Elements of a Story with “The Blood Bay”

Mr. Hudson
English 10
Pull out your copy of “The Blood Bay” and choose your favorite scene
Write three sentence about why you chose this scene/what you like about it
“The Blood Bay”-Annie Proulx

- Find somebody who chose a different scene than you, and compare/contrast your scenes
  - How are they similar?
  - How are they different?
Elements of a Story

Setting
Characters
Plot
Point of View
Conflict
Themes/Central Ideas
What are They?

**Setting?**
- Time and place where a story takes place
- Sets the mood for a story

**Characters?**
- Person (or thing) in the story
- Features or traits

**Plot?**
- The events that make up a story
- Normally take place in a sequence
Setting—Where and When

Time and Place?  Mood?
The winter of 1886-87 was terrible. Every goddamn history of the high plains says so. There were great stocks of cattle on overgrazed land during the droughty summer. Early wet snow froze hard so the cattle could not break through the crust to the grass. Blizzards and freeze-eye cold followed, the gaunt bodies of cattle piling up in draws and coulees.
Setting—Where and When

The Where and When: 1886-87 (Winter)
The West
Setting - Where and When

The Mood:

Freezing Temps = Bitterness, Unhappiness
Will do anything for warmth
Characters - Who

1. Cowboy 1
2. Cowboy 2
3. Dirt Sheets
4. Old man Grice
5. Blood Bay
6. Young Montana Cowboy

Groups 1 and 2
- Mr. Hudson

Groups 3 and 4

Groups 5 and 6
Characters - Who

**FRAYER MODEL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Facts/Characteristics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cowpuncher</strong></td>
<td>Travels with two other cowpunchers</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Non-Example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curltoe boots cracked and holed- paragraph 3</td>
<td>Horse Inn keeper</td>
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</table>
Characters - Who

Cowboy 1

Cowboy 2

The next afternoon three cowpunchers from the Box Spring outfit near Suggs rode past his corpse, blue as a whetstone and half-buried in snow. They were savvy and salty. They wore blanket coats, woolly chaps, grease-wool scarves tied over their hats and under their bristled chins, sheepskin mitts and two of them were fortunate enough to park their feet in good boots and heavy socks. The third, Dirt Sheets, a cross-eyed drinker of hair-oil, was all right on top but his luck was running muddy near the bottom, no socks and curltoe boots cracked and holed.

Who is the most important cowpuncher?
'Come on in, puncher or rustler, I don’t care.'
'We’ll put our horses up. Where’s the barn.'
'Barn. Never had one. There’s a lean-to out there behind the woodpile should keep em from blowin away or maybe freezin. I got my two horses in here beside the dish cupboard. I pamper them babies somethin terrible. Sleep where you can find a space, but I’m tellin you don’t bother that blood bay none, he will mull you up and spit you out. He’s a spirited steed. Pull up a chair and have some a this son-of-a-bitch stew. And I got plenty conversation juice a wash it down. Hot biscuits just comin out a the oven.'

‘He’s ate Sheets. Ah, I knew he was a hard horse, but to eat a man whole. You savage bugger,’ he screamed at the blood bay and drove him out into the scorching cold. ‘You’ll never eat human meat again. You’ll sleep out with the blizzards and wolves, you hell-bound fiend.’ Secretly he was pleased to own a horse with the sand to eat a raw cowboy.
A young Montana cowboy, somewhat vain, had skimped on coat and mittens and put all his wages into a fine pair of handmade boots. He crossed into Wyoming Territory thinking it would be warmer, for it was south of where he was. That night he froze to death on Powder River’s bitter west bank, that stream of famous dimensions and direction – an inch deep, a mile wide and she flows uphill from Texas.

Away or maybe freezin. I got my two horses in here beside the ten cupboard. I pamper them babies somethin terrible. Sleep where you can find a space, but I’m tellin you don’t bother that blood bay none, he will mull you up and spit you out. He’s a spirited steed. Pull up a chair and have some a this son-of-a-
Plot - What Happens

1. Exposition
2. Rising Action
3. Climax
4. Falling Action and Resolution

Freytag Pyramid
Plot - What Happens

Climax: Wolf gets Furnace and jumps down the chimney to get pig #3.

Event #7: Wolf tries to trick Pig #3 to come out of house.

Event #6: Big Bad Wolf can't blow down brick house.

Event #5: Big Bad Wolf builds house of bricks.

Event #4: Big Bad Wolf blows house down and eats pig #2.

Event #3: Wolf blows house of wood.

Event #2: Pig #1 builds house of straw. Pig #1 builds.

Event #1: Wolf blows house of straw. Wolf blows house of wood.

Exposition: All in little house.

Position: Pig #1 builds house.
Plot - What Happens

7 Important Actions/Scenes

- OMG pays off two cowpunchers to not tell
- DS leaves shack and OMG thinks Blood Bay ate him
- Cowpunchers arrive at Old man Grice's Shack
- Dirt Sheets cut off YMC's feet
- Dirt Sheets puts boots by stove
- Young Montana Cowboy dies
- 2 cowpunchers find DS and keep the money for themselves
Dirt Sheets cut off YMC's feet

Plot - What Happens

1. Exposition
   - Young Montana Cowboy dies

2. Rising Action
   - Cowpunchers arrive at Old Man Grice's Shack
   - Dirt Sheets puts boots by stove

3. Rising Action
   - DS leaves shack and OMG thinks Blood Bay ate him

4. Climax
   - OMG pays off two cowpunchers to not tell

5. Falling Action and Resolution
   - 2 cowpunchers find DS and keep the money for themselves
Elements of a Story

Setting
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Take Home Assignment

Look up the definitions of the Elements of a Story
- Point of View
- Conflict
- Themes/Central Ideas

Come in with some examples of each to share!