize the structure: beginning sets up the situation, middle introduces the **problem**, and end shows the **resolution**.
- Guide students to reread the problem before writing so their beginning leads naturally into it.
- Support struggling writers with sentence starters like **Before the clay cracked...** or **In the end, Rina...**
- Differentiation ideas:
 - Provide a bank of possible solutions for students who need help brainstorming.
 - Challenge advanced students to include a small twist or extra detail while staying logical.
- Engagement ideas:
 - Ask students to sketch their imagined clay project.
 - Invite partners to share and compare how differently they solved the same problem.
- Extension ideas:
 - Have students create their own middle problem for a classmate to complete.