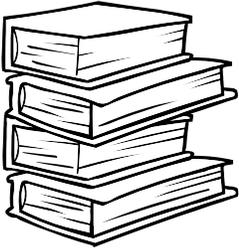


# Folktales, Fairytales, and Legends



Print Partner Title / First Line	Skill
Chicken Little	Recognizing Dialogue and Narration
Cinderella	Recognizing Idioms
Florida Fay	Identifying Elements of Character
Goldilocks and the Three Bears article	Determining Meaning of Multiple-Meaning Words
Goldilocks and the Three Bears	Recognizing Elements of Plot, Idioms, and Dialogue
How South American Birds Got Their Colors	Recognizing Cause and Effect and Retelling a Story
Johnny Appleseed	Identifying the Meaning of Words
Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox	Identifying Elements of Character and Distinguishing Realism and Fantasy
Pecos Bill	Determining Point of View
The Lion and the Mouse	Recognizing Elements of Plot
Two Foolish Frogs	Identifying the Correct Sequence of Events
The Crow and the Pitcher	Answering Questions about Story Elements
The Parrot Who Talked Too Much	Recognizing Theme
The Shoemaker and the Elves	Determining Meaning of Multiple-Meaning Words and Recognizing Theme
The Race	Recognizing the Cause and Effect Pattern of Text
The Tale of the Bobcat's Tail	Determining the Meaning of Multiple-meaning Words
How Anansi Became a Spider	Comparing Themes
Sailing Shoes	Reading Fluently
The Golden Snail	Describing Characters' Changing Feelings
The Well Dragon	Describing Characters' Changing Feelings
The Fairy Cottage	Answering Questions about Main Characters and Setting
The Hungry Sea	Making Inferences

- Print Partners are bundled by theme only. Grade level bundles are available.
- Each Print Partner is a stand-alone worksheet. Pagination on the bottom of each page denotes numbering designed for individual worksheets.



## Recognizing Dialogue and Narration

**Directions:** Read each section of the fairy tale. Then mark each section with an *N* if it is narration or with a *D* if it is dialogue.

### Chicken Little

*Adapted from the Traditional Tale*

\_\_\_\_\_ One day, Chicken Little wandered through the farmyard when a large brown acorn fell right on the middle of his head.

\_\_\_\_\_ “Ouch!” Chicken Little squealed. “The sky is falling. I must go tell the king right away!”

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Little scurried through the farmyard and into the great meadow where he ran into Henny Penny.

\_\_\_\_\_ “Hi, there!” Henny Penny said to Chicken Little. “Where are you going in such a hurry?” “The sky is falling,” Chicken Little replied. “I’m going to the castle to tell the king! You should come along.”

\_\_\_\_\_ Henny Penny agreed and followed Chicken Little through the meadow where they ran into Loosey Goosey.

\_\_\_\_\_ “Hello, my friends,” Loosey Goosey honked. “Where are you going in such a fuss?” “The sky is falling,” Chicken Little explained. “We’re going to the castle to warn the king. You should come with us.”

\_\_\_\_\_ So Chicken Little, Henny Penny, and Loosey Goosey sprinted toward the castle with their feathers flying. It wasn't long before the three ran into Turkey Lurkey.

\_\_\_\_\_ "What's the rush?" Turkey Lurkey asked the three friends.

\_\_\_\_\_ "The sky is falling," Chicken Little replied. "We're going to the castle to tell the king."

\_\_\_\_\_ "What a great idea! I'm coming too," Turkey Lurkey cried.

\_\_\_\_\_ So Chicken Little, Henny Penny, Loosey Goosey, and Turkey Lurkey made their way toward the castle. The four friends ran out of the meadow area and into the forest. Just then, Foxy Loxy jumped out from behind a tree.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Well, hello there," Foxy Loxy growled. "What's all the excitement? Surely you can stop and play for awhile."

\_\_\_\_\_ "Oh, no!" Chicken Little gasped. "There's not much time because the sky is falling. We're going to the castle to warn the king!"

\_\_\_\_\_ "Is that so?" Foxy Loxy replied. "I happen to know a great shortcut to the castle. Why don't you follow me?"

\_\_\_\_\_ The four friends gratefully agreed. Chicken Little, Henny Penny, Loosey Goosey, and Turkey Lurkey followed the sly fox though the forest and right into her den.



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## Recognizing Idioms

**Directions:** Read the fairy tale. Then underline each of the seven idioms the tale contains.

### Cinderella

*Adapted from the Traditional Tale*

Cinderella was a loving girl with a heart of gold. She never spoke an unkind word and treated her animal friends with tender care. But Cinderella's stepmother and two stepsisters were bad eggs. They yelled at Cinderella until they were blue in the face. They made her do all of the cooking and cleaning. Poor Cinderella worked her fingers to the bone.

However, Cinderella had one thing to look forward to—the prince's ball! The prince invited everyone in the kingdom. Cinderella dreamed of dancing in the castle and meeting the charming prince. Of course, the stepmother and stepsisters tried to ruin that too. As they left for the party, the stepsisters ripped Cinderella's dress apart. They laughed wickedly as Cinderella lay weeping on the floor.

Luckily, Cinderella's fairy godmother came to the rescue. With a wave of a magic wand, Cinderella wore a beautiful new dress and tiny glass slippers. Mice turned into white horses, and an old pumpkin became a grand carriage. The fairy godmother gave Cinderella only one warning—at midnight, the spell would end.

When Cinderella entered the castle, she instantly caught the prince's eye. He had never seen anyone so amazing. The prince swept Cinderella onto the dance floor, and the two never left each

other's side. Cinderella had a ball at the party, and she lost track of time. Suddenly, the large tower clock struck midnight. Cinderella tore herself from the prince's arms. She ran so quickly from the party that she dropped one of her slippers on the castle stairs. Cinderella never even told the prince her name.

The lovesick prince would not stop until he found his true love again. He sent his helper to every house in the kingdom. The helper had every girl try on the dainty slipper. When the helper finally came to Cinderella's house, Cinderella spilled the beans. She had the matching shoe! Cinderella and the prince married the very next day. And they lived happily ever after.

**Directions:** Record each of the underlined idioms from the fairy tale on the lines below. Then write what each one means.

Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Directions:** Record each of the underlined idioms from the fairy tale on the lines below. Then write what each one means.

Idiom: Heart of gold

Meaning: Kind

Idiom: bad eggs

Meaning: Bad or mean people

Idiom: Blue in the face

Meaning: Out of air

Idiom: Work her fingers to the bone

Meaning: To work very hard

Idiom: **Caught the prince's eye**

Meaning: **Caught the prince's attention**

Idiom: **Had a ball**

Meaning: **Had a good time**

Idiom: **Spilled the beans**

Meaning: **Told something; told the truth**



## Identifying Elements of Character

**Directions:** Read the tall tale. Then complete the graphic organizer that follows.

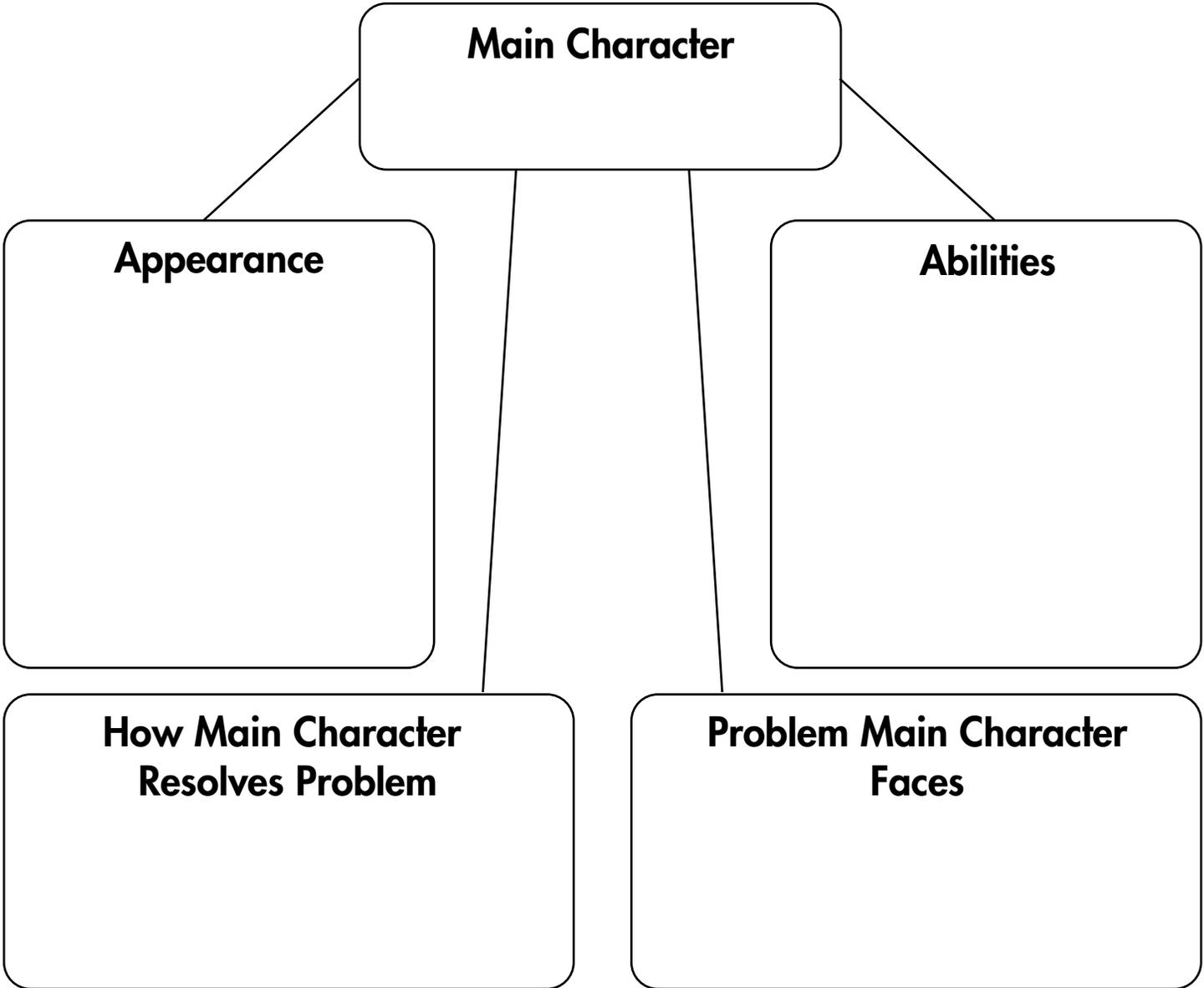
### Florida Fay

Once there was girl called Fay. She had the biggest and brightest smile in all of Florida. It twinkled and glowed like one million fireflies in the sky. It stretched from ear to ear and head to toe. People all across America said that it was not the sun that kept Florida warm and cloudless most of the year. They said it was the amazing smile of Florida Fay. They also said that one tiny grin from Fay could turn enemies into best friends. Her grin was equally known to turn lemons into lemonade.

One day, a huge snowstorm tore across the state of Minnesota. It covered the land from top to bottom. People lost electricity and heat. All of Minnesota turned pitch black. Everyone was horribly cold. It was so cold that even ice cubes shivered. The governor declared an emergency. He brought together his smartest advisors to figure out a solution to the problem. Finally, someone thought of Florida Fay.

The governor brought Florida Fay on an airplane to the frozen state. They asked her to smile. Her smile lit up Minnesota like a giant lantern. It melted all of the snow in just one hour. It became so hot that the people of Minnesota threw off their mittens and scarves and went about their business in bathing suits. Florida Fay saved the day with her giant smile that stretched from ear to ear and head to toe.

1. Think about the main character, Florida Fay. Then write details about her in the boxes below.



**Directions:** Read the question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

2. Explain why the tall tale is funny.

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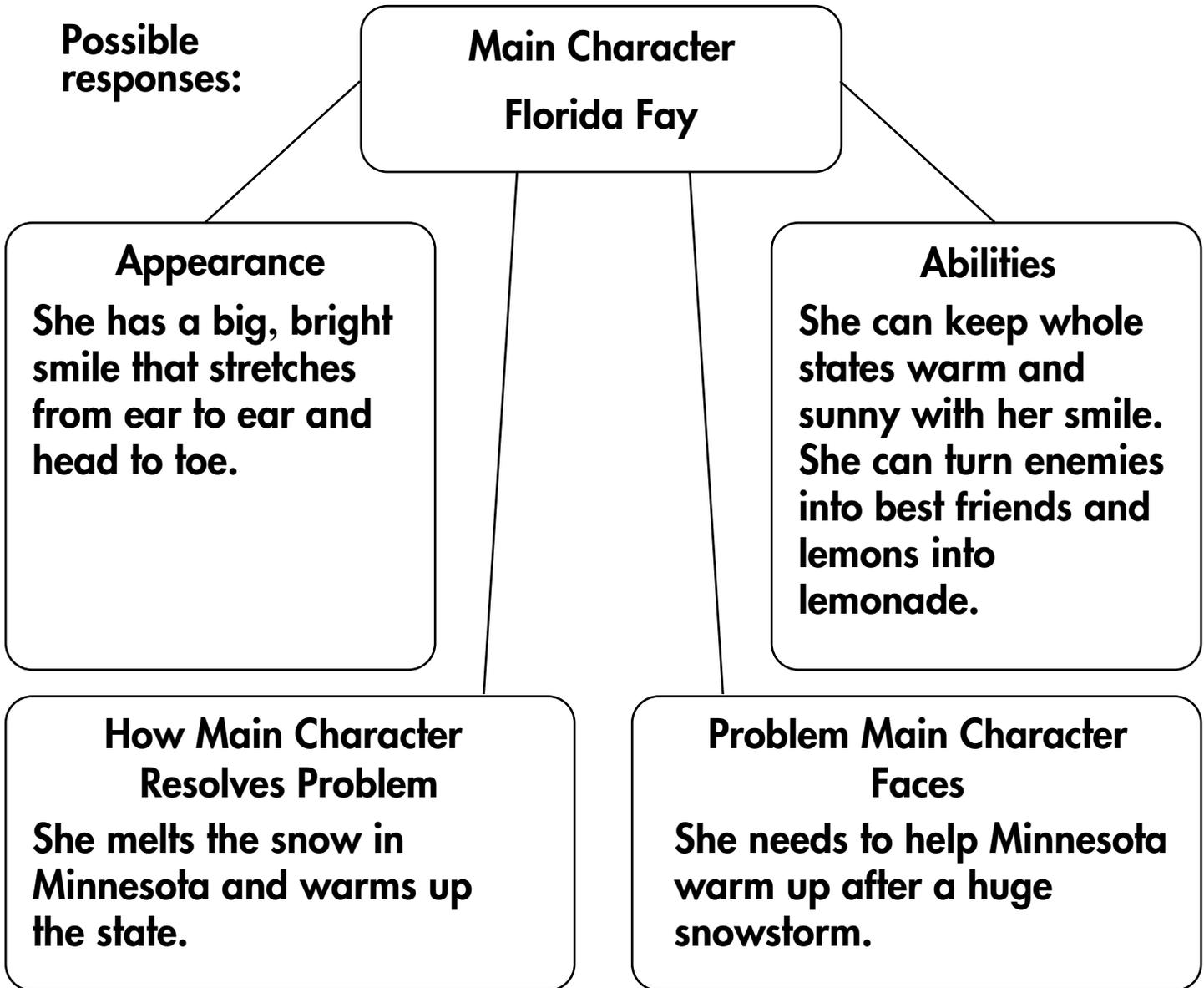
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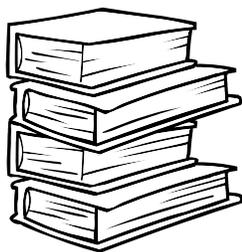
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## Mixed Skills: Determining Meaning of Multiple-Meaning Words

**Directions:** Read the newspaper article. Then read each question and circle the correct answer.

### Forest Union News

#### Girl Meets with Bears to Say, “I’m Sorry”

THE WOODS, Jan. 20 - Goldilocks has come forward to say she made a big mistake and that she should not have gone into the Three Bears’ home. She has told the bears, “I am very sorry. I will never do something like that again.”

Last week, the bears came home to find someone in their house. Papa Bear said, “We noticed our porridge looked different when we saw there was nothing left in Baby Bear’s bowl. We also noticed that someone had been sitting in our chairs.”

Then the bears checked out the rest of their house. Baby Bear cried when he saw someone in his bed. The bears say that this person then jumped out the window and ran away. Neighbors saw a figure dashing from the bears’ house that same night. Baby Bear is certain it was a girl. Now that girl is ready to be responsible for what she did.

The bears were asked to accept the young, curly-haired girl’s apology. Mama Bear responded in a kind voice. She said, “Of

course we will. And Goldilocks may visit us anytime. But next time, she should knock first. Also, we will be adding a big lock to our door!”

1. Complete the sentence with the correct word.

Mama Bear said that \_\_\_\_\_ getting a new lock for the door.

- A. they're
- B. there
- C. their
- D. they

2. Complete the sentence with the correct word.

\_\_\_\_\_ were several neighbors who saw a figure running away.

- A. They're
- B. There
- C. Their
- D. They

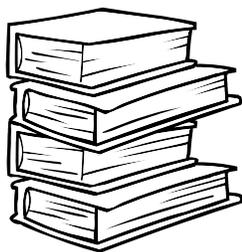
3. Why was Goldilocks apologizing to the bears?
- A. She wanted to eat more of the bears' porridge.
  - B. She ran away from them without saying goodbye.
  - C. She went into their house without asking.
  - D. The bears told her to apologize to them.
4. What was the first clue that someone was in the bears' house?
- A. The front door of the house was open.
  - B. All of the porridge was gone from the bowl.
  - C. The bears saw Goldilocks in Baby Bear's bed.
  - D. Someone was seen running away from the house.
5. Why are the bears getting a lock on their door?

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## Mixed Skills: Determining Meaning of Multiple-Meaning Words

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1. Complete the sentence with the correct word.

Mama Bear said that \_\_\_\_\_ getting a new lock for the door.

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2. Complete the sentence with the correct word.

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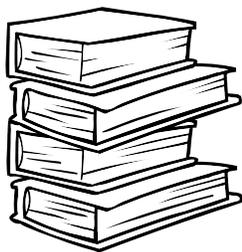
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  - D. Someone was seen running away from the house.
5. Why are the bears getting a lock on their door?

**Answers will vary. Possible response: They don't want someone else to go into their house.**

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## Mixed Skills: Recognizing Elements of Plot, Idioms, and Dialogue

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then read each question and circle the correct answer.

### Goldilocks and the Three Bears

*Adapted from the Traditional Tale*

One morning when Goldilocks was walking through the forest, she came upon a cozy cottage. The cottage in the woods was where the three bears lived. Because no one was home, Goldilocks went inside the house. She found three bowls of porridge sitting on the wooden kitchen table. She decided to eat it. The cereal in the biggest bowl was too hot. The cereal in the medium-sized bowl was too cold. But when Goldilocks tasted the cereal in the smallest bowl, she squealed in delight, “Oh, yummy! This porridge is just right!”

After the young, curly-haired girl gobbled up the breakfast, she grew very, very sleepy. Three chairs in the next room caught her eye. Goldilocks wandered in and sat in the biggest chair, but it was too hard. The medium-sized chair was too soft. When Goldilocks sat in the smallest of the chairs, it broke into a million pieces. “Oh, dear!” Goldilocks muttered. “I’d better find another place to rest.” Goldilocks crept up the spiral stairs to the bedroom. She crawled into the smallest bed and slept like a baby.

Just then, the three bears came home. Father Bear instantly smelled a rat. He saw Baby Bear’s empty porridge bowl and the

pieces of Baby Bear's chair. He grew very hot under the collar and hollered, "Who's been eating our food and sitting in our chairs?"

"Here she is!" Mother Bear called from the upstairs bedroom. "And she's sleeping in Baby Bear's tiny bed! The three snarling, growling bears leaned over the snoozing Goldilocks. She slowly opened her tired, green eyes and gazed at the three angry faces. Then Goldilocks screamed, jumped out of bed, ran down the stairs, and flew the coop. She sprinted all the way home and never went back to the cozy cottage again.

1. What does the phrase "hot under the collar" mean?
  - A. to be surprised
  - B. to be angry
  - C. to be helpless
  - D. to be happy
2. Which of the following sentences shows dialogue?
  - A. "Here she is!"
  - B. Father Bear smelled a rat.
  - C. The chair was too soft.
  - D. The three bears came home.

3. What does the phrase “flew the coop” mean?

- A. to catch chickens
- B. to go to sleep
- C. to run away or disappear
- D. to fly on an airplane

4. When does the climax of the story take place?

- A. when Goldilocks eats the cereal
- B. when Goldilocks goes to sleep
- C. when the bears find Goldilocks
- D. when Goldilocks runs home

**Directions:** Read the question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

5. What do you think would be another good ending, or resolution, to this story?

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## Mixed Skills: Recognizing Elements of Plot, Idioms, and Dialogue

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- C. when the bears find Goldilocks**
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**Directions:** Read the question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below. **Answers will vary.**

5. What do you think would be another good ending, or resolution, to this story?

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## Mixed Skills: Recognizing Cause and Effect and Retelling a Story

**Directions:** Read the myth. Then read each question and circle the correct answer.

### How South American Birds Got Their Colors

Long ago, all the birds in the South American forests wore plain black or brown feathers. They stayed that way for many years. One day, a snake glided through the forest. As he slithered along, the snake ate a bunch of red flowers. Suddenly, bright red dots covered his skin. When he ate yellow flowers, yellow dots appeared. Blue flowers brought blue dots. Soon, the proud snake had the most beautiful skin in the forest. But the birds became angry. They yelled at the snake for eating all the flowers. The snake felt ashamed and embarrassed. He shook and trembled so hard that his skin split apart. Then the snake slipped out of his colorful skin. The birds immediately swooped down. They took the colors off the skin and placed them on their feathers. The birds of South America still wear these bright colors today.

1. Where does the story take place?
  - A. in a flower
  - B. in a bird's nest
  - C. in a snake's den
  - D. in a forest

2. What caused the birds to become angry?
  - A. The snake was in their neighborhood.
  - B. The snake ate all the flowers.
  - C. They disliked the snake's colors.
  - D. They disliked living in the forest.
  
3. What effect did the birds' anger have?
  - A. The snake left the forest.
  - B. The snake fought with the birds.
  - C. The snake became embarrassed.
  - D. The snake ate more and more flowers.
  
4. What does the main idea of this myth describe?
  - A. how South American birds got their colors
  - B. how South American snakes split their skin
  - C. how snakes and birds became friends
  - D. how a snake can trick birds

**Directions:** Read the question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

5. Retell the myth in your own words. Include details about the characters, setting, and main events.

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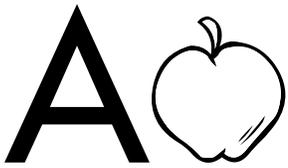
5. Retell the myth in your own words. Include details about the characters, setting, and main events.

**Possible response: Once there was a snake who lived in the forest. He started eating flowers, and they gave him spots on his skin. The birds were angry because he was eating all the flowers. They shouted at the snake. The snake got so scared that he broke his skin. The birds flew down and took the colors for their feathers.**

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## Identifying the Meaning of Words

**Directions:** Read the tall tale. Then complete the activities below.

### **Johnny Appleseed**

*Adapted from the Traditional Tale*

Johnny Appleseed is famous for planting millions of apple seeds all across America. He believed that apple trees were beneficial to the earth. His name in real life was John Chapman. He was one of the first settlers in America to explore the territory west of the Ohio River. He scattered seeds wherever he went. When a larger population of settlers came to the land, they had apples to eat. They started to call John Chapman the “Apple Tree Man.” Later, he became known primarily as “Johnny Appleseed.”

Johnny Appleseed was a man of great kindness. He wanted to serve all people and all animals. He lived a very simple life. He walked barefoot through the wilderness and used his cooking pot for a hat. Johnny wore sacks as clothes. He used his feet to melt snow for water. He wanted to produce apples everywhere so that no one would have to be hungry. As he walked, Johnny Appleseed talked to the animals he met along the path. Once, he spent the night in a den with sleeping bears to keep warm.

1. Underline the word in the passage that means “goodness.”
2. Circle the word in the passage that means “the natural outdoors.”

3. Draw a line from each word on the left to its correct meaning on the right.

produce

an area of land

territory

good for

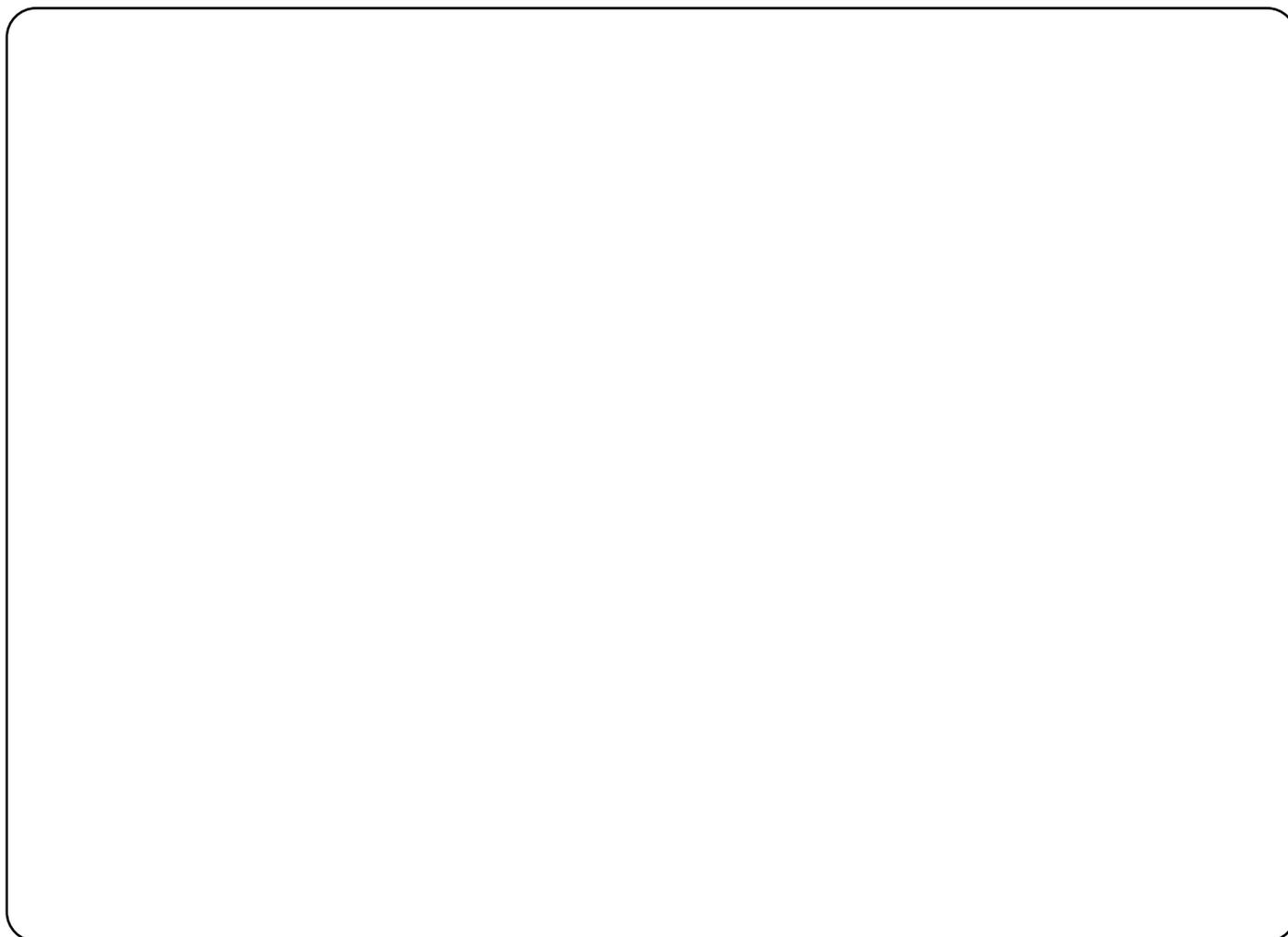
beneficial

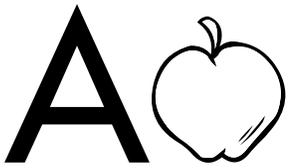
a group

population

to cause to exist

4. Draw a picture to illustrate the tall tale.





## Identifying the Meaning of Words

**Directions:** Read the tall tale. Then complete the activities below.

### Johnny Appleseed

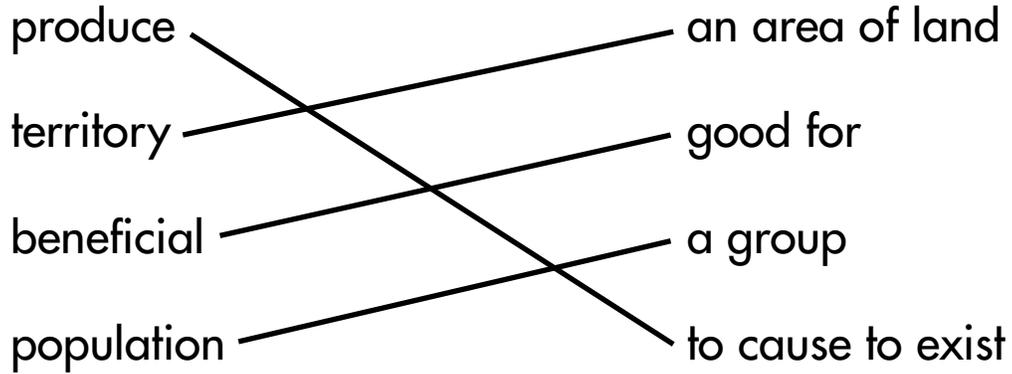
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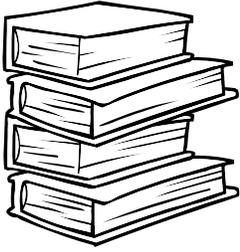
1. Underline the word in the passage that means “goodness.”
2. Circle the word in the passage that means “the natural outdoors.”

3. Draw a line from each word on the left to its correct meaning on the right.



4. Draw a picture to illustrate the tall tale.

**Answers will vary.**



## Mixed Skills: Identifying Elements of Character and Distinguishing Realism and Fantasy

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then read each question and circle the correct answer.

### **Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox**

*Adapted from the Traditional Tale*

When Paul Bunyan was born, his parents were in for a giant surprise. Paul was not an ordinary baby. He was enormous. He weighed 80 pounds only three hours after his birth. He could wear his father's clothing when he was only one week old. He gobbled up 40 bowls of cereal for breakfast. After that, he was still hungry. Paul's size expanded so quickly that he soon needed to wear clothes with wagon wheels for buttons. Paul had the strength of 100 men. He grew up to become the world's greatest lumberjack. He turned trees into lumber for people to build houses.

One winter, it was so cold that the snow turned blue. Paul continued to work. As he tromped across the blue landscape, he began to hear a snorting sound. Paul followed the sound until he came across a teeny baby ox. The ox was jumping mad! He was so small that he could not see over the high drifts of snow. Paul laughed at the sight of it. Paul brought the tiny ox home and named him Babe. He fed and washed him. But the snow had stained Babe's fur blue forever!

It turns out that Babe and Paul had plenty in common. Babe started growing and did not quit. People said they could see him

widening right before their eyes. Babe could swallow 30 bales of hay at one time. He even gulped down the wire that they were bound in. It took six men to extract the wire out of his teeth when he was finished. Babe grew to be so enormous that it took a crow an entire day to fly from one of his horns to the other.

Paul and Babe were best friends. They helped each other in every way they could. Paul would chop down a forest of trees in just a few minutes. Babe would haul them off across the Minnesota terrain just as swiftly. Paul hollowed out a lake so that Babe had a watering hole. Babe helped Paul around the lumberjack camp. Babe's main job was to straighten out the twisted mountain roads. He would secure one end of a road on each horn. Then he would shake the road until it lay in a straight line.

Now Paul and Babe the Big Blue Ox did not always have the best of luck. One winter, Babe knocked a bag of peas off the kitchen counter with his tail. The peas scattered far and wide! They flew so far that they knocked over Paul's lumberjack friends who were coming home for lunch. Most of the peas landed in a pond a few states away. They turned that pond into the biggest bowl of pea soup in North America. But nobody minded because the soup fed Paul and Babe the Blue Ox for an entire year!

1. Paul Bunyan and Babe are both \_\_\_\_\_
- A. blue and horned.
  - B. logging men.
  - C. enormous and strong.
  - D. afraid of crows.

3. The word **swiftly** means \_\_\_\_\_
- A. fast.
  - B. strong.
  - C. huge.
  - D. twisted.

2. Paul created a lake so that Babe could \_\_\_\_\_
- A. see over the snow.
  - B. drink fresh water.
  - C. haul more trees .
  - D. warm up.

4. How did Babe become blue?
- A. He was jumping mad.
  - B. He straightened out a road.
  - C. He was stained by the snow.
  - D. He drank a lot of milk.

**Directions:** Read the question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

5. Explain why this story is a tall tale.

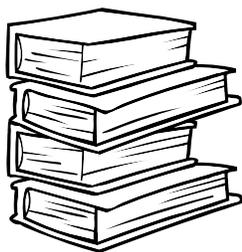
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- A. He was jumping mad.
  - B. He straightened out a road.
  - C. He was stained by the snow.**
  - D. He drank a lot of milk.

**Directions:** Read the question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below. **Answers will vary.**

5. Explain why this story is a tall tale.

**Possible response: The story is an exaggeration. It is funny to read. The main character has superhuman abilities.**

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## Determining Point of View

**Directions:** Read the tall tale. Then answer the questions that follow.

### **Pecos Bill**

*Adapted from the Traditional Tale*

People from all over say that Pecos Bill could ride any horse, no matter how wild. As a matter of fact, Pecos Bill could ride anything. One day, he decided that he wanted to ride a tornado. However, he did not want to ride just any tornado. He wanted to ride the biggest and meanest tornado ever. He waited and waited. Finally, in the state of Kansas, a tornado came along. The tornado roared like a pride of lions. It was so loud that people living on the other side of the earth could hear it. Pecos Bill jumped up on the back of that tornado as it whipped by. The tornado twisted and howled like a hungry wolf. It tried to hurl old Bill back onto the ground, but he hung on. His hair flew out behind him like a flag in the wind.

The tornado whirled across four western states. It struggled to throw Bill off of its back. It carved up mountains and turned them into canyons. It turned whole forests into deserts that threw up dust and turned the air dry and hot. Bill kept on riding until that tornado hit California. It was there that he finally fell off. It is said that he hit the ground so forcefully that it sank below sea level. The place where Bill landed became known as Death Valley, one of the hottest places on the planet.

1. Who is telling this tall tale? How can you tell? Write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

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2. What makes this story a tall tale? Write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

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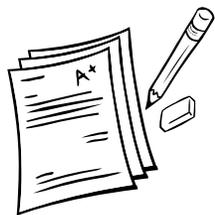
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**Directions:** Complete the graphic organizer below.

3. Draw a picture for each plot element. Then explain each picture by writing a sentence below it.

<b>Pecos Bill</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Rising Action</b>
<b>Climax</b>	<b>Falling Action</b>	<b>Resolution</b>



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1. Who is telling this tall tale? How can you tell? Write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below. **Answers will vary.**

**A narrator is telling this tall tale. You can tell because it is written in the third person.**

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2. What makes this story a tall tale? Write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below. **Answers will vary.**

**A tall tale is an exaggerated story and is often amusing. This story is funny to read and has a main character with superhuman abilities.**

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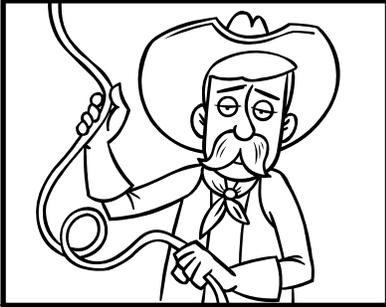
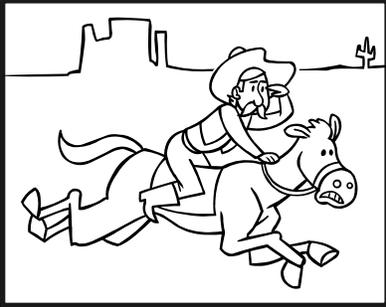
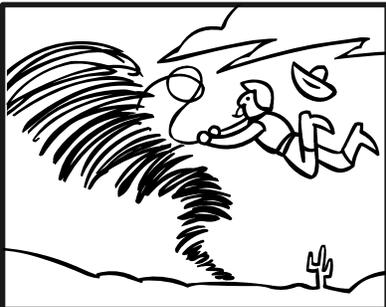
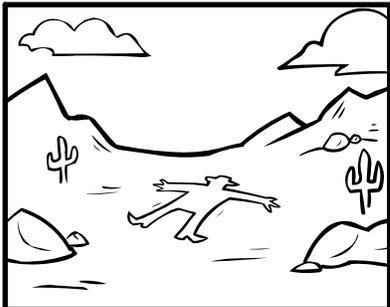
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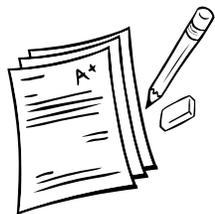
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**Directions:** Complete the graphic organizer below. **Answers will vary.**

3. Draw a picture for each plot element. Then explain each picture by writing a sentence below it.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pecos Bill</b></p>  <p><b>This is a picture of Pecos Bill.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Introduction</b></p>  <p><b>This is Pecos Bill looking for a tornado while riding his horse.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rising Action</b></p>  <p><b>The huge tornado arrives.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Climax</b></p>  <p><b>This shows Pecos Bill jumping up on the tornado and beginning to ride it.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Falling Action</b></p>  <p><b>Here we see Pecos Bill struggling to hang on to the tornado.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Resolution</b></p>  <p><b>Pecos Bill finally falls off the tornado. He falls so hard that he creates Death Valley.</b></p>



## Recognizing Elements of Plot

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then draw a line matching the correct plot element to the correct part of the story.

### The Lion and the Mouse

A little brown mouse scurried along the jungle floor. He soon discovered a warm and soft place to sleep. Little did he know that his new bed lay on a lion's head. The lion felt the little mouse in his fur and roared fiercely.

"Please don't eat me, Mr. Lion!" the mouse begged. "I know I am small. But if you spare my life, I promise I will help you one day." The mighty lion laughed at the silly idea. Such a tiny animal could never do anything for him! But the lion also knew that the mouse was too little to fill his belly. He decided to let him go.

The very next day, the mouse heard the lion's roars echo through the jungle. These roars were not fierce, but rather, sad and worried. The mouse followed the lion's cries for help through the jungle and into a clearing. There, the mouse found the weeping lion bound in a hunter's net. The lion thrashed at the net with his sharp claws, struggling hard to get free before the hunter returned. The mouse remembered his promise to help the lion. He quickly jumped onto the net and chewed through the ropes. Within minutes, the lion was free.

With the promise complete, the proud mouse and the grateful lion ran back into the jungle. There, they lived as friends for the rest of their long lives.

conflict

The mouse hears the lion's roars for help. He finds the lion caught in a net, struggling to get free.

rising action

The mouse frees the lion. The two live as friends for the rest of their lives.

climax

The mouse remembers his promise to help the lion. He chews through the net.

resolution

The lion catches the mouse. The mouse begs for his life and promises to help the lion one day.

**Directions:** Read the questions. Then write your answers in complete sentences on the lines provided.

1. What is the main problem in this story?

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2. How is the problem solved?

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## Recognizing Elements of Plot

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then draw a line matching the correct plot element to the correct part of the story.

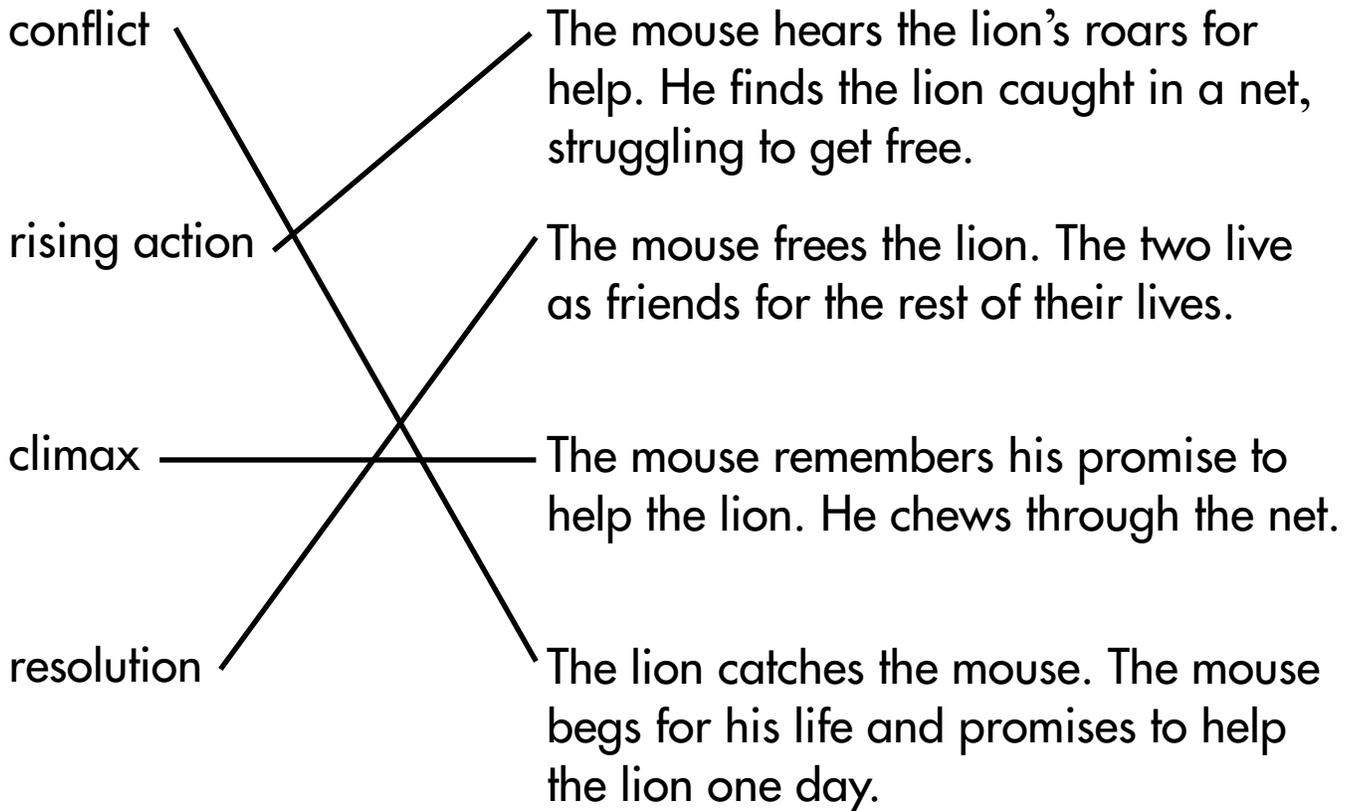
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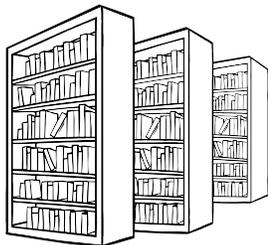
**Directions:** Read the questions. Then write your answers in complete sentences on the lines provided.

1. What is the main problem in this story?

**The mouse must keep his promise to help the lion one day.**  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How is the problem solved?

**The mouse chews through the net and sets the lion free.**  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Identifying the Correct Sequence of Events

**Directions:** Read the folktale. Then read each question and circle the correct answer.

### Two Foolish Frogs

*Adapted from Andrew Lang*

- 1 One day, a frog who lived in Osaka, Japan, decided to take a journey. The Osaka frog had seen very little of Japan. He wanted to visit the city of Kyoto. On the very same day, a frog in Kyoto, Japan, also fancied seeing the world. The Kyoto frog had lived in one city for his entire life. Each brought a small bag for the journey. Each left their ponds behind and started hopping to an adventure. They did not know each other, but they would soon meet.
- 2 Osaka and Kyoto were far apart with a tall mountain between them. The Osaka frog and the Kyoto frog were forced to climb a long way. Rocks and tall grasses covered the upward trail. Each frog struggled for three days to reach the top of the mountain. The two travelers finally met when they reached the peak. They jumped back in surprise when they saw each other. The two frogs started talking at once. They explained they wanted to see the other's home city.
- 3 The Kyoto frog told his new friend to hop on his back. Then he could see Kyoto from the mountaintop. The Osaka frog did so. He was soon disappointed. He saw that Kyoto looked exactly the same as Osaka. Then the Osaka frog had the Kyoto frog

jump on his back. The Kyoto frog could see that Osaka looked exactly the same as his hometown. The two disappointed frogs decided to go home. They did not want to go so far to visit a place that was the same as home. The two frogs did not realize something important. Their eyes were on top of their heads. When they climbed on the other's back, their eyes looked behind them. Each frog had seen his own city.

1. What happens first in this folktale?
  - A. Two frogs are disappointed.
  - B. The Osaka frog leaves his home.
  - C. Two frogs start talking to each other.
  - D. The Kyoto frog sees his own city.
  
2. The frogs climb a mountain \_\_\_\_
  - A. in the beginning of the story.
  - B. during the middle of the story.
  - C. at the end of the story.
  - D. in the first paragraph of the story.
  
3. Where can the author add a sentence telling how foolish the frogs are?
  - A. after the last paragraph
  - B. before the first sentence
  - C. at the beginning of the story
  - D. in the middle of the story

4. The reader learns the frogs will not see the new cities in the \_\_\_\_
- A. first sentence.
  - B. second paragraph.
  - C. middle of the story.
  - D. third paragraph.

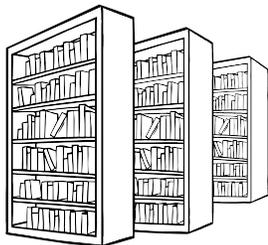
**Directions:** Read the question. Then write one sentence in each box.

5. Look at the boxes. Tell what happens at the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

**Beginning**

**Middle**

**End**



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**Beginning**

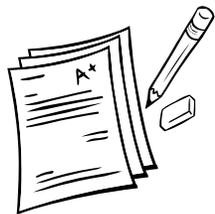
**Two frogs decide to see the world.**

**Middle**

**They climb a mountain and meet at the top.**

**End**

**The frogs see their own cities and decide they will return home.**



## Answering Questions about Story Elements

**Directions:** Read the story. Then complete the activities below.

### **The Crow and the Pitcher**

*Based on Aesop's Fables*

One boiling afternoon, a crow landed on a porch. She was terribly hot and thirsty. She noticed a pitcher of water sitting on a table. She hopped to the table and tried to take a big, long drink. But sadly, the water was too low. How upset the crow was when she couldn't reach the water!

Now, the crow never gave up on something she wanted. She thought about how she could reach the water inside. She couldn't tip the pitcher over because the water might spill. She couldn't climb in the pitcher because she was too big. The crow started to get upset and impatient. Then an idea came to her!

The crow picked up a rock from the ground and flew to the pitcher. She dropped the rock into the pitcher. The water rose a little bit! But it was still too low to reach. So, the crow got another rock and dropped it in the pitcher. Then she got another rock and another and another! "One more rock should do it," the crow said. She picked up one last rock and dropped it into the pitcher.

Finally the water was high enough for her to drink. The crow sipped on the water for a long time. After she drank her fill, she spread her wings and disappeared in the sky.

## Setting

In the passage, underline clues about where the story takes place. Then read the sentences below and fill in the blanks with the correct word.

1. The crow landed on a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It was a very \_\_\_\_\_ afternoon.

## Characters

Circle the words below that best describe the crow.

determined      lazy      mean      smart      thirsty  
sleepy      hardworking      hot      hungry

## Plot

In the passage, draw a box around an important part of the plot. Then answer the questions below.

1. Does this part take place in the beginning, middle, or end of the story? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think this is an important part of the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Theme

What do you think is the main message of this story?

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## Answering Questions about Story Elements

**Directions:** Read the story. Then complete the activities below.

### The Crow and the Pitcher

*Based on Aesop's Fables*

One boiling afternoon, a crow landed on a porch. She was terribly hot and thirsty. She noticed a pitcher of water sitting on a table. She hopped to the table and tried to take a big, long drink. But sadly, the water was too low. How upset the crow was when she couldn't reach the water!

Now, the crow never gave up on something she wanted. She thought about how she could reach the water inside. She couldn't tip the pitcher over because the water might spill. She couldn't climb in the pitcher because she was too big. The crow started to get upset and impatient. Then an idea came to her!

The crow picked up a rock from the ground and flew to the pitcher. She dropped the rock into the pitcher. The water rose a little bit! But it was still too low to reach. So, the crow got another rock and dropped it in the pitcher. Then she got another rock and another and another! "One more rock should do it," the crow said. She picked up one last rock and dropped it into the pitcher.

Finally the water was high enough for her to drink. The crow sipped on the water for a long time. After she drank her fill, she spread her wings and disappeared in the sky.

## Setting

In the passage, underline clues about where the story takes place. Then read the sentences below and fill in the blanks with the correct word.

1. The crow landed on a \_\_\_\_\_ **porch** \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It was a very \_\_\_\_\_ **hot** \_\_\_\_\_ afternoon.

## Characters

Circle the words below that best describe the crow.

determined    lazy    mean     smart     thirsty  
 sleepy     hardworking     hot    hungry

## Plot

In the passage, draw a box around an important part of the plot. Then answer the questions below.

1. Does this part take place in the beginning, middle, or end of the story? **Answers will vary.** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think this is an important part of the story?  
**Answers will vary.** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Theme

What do you think is the main message of this story?

**Answers will vary.**

**Possible response: Never give up; work hard for what you want; think of solutions to your problems.**



## Recognizing Theme

**Directions:** Read the folktale. Then complete the activities that follow.

### The Parrot Who Talked Too Much

Once there was a very talkative parrot that lived in the forest with many other animals. The other animals were friendly animals for the most part, but they had reached the end of their rope. They were not happy with Paul the parrot because he would not stop talking. From the first rays of the sun until nightfall, Paul loved to chatter and fuss the through whole day.

But that was not the worst of it. He said things all the time that were wrong and he used sayings that did not fit the animal. He said to Brad the beaver, “Sorry you are down in the dumps today.” But Brad felt just fine before Paul came along.

Paul said to Ronald the rabbit, “Hey Ronald, don’t spill the beans today.” This was a silly thing to say to Ronald, because he was the quietest of all the animals.

Bernice the bear was talking to her friend Freda the fox when Paul flew up. He said, “Hey Bernice, cat got your tongue?” Bernice stopped talking and looked at Paul.

“Paul, I am talking to my friend. The cat does not have my tongue, and you interrupted me.”

Paul did not listen to her because he already was chatting away to Millie the moose. “Millie, you better make tracks now.” Millie had just started grazing in her favorite field of clover, so she certainly did not want to hurry away somewhere else.

Paul was really annoying the other animals. They decided to hold a meeting about the problem. They met in Bernice's cave so Paul could not find them.

“We have to do something about Paul,” said Brad. “I like him but he has become very annoying. What shall we do? We don't want to hurt his feelings, but he needs to face the music.”

They all thought awhile. Then Millie said, “We all like to use these sayings, but we know the right way to use them. Maybe we could make Paul a book, and he could read his mistakes.”

So the animals worked hard and made Paul a lovely book of sayings. They wrapped it up and presented it to him.

Paul loved his present, and for the rest of the day the forest was quiet. From then on, Paul used the sayings correctly when talking to the animals. He also learned that he loved to read and started to read as much as he could. He did not have time to chatter all day. The forest was now a very peaceful place for all the animals. Paul learned that change could be good. His friends helped him find something else to love and that made everyone happy.

1. Find the sayings in the folktale and underline them. Then write the number of the meaning next to the matching idiom below.

\_\_\_\_\_ cat got your tongue

\_\_\_\_\_ down in the dumps

\_\_\_\_\_ make tracks

\_\_\_\_\_ spill the beans

\_\_\_\_\_ end of your rope

\_\_\_\_\_ face the music

1. to feel very sad

2. to accept responsibility

3. having no more patience

4. to hurry along

5. not able to think of anything to say

6. to tell a secret

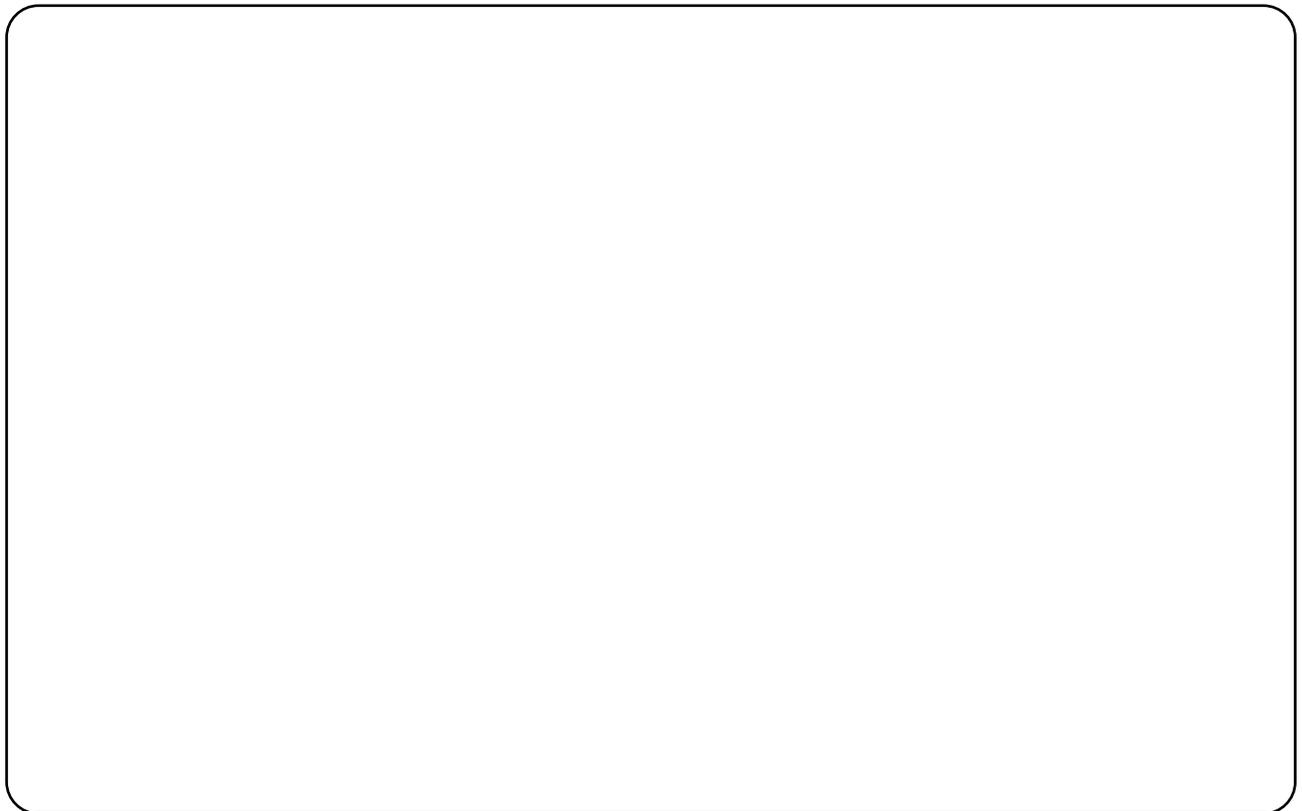
2. List two ways the book made by the animals solved the problem with Paul the parrot.

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3. Read the first paragraph of the folktale again. Circle the main idea of the paragraph. Then draw a box around two supporting details to the main idea.

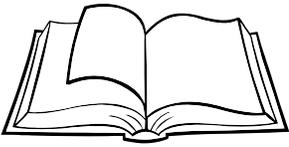
4. Choose one of the sayings from the folktale. Draw a picture in the box of how it might look.



5. What is the theme of the folktale?

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## Recognizing Theme

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But that was not the worst of it. He said things all the time that were wrong and he used sayings that did not fit the animal. He said to Brad the beaver, “Sorry you are down in the dumps today.” But Brad felt just fine before Paul came along.

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They all thought awhile. Then Millie said, “We all like to use these sayings, but we know the right way to use them. Maybe we could make Paul a book, and he could read his mistakes.”

So the animals worked hard and made Paul a lovely book of sayings. They wrapped it up and presented it to him.

Paul loved his present, and for the rest of the day the forest was quiet. From then on, Paul used the sayings correctly when talking to the animals. He also learned that he loved to read and started to read as much as he could. He did not have time to chatter all day. The forest was now a very peaceful place for all the animals. Paul learned that change could be good. His friends helped him find something else to love and that made everyone happy.

1. Find the sayings in the folktale and underline them. Then write the number of the meaning next to the matching idiom below.

5 cat got your tongue

1 down in the dumps

4 make tracks

6 spill the beans

3 end of your rope

2 face the music

1. to feel very sad

2. to accept responsibility

3. having no more patience

4. to hurry along

5. not able to think of anything to say

6. to tell a secret

2. List two ways the book made by the animals solved the problem with Paul the parrot.

**Paul read the book and found out the right way to use the sayings.**

**Paul started to read other books and was not talking so much.**

3. Read the first paragraph of the folktale again. Circle the main idea of the paragraph. Then draw a box around two supporting details to the main idea.
4. Choose one of the sayings from the folktale. Draw a picture in the box of how it might look.

**Pictures will vary.**

5. What is the theme of the folktale?

**It is good to help friends in a kind and caring way.**

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## Determining Meaning of Multiple-meaning Words and Recognizing Theme

**Directions:** Read the folktale. Then read each question and circle the correct answer.

### The Shoemaker and the Elves

Once there was a shoemaker who worked hard for his living. This shoemaker made the best shoes around, and took great care in every step of his making shoes. He would choose leather as soft as butter and the strongest thread. He would create a perfect pattern for the shoes. Then he carefully measured, cut, and sewed the shoes. It took him a very long time to finish each pair.

After he was done, he would sell the shoes. Sometimes a person might need the shoes but have little money to pay him, so the shoemaker would sell his shoes for almost nothing. One day the shoemaker only had enough leather to make one more pair of shoes. He carefully cut out the leather and placed it on the table. He planned to get up early the next morning and finish the shoes. He went to the kitchen, had a simple meal of potatoes and tea with his dear wife, and then went to bed.

The next morning he arrived at the shop to finish the shoes. To his great wonder, there sat the shoes completely finished. The shoemaker did not know what to say. There was not one false stitch in the whole job. All the work was neat and true.

Soon a customer came in who really liked the shoes. This time the customer had money and paid a higher price than usual. The shoemaker was able to buy enough leather to make two pairs. He cut the leather for the new shoes and again laid it on the table.

The next morning was as before. When the shoemaker entered the shop, two beautiful pairs of shoes sat on the table. These he also sold for a good sum, and he bought material for four pairs of shoes. This continued for some time. Every evening the leather was prepared, and by daybreak the work was done. Soon the shoemaker had money to last him well into the future.

One evening the shoemaker said to his wife, “I think I’ll stay up tonight and see who is doing my work for me.” His wife agreed and they hid behind a curtain to see what would happen.

At midnight, two little elves came along and climbed on the table. They soon were stitching and rat-a-tap-tapping at a furious pace. They finished the shoes and lined them up. Then they ran away as quick as lightning.

The next day the wife said, “Those little elves have made us rich. Let’s do something for them. I will make each of them a suit of clothes, and you could make each of them a little pair of shoes.” The shoemaker thought this was a fine idea, and they set to work with happy hearts.

They set the finished gifts out on the table in place of more shoes to be made. Giggling like children, they again hid behind the curtain and waited for the two little elves. At midnight the elves came in ready to work as usual, but when they saw the clothes laying there for them, they hugged each other with joy. They dressed themselves lickety-split, and admired each other in their fine clothes. They danced happily, and then made tracks out the door and into the night.

The shoemaker never saw them again, but he and his wife lived well the rest of their lives.

**Directions:** Circle the homonym that correctly completes the sentence.

1. The shoemaker will \_\_\_\_\_ the finest leather.

choose

chews

2. The shoemaker's wife knows how to \_\_\_\_\_ the bread dough until it is smooth.

need

knead

kneel

**Directions:** Read each question. Then circle the correct answer.

3. Which the correct meaning of the idiom "to make tracks"?

A. to draw a set of animal tracks

B. to leave footprints

C. to hurry up

D. to leave slowly

4. Which of the following describes a cause and effect relationship in the story?

A. The shoemaker worked very hard to make good shoes for people.

B. The elves did not come back again when they knew they had been seen.

C. The shoemaker and his wife were well off the rest of their days.

D. The elves danced around the little shop in their new clothes.

**Directions:** Read the question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

5. The main idea of the first paragraph is the following:

This shoemaker made the best shoes around, and took great care in every step of his making shoes.

List two supporting details from the paragraph.

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## Determining Meaning of Multiple-meaning Words and Recognizing Theme

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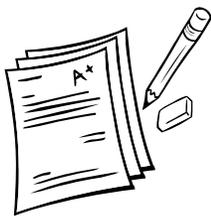
**He would create a perfect shoe pattern. Then he carefully measured, cut, and sewed the shoes.**

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## Recognizing the Cause and Effect Pattern of Text

**Directions:** Read the folktale. Then complete the activities that follow.

### The Race

One winter day Bear was walking up a hill. Rising up on his hind legs, he was taller than anything else around. It made him so proud that he bragged, “I am the biggest animal ever!” Nobody disagreed because he was quite big.

Then there was an itchy spot on Bear’s back, so he leaned against a little tree and wriggled around. Suddenly, the tree broke with a snap. Proud of his strength, Bear stood up and roared, “I’m the strongest animal ever!” Again, nobody disagreed, because Bear really was very strong. Nobody pointed out that it was a very small tree.

Bear began to run down the hill. Everyone knows you can run like the wind downhill. But Bear was impressed with his speed. He slid to a halt by a frozen lake and roared, “I’m the fastest animal ever!”

Then a little voice answered, “No you’re not, Bear. I’m faster than you.”

Bear couldn’t believe it. A little water turtle was staring up at him from a hole in the ice.

They began to argue and make a lot of noise. The other animals came to see what was happening. All decided the argument was best settled with a race between Bear and Turtle. They would race around the lake. But Turtle said, “I am a water animal, so I will race in the lake.”

Bear frowned. “You must think I’m stupid. You’d just dive under the ice, then come up and say you won.”

The animals thought he had a good point. They decided that Bear would race around the lake. But Turtle would swim from one ice hole to another around the lake. He would put his head up through the hole, and then swim on.

The next morning, Elk punched holes in the ice around the lake. Most of the animals were tired of Bear's bragging and hoped Turtle would win.

Fox shouted, "Go," and Turtle dived under the water. Bear walked slowly. He was sure he would win. But Bear only took a couple of steps when Turtle's head came up in the second hole. Bear was amazed and he began to jog a little faster. But three steps farther, Turtle's head popped up at the next hole.

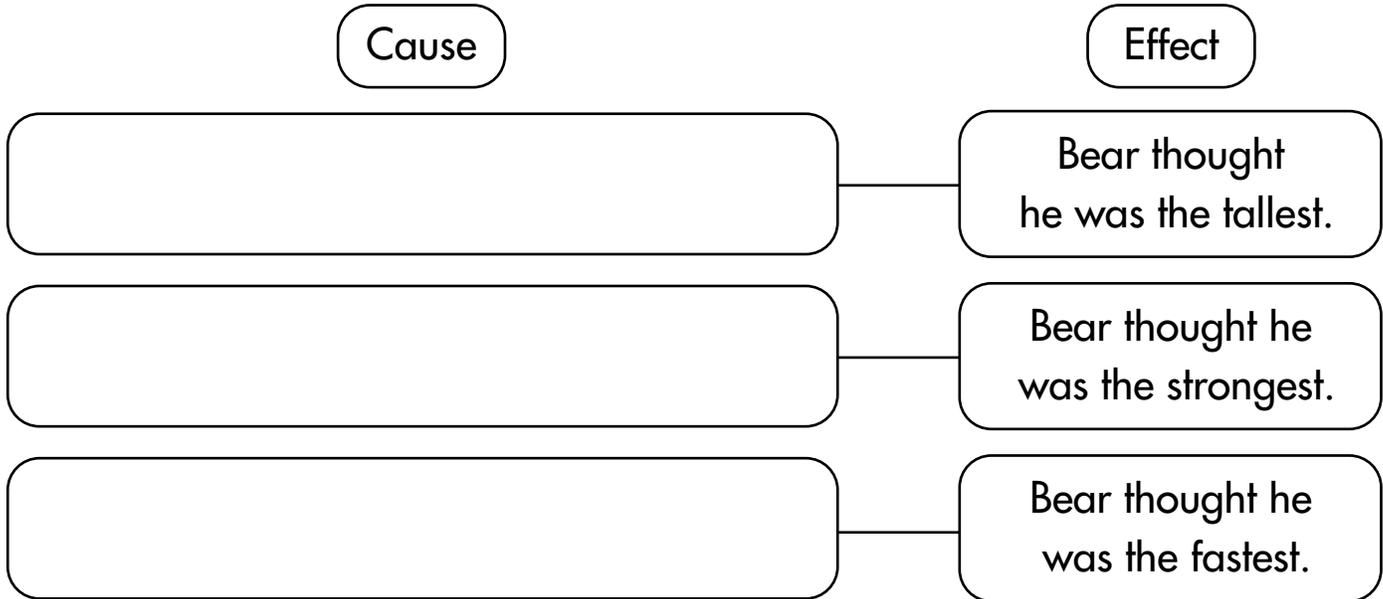
Now Bear knew he had to run. He dropped to all fours and began running as fast as he could. But before Bear passed the third hole, Turtle came up at the fourth saying, "I'm winning!"

Bear started running with his tongue drooping out of his mouth, so tired he thought he would drop. Finally, with Bear only half way around, Turtle finished the race. A great cheer went up from the other animals, "Turtle is the fastest animal!" Bear was humiliated. He trudged to his cave and slept the rest of the winter.

When everyone was gone, Turtle crawled to the edge of the lake and tapped on the ice. Up through the holes came Turtle's brothers and sisters. They all looked just like Turtle. They smiled at each other and said, "We may be slow of foot, but we are not slow of wit."

To this day bears sleep all winter, so they do not have to remember losing a race to a turtle.

1. Bear was fooled three times into thinking he was the best. Write a cause for each of the effects below.



**Directions:** Read each question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

2. What was the effect on Bear when Turtle popped his head out of the fourth hole?

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3. How was Turtle able to fool Bear into thinking Turtle won the race?

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To this day bears sleep all winter, so they do not have to remember losing a race to a turtle.

1. Bear was fooled three times into thinking he was the best. Write a cause for each of the effects below.

Cause

Effect

**Bear was standing on his hind legs up on a hill.**

Bear thought he was the tallest.

**Bear broke a little tree when he was scratching his back.**

Bear thought he was the strongest.

**Bear was running downhill, which made it easier for him to run fast.**

Bear thought he was the fastest.

**Directions:** Read each question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

2. What was the effect on Bear when Turtle popped his head out of the fourth hole?

**He started running on all fours with his tongue hanging out and he was really tired.**

3. How was Turtle able to fool Bear into thinking Turtle won the race?

**Turtle had all his brothers and sisters waiting at the holes. They popped their heads through the holes to make it seem as if Turtle was swimming around the lake.**



## Determining the Meaning of Multiple-meaning Words

**Directions:** Read the folktale. Then complete the activities that follow.

### The Tale of the Bobcat's Tail

This is a story of a very foolish bobcat. Bobcat let his vanity get in the way of his thinking, and that is why Fox was able to play a trick on him.

A long time ago, Bobcat had a beautiful, long, furry tail. He was very proud of his tail, and he would wave it in the other animals' faces. The other animals thought Bobcat was vain, but they were frightened of his sharp teeth. He would ask if his tail was the most beautiful, and they would reluctantly agree.

One brisk winter morn, Bobcat was feeling quite hungry. He spied Fox sitting on the frozen lake. Surrounding Fox was a large amount of fish. Now Fox did not like Bobcat either, and was tired of him waving his tail around. For one thing, it made him sneeze. Bobcat and his bragging were becoming quite tiresome, so Fox decided to play a trick on Bobcat.

Fox called out, "Hey, Bobcat, look at all my fish."

Bobcat licked his lips and said, "How did you manage to catch so many?"

Fox answered, "I caught them with my tail."

"Good heavens," Bobcat cried, "my tail is much better than yours. I bet I will catch ten times what you did. Show me how."

Fox pointed to the hole in the ice. "There's no fish left in there, we can

go somewhere else.” They went to a shallow part of the lake, and used an large stick to break up the ice.

“Now sit with your back to the hole and put your beautiful tail in the water,” said Fox. “You’ll feel it when a fish bites. Then pull your tail out with the fish on the end of it.”

Bobcat put his tail in the icy water. Fox said, “Now, you must sit very still or you won’t feel the fish bite. Think about the fish you will catch and count them in your head. The more you count, the more you will catch.”

Bobcat sat very still and thought about fish jumping onto his tail. As he counted, he started getting sleepy, and his head started to droop. Soon he was fast asleep and snoring loudly. It grew very cold and started to snow.

A few hours later, Fox came back to the lake. He snuck up behind the sleeping Bobcat and shouted, “Bob, Bob, I can see a fish on your tail! Can you feel it?”

Bobcat woke up with a start and felt a sharp pain on his tail. “I can feel the fish,” he cried. He leaped up and his tail, frozen in the ice, snapped right off. All that was left was a bare stump where his beautiful furry tail had been.

“My tail, my beautiful tail,” Bobcat wailed, and he ran off to his den to mourn the loss of his tail. And that is why the bobcat has a little stump for a tail.

**Directions:** Circle the correct homonym to complete the sentence.

1. My book report is due / dew at the end of the week.
2. The due / dew drops on the rose glistened in the morning sun.
3. A vain / vein in our body carries blood to the heart.
4. He was so vain / vein that he looked in every mirror at himself.
5. Will you poor / pour the milk into the glasses for me?
6. She was a poor / pour woman who often went without eating dinner.
7. The break / brake on one side of his bicycle handle is not working.
8. Try not to break / brake the dishes when you wipe them.

**Directions:** Read each question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

9. What is the setting of the story?

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10. Explain why this story could not have happened in the summer.

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11. Why did Fox play this trick on Bobcat?

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go somewhere else.” They went to a shallow part of the lake, and used an large stick to break up the ice.

“Now sit with your back to the hole and put your beautiful tail in the water,” said Fox. “You’ll feel it when a fish bites. Then pull your tail out with the fish on the end of it.”

Bobcat put his tail in the icy water. Fox said, “Now, you must sit very still or you won’t feel the fish bite. Think about the fish you will catch and count them in your head. The more you count, the more you will catch.”

Bobcat sat very still and thought about fish jumping onto his tail. As he counted, he started getting sleepy, and his head started to droop. Soon he was fast asleep and snoring loudly. It grew very cold and started to snow.

A few hours later, Fox came back to the lake. He snuck up behind the sleeping Bobcat and shouted, “Bob, Bob, I can see a fish on your tail! Can you feel it?”

Bobcat woke up with a start and felt a sharp pain on his tail. “I can feel the fish,” he cried. He leaped up and his tail, frozen in the ice, snapped right off. All that was left was a bare stump where his beautiful furry tail had been.

“My tail, my beautiful tail,” Bobcat wailed, and he ran off to his den to mourn the loss of his tail. And that is why the bobcat has a little stump for a tail.

**Directions:** Circle the correct homonym to complete the sentence.

1. My book report is (due) / dew at the end of the week.
2. The due / (dew) drops on the rose glistened in the morning sun.
3. A vain / (vein) in our body carries blood to the heart.
4. He was so (vain) / vein that he looked in every mirror at himself.
5. Will you poor / (pour) the milk into the glasses for me?
6. She was a (poor) / pour woman who often went without eating dinner.
7. The break / (brake) on one side of his bicycle handle is not working.
8. Try not to (break) / brake the dishes when you wipe them.

**Directions:** Read each question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

9. What is the setting of the story?

**The setting of the story is a frozen lake in a forest during the winter.**

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10. Explain why this story could not have happened in the summer.

**This story could not have happened in the summer because a frozen lake or pond is needed.**

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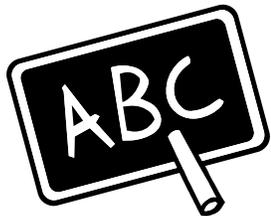
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11. Why did Fox play this trick on Bobcat?

**Fox played a trick on Bobcat because he was tired of Bobcat bragging and Bobcat's tail made Fox sneeze.**

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## Comparing Themes

**Directions:** Read the legends. Then answer the questions that follow.

### **How Anansi Became a Spider**

*Adapted from an African Legend*

There once was a king who owned the finest ram in all the land. One day, the ram got into Anansi's crops and trampled all of the plants. Anansi was livid at the king's ram. For revenge, he decided to capture the ram and bring it back to his home. Anansi knew there would be consequences for stealing the king's prize ram, so he thought of a way to avoid punishment. First, he hid the ram in a cave. Then he told a spider to spin a web at the front of the cave. The spider was excited by the idea of building a new home, so he followed Anansi to the cave and began spinning a web.

Anansi quickly went to the king and told him his ram had been stolen by a spider who was keeping it captive in a cave! The king was enraged and ordered the spider to be banished to another kingdom. He offered Anansi a reward for bringing the spider to him.

Anansi ran back to the spider. He told the spider that the king wanted to reward him for weaving such an amazing web. The spider was elated at the idea of being seen by the king!

While Anansi was away, the king told his wife, the queen, what had happened. The king's wife laughed and asked, "How could a spider lure a ram into a cave and then weave a web strong enough to keep him inside?" The wife told the king Anansi must have stolen the ram.

When Anansi returned with the spider and demanded his reward, the

king scolded him for stealing the ram and deceiving the spider. With a wave of his mighty scepter, Anansi was turned into a spider and the spider into a man.

### **The Creation of Seal**

*Adapted from a Mowhawk Legend*

Before there were humans, birds, and animals, Earth was populated with creatures that had human traits and animal traits. There were brothers of the sun and the moon, known as The-Two-Men-Who-Changed-Things. They came down to Earth to prepare it for a new race of people. The brothers gathered all the creatures and changed some into animals, some into birds, and some into trees.

One of these creatures was a terrible thief. He stole fish and game from the creatures that hunted and fished. The-Two-Men-Who-Changed-Things decided to teach the thief a lesson. They transformed him into Seal by shortening the thief's arms and tying his legs together so that only his feet moved. Then they tossed him into the ocean and told him, "From now on you will have to catch your own fish if you want to eat."

**Directions:** Read each question. Then write your answer using complete sentences on the lines below.

1. A common **theme** in both stories is there are consequences for a person's actions. Explain how this theme applies to each legend.

### "How Anansi Became a Spider"

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### "The Creation of Seal"

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2. Summarize the **main events** of each legend in the boxes below.

## “How Anansi Became a Spider”

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## “The Creation of Seal”

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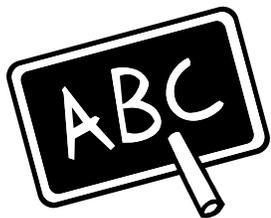
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**Directions:** Read each question. Then write your answer using complete sentences on the lines below.

1. A common **theme** in both stories is there are consequences for a person's actions. Explain how this theme applies to each legend.

**“How Anansi Became a Spider”**

**Anansi lies to get out of a punishment. In the end, he is still punished for his actions and he is changed into a spider.**

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**“The Creation of Seal”**

**In this story, a creature steals from others. Because he is a thief, he is changed into a seal.**

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2. Summarize the **main events** of each legend in the boxes below.

### **“How Anansi Became a Spider”**

**Anansi was angry at the king’s prize ram, so Anansi stole the ram. He hid the ram in a cave and told a spider to spin a web at the front of the cave. Anansi told the king the spider was keeping the ram captive in a cave. Anansi tricked the spider into going to see the king. The king realized the trick and punished Anansi by turing Anansi into a spider.**

### **“The Creation of Seal”**

**The-Two-Men-Who-Changed-Things came to Earth to prepare it for a new race of people. The-Two-Men-Who-Changed-Things started to change the creatures into animal, birds, and trees. The-Two-Men-Who-Changed-Things learned of a creature that stole fish from other creatures. As punishment, The-Two-Men-Who-Changed-Things changed the thief into a seal.**



## Reading Fluently

**Directions:** Read the passages aloud.

### Sailing Shoes

Written by Rene Holden and Barbara Davis-Pyles

A group of tiny Astroleans gathered before Captain Sierra Star-Unit on Sunday evening in preparation for their delivery trip the next day. The captain noticed that most wore the proper Astrolean uniform, but some were not sporting the soft, leather-soled shoes required by safety guidelines. Captain Star-Unit disapproved, but she was in a hurry. Her tiny ship, the *Dream Chaser*, was scheduled to deliver a single cargo to Gyrodots across the Mistolee River.

Unfortunately, Captain Star-Unit had some bad news for her sailing crew. The cargo boxes were missing from the underground storage beneath the old forest. The captain's distress twofold because her people had worked hard to create the delicate metal gears for the Gyrodots. In addition, the Astroleans planned to trade the gears for wood to build a school and hospital for their growing community. Now all the gears had disappeared, and Captain Star-Unit had to find them before they grew rusted and useless. The gears needed to be cleaned and oiled daily.

Captain Star-Unit cleared her throat and addressed her waiting crew.

“I have sad news. The entire cargo seems to have vanished. An investigation is under way. Let's hope whoever took the gears still has them all, and we can recover them in time for delivery.”

The captain dismissed her crew and then sat for a moment to think. She had to find the missing cargo before the gears rusted. Her mind drifted back to the crew meeting the day before. As usual, she had begun by taking roll call. Three of her crew members were missing. “This is

odd,” she had thought. “My crew is known for being on time.” She called out “Aven, Squeb, Meeka!” Everyone began to look worried. The three then burst into the room and took their places quickly. They were muddy and looked nervous. “This is very strange, indeed,” the captain had thought, but she had so much business to cover and so little time that she simply continued with the meeting.

“Yes, it was strange,” Captain Star-Unit thought again as she sat forward and looked down at her shoes. Her eyes grew wide, “That’s it!”

She called for her assistant captain.

“Viddon, bring Aven, Squeb, and Meeka to me at once,” she said. Viddon bowed and rushed away. Within minutes, he returned with three elves who looked nervous.

Each elf wore an Astrolean jumpsuit, including the shiny symbol of the Astrolean badge. The captain wasted no time, however, in studying their shoes once again. She pointed out to the anxious elves that they were out of uniform. They wore hard-soled shoes.

Captain Star-Unit looked at the elves and said, “I notice tonight that you are wearing shoes for walking on the land, which seems strange considering we were supposed to set sail tomorrow. Then my first captain told me that we found footprints from hard-soled shoes near the storage area. Now tell me where my cargo is hidden, and I will see that you get a fair trial.”

The three nervous elves revealed the truth in time for Captain Star-Unit to recover the cargo and deliver it to its destination.

### The King's Servant

Written by Susan Motter Johnson

King Arthur and his entourage of knights had just returned to Camelot from a long and exhausting ride, and Terrence was helping his grandfather groom and care for their horses. Terrence thought, "I love my grandfather, but I am embarrassed to tell people that he cleans up after horses, and this is not the life I want for myself."

Grandfather noticed the heavy silence that had fallen between them. "Perhaps," he said, "it is time I share my story."

"Many years ago, our good king grew ill and died, leaving the land without a ruler. There was no heir to the throne, so the people fought among themselves. Without the wisdom of a great leader, England fell into a dark age. The nobles decided to have a great tournament in my village to determine who would be king. I was filled with excitement. The greatest knights from all over the land arrived to participate in jousting and archery contests."

At the mention of jousting and archery, Terrence forgot about the embarrassment of grooming the horses and listened intently to his grandfather.

Grandfather continued. "I wanted to watch the contest, but one of our horses had fallen ill, and my father insisted that I stay to care for him. I was disappointed but obeyed my father. While the men were in the country competing for the crown, the most amazing thing occurred. In the middle of the town square, there appeared an enormous stone and rising from its center was the most beautiful sword I had ever seen. Words carved into the stone said that whoever was able to pull the sword from the stone would be king. Perhaps I had not missed the real excitement after all.

“Just as I was about to try my hand at removing the sword, a child, who was no older than I, came running into the square. ‘My master has lost his sword! Where can I find another?’ the child asked. Just then, his eyes fell upon the sword in the stone. With one easy motion, the youth pulled the sword out. Then he turned to me. ‘Why are you not at the joust? It’s great fun!’ My voice quivered as I told him about our ill horse. I had never spoken to a king before and though I was sure he had no knowledge of the sword’s meaning, I knew I was looking at England’s next ruler. When the nobles returned from the tournament, I bore witness to the boy’s feat. At last, we had a new king.

“King Arthur grew up and so did I. He was the wisest and most generous king the world had ever seen. One day I was summoned to his court. He required someone to care for his horses, and he remembered me and that I had remained behind to care for my father’s horse during the tournament. He said he would be honored if I would care for his horses the way I had cared for my father’s horses.”

Terrence smiled and gave his grandfather a hug. He knew that his grandfather was not merely a horse keeper, but a man who did a very important job for a kind and wise king. Terrence looked forward to the day when King Arthur would summon him, and he would take up this great honor.



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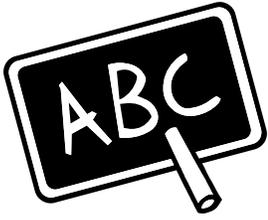
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## Describing Characters' Changing Feelings

**Directions:** Read the legend and answer the accompanying questions.

### The Golden Snail

*Adapted from an Indonesian Legend*

Dewi Limaran was a lovely princess married to Prince Raden Putra. One day, while strolling in her garden, Dewi spotted a snail. She had a servant remove the snail so it would not mar the beauty of her flowers. But the snail was really an old witch in disguise, so she cursed Princess Dewi, changed her into a golden snail, and threw her into the river.

In the woods, some distance away, there lived a poor widow who fished to support herself. One day she cast her net again and again, but caught no fish. She was very upset and pulled up the net to go home. At the very bottom of the net she saw something sparkle. It was a snail with a glimmering golden shell.

The widow took the snail home with her and put it in an earthen pot. She was very tired, so she went to bed. When she awoke the next morning, to her surprise she saw that her floor had been swept and someone had prepared breakfast for her. The woman thought she must be dreaming because she did not know anyone who would have been so generous to her.

The next night, the woman pretended to go to sleep. Soon the earthen pot began to shake and the snail transformed into a lovely young woman. Figuring the girl was under a spell, the widow quickly took the shell and threw it into the river. Now one part of the curse was broken and the girl would no longer be a snail.

Late into the night, the girl and the widow talked. The girl shared her story and explained that as part of the spell she could not go back home

until the prince came for her. Saddened by the girl's plight, the widow said, "Then I will pray that the prince will find and rescue you here."

Several years went by and Prince Raden Putra had never remarried. His father insisted that the prince find a new bride, but Prince Raden loved his wife and did not want to find another. He finally told his father that he would look throughout the kingdom for a woman that resembled his lovely wife.

The prince traveled from village to village, but soon became lost in a large forest. As he wandered through the trees, the prince stumbled upon a tiny hut. Hungry, thirsty, and very tired, Prince Raden knocked on the door to ask for some assistance. An old widow answered the door, inviting the prince in for a meal. The food was excellent and Prince Raden complimented the woman on her cooking.

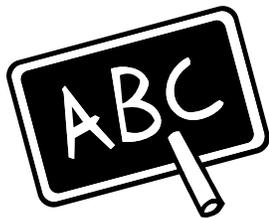
"I didn't prepare the meal, my daughter did," the widow replied. The prince asked to meet the girl so he could thank her. The girl came from the back of the hut and bowed to the prince. He lifted her chin and caught his breath. This lovely young woman looked exactly like his wife!

The prince asked the girl to marry him, but she told him she had made a promise. She explained if a man wanted to marry her, he would need to obtain the holy gamelan, a set of instruments that play music without being touched. Prince Raden went into the forest to meditate and fast. After one hundred days, the gods took pity on the prince and gave him the holy gamelan.

On their wedding day, as the holy gamelan filled the courtyard with heavenly music, Princess Dewi revealed her true identity to her husband, Prince Raden. The music of the gamelan had broken the spell. Prince Raden and Princess Dewi invited the widow to come and live with them in the palace. The three lived happily together the rest of their lives.

1. The legend is mainly about \_\_\_\_
  - A. a mean old woman's spell.
  - B. a prince who must choose a bride.
  - C. a princess who is turned into a snail.
  - D. a poor widow who fishes for a living.
  
2. What can be inferred about the widow based on her actions?
  - A. The widow is poor and alone.
  - B. The widow cares only about herself.
  - C. The widow was once a princess.
  - D. The widow is kind to others.
  
3. What element of "The Golden Snail" is similar to other fairy tales and legends?
  - A. The princess is turned into a snail.
  - B. The prince meditates for 100 days.
  - C. The widow fishes for a living.
  - D. The three live happily ever after.
  
4. What can be inferred about the princess based on her actions?
  - A. The princess is patient and kind.
  - B. The princess is cruel to others.
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## Describing Characters' Changing Feelings

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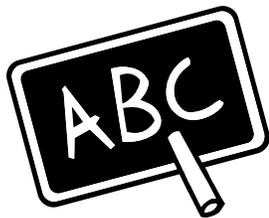
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## Describing Character's Changing Feelings

**Directions:** Read the legend. Then use details from the story to complete the graphic organizer that follows.

Characters often change in the course of a story. As you read “The Well Dragon,” pay attention to how the knight’s feelings change.

### The Well Dragon

Many years ago, in a small English village, a monstrous dragon guarded a well. He would not allow the villagers to approach the well, so they had to trudge to a river several miles away to get water. The villagers were frustrated, but did not know how to rid themselves of the dragon. Finally, after many months, a knight appeared in the village. He had heard rumors about a dragon and had come to defeat it.

The knight, confident he would have no trouble getting rid of the dragon, swaggered into a local inn. After the knight explained his purpose for coming to the village, the innkeeper offered the knight food and a place to rest. The knight slept well, and after breakfast the next morning set out to contend with the dragon.

With his sword drawn, the knight approached the dragon at the well. The two fought all day long, one with his sword and the other with sharp talons. At the end of the day, the knight was exhausted. He had inflicted several wounds on the dragon, but each one had healed almost instantly! And while the knight was completely worn out, the dragon seemed to have plenty of energy left. The knight returned to the village downhearted, fatigued and sore.

On the second day, the knight returned to the well to fight the dragon,

but this time less confident than he had been the day before. Nonetheless, the knight fought vigorously, his frantic sword striking the dragon repeatedly. Unfortunately for the knight, each wound healed quickly and the dragon never tired. By the end of the second day, the tired knight left the well without having defeated the dragon. The knight was depressed and a little embarrassed because defeating a dragon was not as easy as he had previously believed. He retired to the village and collapsed into bed.

The next day, the knight decided to use his brains instead of just his sword to conquer the dragon. He was determined to succeed. Instead of just attacking the dragon repeatedly, this time the knight moved slowly and observed the dragon. He noticed that the dragon's tail never left the water in the well, so the knight decided to lure the dragon away from the well. He attacked, and then pretended to be scared and retreated. The dragon followed, thinking he could easily destroy the knight. As soon as the dragon's tail left the water, the knight darted between the dragon and the well. After a furious fight, the dragon was soundly defeated.

The villagers celebrated with an enormous feast to celebrate the victory. They were grateful they could use the well again! The knight left the village with many gifts, and his reputation for wisdom and bravery became widespread throughout the land.

### How the Knight Changes

1. How did the knight feel before fighting the dragon?

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2. Why do you think he felt this way? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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3. How did the knight feel after the first two days of fighting?

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4. What caused his feelings to change? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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5. How do you think the knight felt after defeating the dragon?

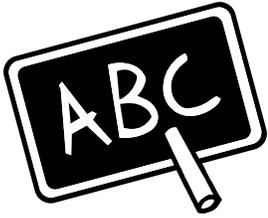
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6. What do you think the knight learned from defeating the dragon?

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## Describing Character's Changing Feelings

**Directions:** Read the legend. Then use details from the story to complete the graphic organizer that follows.

Characters often change in the course of a story. As you read “The Well Dragon,” pay attention to how the knight’s feelings change.

### The Well Dragon

Many years ago, in a small English village, a monstrous dragon guarded a well. He would not allow the villagers to approach the well, so they had to trudge to a river several miles away to get water. The villagers were frustrated, but did not know how to rid themselves of the dragon. Finally, after many months, a knight appeared in the village. He had heard rumors about a dragon and had come to defeat it.

The knight, confident he would have no trouble getting rid of the dragon, swaggered into a local inn. After the knight explained his purpose for coming to the village, the innkeeper offered the knight food and a place to rest. The knight slept well, and after breakfast the next morning set out to contend with the dragon.

With his sword drawn, the knight approached the dragon at the well. The two fought all day long, one with his sword and the other with sharp talons. At the end of the day, the knight was exhausted. He had inflicted several wounds on the dragon, but each one had healed almost instantly! And while the knight was completely worn out, the dragon seemed to have plenty of energy left. The knight returned to the village downhearted, fatigued and sore.

On the second day, the knight returned to the well to fight the dragon,

but this time less confident than he had been the day before. Nonetheless, the knight fought vigorously, his frantic sword striking the dragon repeatedly. Unfortunately for the knight, each wound healed quickly and the dragon never tired. By the end of the second day, the tired knight left the well without having defeated the dragon. The knight was depressed and a little embarrassed because defeating a dragon was not as easy as he had previously believed. He retired to the village and collapsed into bed.

The next day, the knight decided to use his brains instead of just his sword to conquer the dragon. He was determined to succeed. Instead of just attacking the dragon repeatedly, this time the knight moved slowly and observed the dragon. He noticed that the dragon's tail never left the water in the well, so the knight decided to lure the dragon away from the well. He attacked, and then pretended to be scared and retreated. The dragon followed, thinking he could easily destroy the knight. As soon as the dragon's tail left the water, the knight darted between the dragon and the well. After a furious fight, the dragon was soundly defeated.

The villagers celebrated with an enormous feast to celebrate the victory. They were grateful they could use the well again! The knight left the village with many gifts, and his reputation for wisdom and bravery became widespread throughout the land.

### How the Knight Changes

1. How did the knight feel before fighting the dragon?

**The knight was confident that he would beat the dragon.**

2. Why do you think he felt this way? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**It says in the story the knight felt confident. Also, he swaggered when he walked into the inn.**

3. How did the knight feel after the first two days of fighting?

**The knight was tired and discouraged.**

4. What caused his feelings to change? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**The knight did not defeat the dragon in the first two days. The story mentions he was exhausted after both days. Plus, the dragon's wounds healed right away and it didn't lose energy.**

5. How do you think the knight felt after defeating the dragon?

**The knight probably felt relief and pride.**

6. What do you think the knight learned from defeating the dragon?

**The knight learned he needed to use both his physical strength and his brains to defeat the dragon.**



## Answering Questions about Main Characters and Setting

**Directions:** Read the story. Then complete the activities that follow.

### The Fairy Cottage

The promise of a hot, sticky day filled the air. The sun sat low in the sky, drying the dewdrops from the flowers and long blades of grass that grew at the base of the tiny cottage. Emmy and her big sister Claire slowly opened the pink, wood door with peeling paint. They peeked inside. Two small white chairs and a matching doll-sized table sat in middle of the cottage. The table and chairs created a comfortable feeling among the thick cobwebs that hung in the corners of the walls and ceiling.

“I think fairies live here,” Emmy said to her sister, “or maybe a troll or an elf. How come Grandma Sue never told us all these neat things lived in the woods behind her house?”

“Because they don’t,” Claire rolled her eyes. “Besides, we’re far away from Grandma’s house. I bet she doesn’t even know about this place.”

Claire went to the table, and with her finger she drew a line in the thick dust that covered it. “Whoever lives here isn’t a very good housekeeper.”

“I bet this place is magical,” Emmy followed Claire inside the door, ignoring her sister’s practical view of things. “I wonder if we’re the only ones who can see this place, or maybe it’s a time machine that will carry us to another world.”

“Will you please get real,” Claire said giggling. She couldn’t help but laugh at Emmy’s wild imagination. “There are lots of things in here that will tell us who built this cottage. We just have to start looking around.”

Claire walked over to a small bookcase in the corner of the cottage.

She pulled an old paperback book from the shelf. Claire read the title, *The Secret Lives of Fairies*, aloud.

“See, I told you so!” Emmy squealed in delight.

Claire flipped through the dull, yellow pages. She examined the inside cover of the book. On the first page, Claire spotted the faded initials *S.E.S.* written in pencil. “Look,” Claire tossed the book to her sister, “these books belong to someone with a first and last name that begins with an *S*. The last time I checked, fairies don’t have last names.”

“You don’t know everything,” Emmy grumbled.

Claire pulled a few more books off the shelf. Soon she discovered an old shoebox hiding behind some of the books. She carried the shoebox over to the dusty table. Carefully she took off the top. A small, tin tea set with dented cups and a scraped teapot lay inside. Claire picked up the teapot. She ran her finger across the letters *S.E.S.* engraved in the old metal. Claire did not say a word as she handed the pot to Emmy, who immediately pretended to pour herself some tea.

“Aren’t you going to help me look for more clues?” Claire asked, looking around the cottage.

“Nope,” Emmy replied, “I already know who lives here.”

Just then, Claire noticed the corner of a brown hat hanging on a rusty nail on the back of the cottage door. She took a couple of steps, closed the creaking door, and took the hat from its resting place. “A cowboy hat. Why would a cowboy hat be in a place like this?” she wondered aloud.

Emmy shrugged her shoulders and poured more invisible tea.

All of a sudden, the pink door began to creak back open. A hand pushed it from the outside. The startled sisters stared at the door. Claire took a few steps backwards and put her arm around Emmy's shoulder.

"Yoo-hoo," a voice sang. Grandma Sue bent down and stuck her head inside the door. "Are you girls in here? Ah, yes. There you are," she smiled. "I wondered how long it would take you two to find this place, but I guess it is a lot farther away than I remember."

"Grandma," Emmy giggled in surprise, "you mean this is your cottage?"

"Well, of course, it is," she replied.

Claire raised her eyebrows at her little sister as if to say, "I told you so."

"My dad built this place for me when I was a little girl," she continued, "and I played here for hours." Grandma Sue looked at Claire. "I see you found my daddy's hat."

"I guess I did," Claire answered, "but who's *S.E.S.*?"

"That's me, Susan Elizabeth Smeath," Grandma Sue said, as she walked over to Emmy and patted her on the head. "Smeath was my last name before I married your grandpa."

"So fairies don't live here?" Emmy's voice cracked with disappointment.

"I'm afraid not, honey, but you can pretend whatever you want in this cottage because that's what it's here for," Grandma said, giving Emmy a tight, little hug.

Claire grinned lovingly at her sister and grandmother. She hoped that someday her own children would be able to discover this little, magical home in the woods all over again.

**Directions:** Complete the steps below.

1. Circle words in the passage that describe the setting.
2. Underline words in the passage that tell about the main characters.
3. Write details about the setting in the table below. Use evidence from the text to support your descriptions.

Setting	Evidence

**Directions:** Write three traits for each main character in the table below. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. The first one has been done for you.

Claire's Trait	Evidence
_____	
_____	
_____	

Emmy's Trait	Evidence
_____	
_____	
_____	

**Directions:** Read each question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

4. How does the setting affect how Emmy views the cottage?

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5. How are Emmy and Claire alike and different?

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## Answering Questions about Main Characters and Setting

**Directions:** Read the story. Then complete the activities that follow.

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“Nope,” Emmy replied, “I already know who lives here.”

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"Grandma," Emmy giggled in surprise, "you mean this is your cottage?"

"Well, of course, it is," she replied.

Claire raised her eyebrows at her little sister as if to say, "I told you so."

"My dad built this place for me when I was a little girl," she continued, "and I played here for hours." Grandma Sue looked at Claire. "I see you found my daddy's hat."

"I guess I did," Claire answered, "but who's *S.E.S.*?"

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"So fairies don't live here?" Emmy's voice cracked with disappointment.

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Claire grinned lovingly at her sister and grandmother. She hoped that someday her own children would be able to discover this little, magical home in the woods all over again.

**Directions:** Complete the steps below.

1. Circle words in the passage that describe the setting.
2. Underline words in the passage that tell about the main characters.
3. Write details about the setting in the table below. Use evidence from the text to support your descriptions.

Setting	Evidence
<p><b>It is a hot, humid day in the woods. The story takes place in a tiny cottage with a pink door. Inside there is a small, white table and chair set.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hot, sticky day</li> <li>• sun sat low in the sky</li> <li>• dewdrops</li> <li>• pink wood door with peeling paint</li> <li>• two small white chairs with a matching doll-sized table</li> <li>• thick cobwebs hung in the corners of the walls and ceiling</li> </ul>

**Directions:** Write three traits for each main character in the table below. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. The first one has been done for you.

Claire's Trait	Evidence
<u>practical</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not use her imagination or pretend to play</li> <li>• looks at the facts</li> <li>• tells her sister to “get real”</li> <li>• rolls her eyes when Emmy talks about fairies</li> </ul>
<u>curious</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• looks for clues</li> <li>• examines items in cottage</li> <li>• tries to solve mystery of whose cottage it is</li> </ul>
<u>loving</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• puts her arm around Emmy's shoulder</li> <li>• looks lovingly at Grandma Sue and Emmy</li> </ul>

Emmy's Trait	Evidence
<u>imaginative</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• believes fairies live in the cottage</li> <li>• pretends to pour invisible tea</li> <li>• gets upset when Claire tells her to “get real”</li> </ul>
<u>stubborn</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• doesn't want to look for clues</li> <li>• says she already knows who lives in the cottage</li> </ul>
<u>young</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• still believes in magical things</li> <li>• likes to pretend</li> <li>• disregards Claire's evidence that people, not fairies, have been in the cottage</li> </ul>

**Directions:** Read each question. Then write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

4. How does the setting affect how Emmy views the cottage?

**Emmy thinks fairies live in the cottage because the cottage is far away from their grandma's house, nestled in the woods. Also, there is a lot of dust and cobwebs, making it feel old and untouched by people.**

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5. How are Emmy and Claire alike and different?

**Emmy and Claire are both adventurous because they go walking far from Grandma's house into the woods. Emmy has a vivid imagination. She thinks fairies live in the cottage and she drinks invisible tea. Claire is more practical. She uses clues she finds in the cottage, such as the initials on the book, to determine the truth about the cottage.**

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## Making Inferences

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then complete the activity that follows.



## The Hungry Sea

Ernesto's grandfather had been Village Storyteller for as long as anyone could remember. His weathered face always lit up when he recounted the old legends. Lately however, Grandfather had added some new stories that left lines of worry on his brow.

One of the new stories was "The Hungry Sea." "Do you see that rock?" he would ask the children as he pointed to a distant smudge jutting out of the water. "We used to harvest sago out there when I was a boy, but now the land is under the sea." At the end of this story he would always shake his head and add, "Unless the sea soon fills its belly, we will no longer be people of the sand, but people of the mountains."

Ernesto always puzzled over this story, and why the sea was so hungry. Was it eating other islands, too? Would he ever harvest sago where Grandfather had as a child?

One day when he was hunting crabs, Ernesto encountered a group of scientists from the mainland who had questions of their own and carried measuring devices and handheld machines to record their data. They studied the beach and even boated out to the place where Grandfather had walked as a boy.

When he returned that evening, Ernesto's crab sack was empty, but he was full of news. "They say the sea is rising, Grandfather, because the ice at the top of the world is melting," he said. "They called it 'global warming,' and they think it might be caused by people from countries where they drive cars all day long."

Ernesto's grandfather considered this and asked, "If they know we're being swallowed by the sea, then why don't they stop all of this car driving?"

"Grandfather, they do not know what is happening to us," Ernesto replied.

"What do you mean they do not know? Don't these *car people* have storytellers?" Grandfather asked.

"No, Grandfather, they do not," Ernesto replied.

Grandfather paused then said, "I am sad for the *car people*; people without storytellers do not learn important things until it is too late for change."

The next morning Ernesto set out early, and at the end of the day he returned with big news. "Grandfather, today I met a writer from the car country, and I told her about our village and the hungry sea. She wrote everything down and said she would share it with her people, so they would know before it is too late."

Grandfather smiled and said, "Ernesto, I have waited a long time for this day to come: the day you would grow to be Village Storyteller. However, you are not simply a village storyteller, Grandson. You are Storyteller to the World!

**Directions:** Circle the correct answer for each question. Then write a response to the last question.

1. How did Grandfather feel about telling old legends?
  - A. He was nervous to tell stories to other old villagers.
  - B. He did not like to scare the youngsters with his stories.
  - C. He was tired of being the only person who could tell stories.
  - D. He enjoyed telling stories because they provided memories.
  
2. What does Grandfather mean when he says, “Unless the sea soon fills its belly, we will no longer be people of the sand, but people of the mountains.”
  - A. The mountains are slowly sinking into the sea.
  - B. It is safer and easier to live in the mountains, far from the sea.
  - C. The creatures in the sea are becoming too dangerous for the villagers.
  - D. If the water levels continue to rise they will have to move to higher ground.
  
3. What reason did Ernesto give his grandfather to explain why the sea was rising?
  - A. The sea’s belly is growing hungrier.
  - B. There were more areas to harvest sago.
  - C. The ice at the top of the world is melting.
  - D. There were no more crabs to hunt in the ocean.
  
4. What did Ernesto do after talking to his grandfather about the *car people*?
  - A. He caught a large load of crabs.
  - B. He tried to find the sago harvest.
  - C. He met a writer who recorded his story.
  - D. He followed the scientists from the mainland.
  
5. What might Ernesto do to continue as Storyteller to the World?

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*Directions: Circle the correct answer for each question. Then write a response to the last question.*

1. How did Grandfather feel about telling old legends?
  - A. He was nervous to tell stories to other old villagers.
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  - D. He followed the scientists from the mainland.
  
5. What might Ernesto do to continue as Storyteller to the World?

**Answers will vary. Ernesto will probably maintain contact with the writer he met. He will tell the village stories to her and ask her to print them. He will also listen to her stories. He can bring stories from other places to his village. When he is older he might travel to find out more about the world. He can share his experiences with his village, and also share his village stories with people he meets around the world.**