



Name \_\_\_\_\_

action and climax

# Highs and Lows

Read the sections of the story. Then answer the questions.

1 Who's to say what *you'd* do under pressure? Here's this kid, for example, blowing away, filling me up with his stinky breath! I'm getting bloated and stretched wider and wider.

a. What is the speaker? \_\_\_\_\_

2 The same nasty kid tied a string to me and taped me to a wall. There's a bunch of us stuck here side by side. Not that I'm likely to fly away. I'm not going anywhere.

b. Why can't the speaker fly away? \_\_\_\_\_

3 Great! Now another brat pulls me off the wall and sits on me. He squashes me something awful, I don't mind telling you.

4 But when he gets off of me, I stretch to my old shape...almost. Another little pointy-hat kid tries it. It's the same thing. Squish, squash. Then I'm round again.

c. What is the speaker's new problem? \_\_\_\_\_

d. What physical quality does this character have? \_\_\_\_\_

5 Now I've been tied to a kid's ankle. I watch others being pulled down and tied too.

6 Suddenly, there's hopping, skipping, and stomping all around the room. I hear the most dreadful sounds from my companions. POP! POP! Oh, no! Am I going to die?

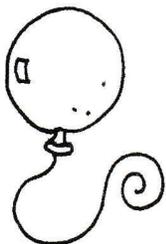
e. What does he hear? \_\_\_\_\_

f. What does the speaker fear? \_\_\_\_\_

7 When it's over, I'm all alone, bruised and battered. I'm left on the floor, the game over.

8 I'm shrinking. I don't feel so tight and stretched. A draft pushes me, and I roll slowly into a corner behind a big armchair. I can rest at last.

g. Why is the speaker shrinking? \_\_\_\_\_



On the graph to the right, rate the eight sections of the story. Which are active? Which are passive? Put Xs in the correct boxes. Then star the box that shows the climax of the story.

Active								
Passive								
Paragraph	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8