

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

SCORE/GRADE:

READING QUIZ: *The Cricket in Times Square*

Summarize the story's **RISING ACTION** in a single (sentence / paragraph) on the lines below. Be sure to refer to the events of the story and to explain where and when the rising action stage begins and ends.

Sentence:

Chester befriends Mario and his poor family and becomes a famous musician; but he begins to long for home and freedom.

Paragraph:

Chester struggles mightily within himself. He is torn between two goods: his love for the Bellinis and his love for home. He doesn't wish to desert the boy who saved him, though he longs for home. He wants desperately to do the right thing, to communicate to Mario his gratitude and love, and to be unselfish. Chester's internal conflict is heightened as Tucker Mouse doesn't understand what makes him tick (or chirp, as the case may be...). He wants Chester to perform and make money for all of them. He wants the security of wealth. Chester, on the other hand, wants the security of his natural habitat, of peace and quiet and beauty. Neither Tucker Mouse nor Harry Cat feels the same sense of responsibility that Chester does during the two dollar incident or the newsstand fire. They do not feel compelled to stay and take the rap. Chester must face his internal struggle on his own and in opposition to the perspectives of his new friends. When Mario meets Chester, and Chester meets Harry Cat and Tucker Mouse as a result of the "Picnic Caper," this initial conflict brings the main characters of the story together, precipitating the climax of the story.