



Name _____

Date _____

CIVIL LOVE

Sweat was dripping down Mary's neck. It was the year 1864, and Mary was helping the wounded soldiers as they came into camp. It was the saddest thing she had ever seen. Most of the men were very young. Mary spent countless hours helping and healing. The hours were endless.

As Mary walked towards the back of the room, she quickly smiled at little Elizabeth. Elizabeth sat in the corner watching Mary's every move. She had gotten separated from her family. They were nowhere to be found. Mary had taken her in and cared for her like a daughter. She rocked the girl at night as she cried and cried for her momma. During the day, little Elizabeth was Mary's helper. She ran and got things as quickly as she could. She seemed to anticipate Mary's every need.

"Do you want to help me?" Mary asked the little girl.

"Me?" Elizabeth pointed to herself in surprise.

"Yes, you!" replied Mary. Mary asked Elizabeth to gather cloths to wipe the sweat and blood off the soldiers as they came in. Elizabeth hurried to the task, helping the soldiers.

The next morning the captain came in to say that Elizabeth's mother was found but that she wouldn't be able to arrive for few more days. Elizabeth shouted with glee. She was excited to be back with her mom. But for now, she had work to do.

"Come on, Miss Mary. We have work to do," Elizabeth said.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which sentence contains evidence that the story takes place during the Civil War?
 - The hours were endless.
 - It was the year 1864, and Mary was helping the wounded soldiers
 - The sweat was dripping down Mary's neck.
 - Most of the men were so young.
- Which paragraph explains the circumstances in which Mary was living?

a. first paragraph	c. fourth paragraph
b. second paragraph	d. third paragraph
- Who is the main character of the story?

a. Elizabeth's mother	c. Mary
b. Elizabeth	d. Captain
- What is the meaning of the word *anticipate* as used in the story?

a. unbiased and disinterested	c. know in advance
b. impressed and appreciative	d. not care for



Name _____

Date _____

WELCOME HOME

Anna lost her mother three years ago. She and her dad had become the best of friends helping one another, so it was a sad day when she found out that her dad needed to go across the ocean to Europe on business. Being on a ship for three weeks was no place for a young lady, he had said. But where would she go? What would she do?

There was no reason to worry. He would send his daughter up to Boston to live with his sister for a month. Where was Boston? How would she get there? Her father explained that Boston was east of New York. She would travel by train. He would take her by horse to the nearest train station. Her Aunt Jody would be waiting for her. How would she know which one was her Aunt Jody? Her dad smiled and explained that it would be hard to miss her. Apparently she talked very loudly and had a gregarious personality.

The day of the trip arrived and Anna was scared. She had never been out of her little town. She would miss the general store and the horses lined up along the sides of the road. The train finally pulled into Boston. Anna wondered where her aunt was.

Just then, she heard a loud voice booming, "Where is my niece Anna? Has anyone seen Anna?"

Anna giggled to herself. This must be her Aunt Jody. "I'm over here," Anna called.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which sentence below does not show that the story takes place in the past?
 - Anna gathers up her skirts.
 - Anna buys candy at the general store.
 - Anna travels by horse and by train.
 - Anna meets her Aunt Jody at the train station.
- What is the meaning of the word *gregarious* as used in the story?
 - excitable
 - frustrating
 - timid
 - outgoing
- Which of the following statements cannot be inferred from the story?
 - Anna has an Aunt Jody who lives in Boston.
 - Aunt Jody is very excited to have Anna stay with them.
 - Anna's father is traveling to Europe by ship.
 - Anna is nervous about making the trip to Boston.



Name _____

Date _____

YOU'RE FIRED

"Melinda."

My eyes opened slowly. I saw Mama smiling down at me. I smiled, and she said, "Hurry up and get dressed so you can feed the chickens." I hated feeding the chickens. It was my worst job. The chickens were a sticky sort.

I touched the ground with my feet and went downstairs to help Mama.

When I came downstairs, I heard Johnny reading Mama the newspaper.

"Spring of 1837, cotton prices continue to rise. Farmers hoping for a good year. . . ."

Suddenly, in the middle of reading, there was a loud and unusual squawking from the chickens.

"I wonder what that is," Mama said.

We all ran out to see a stranger chasing the chickens, trying to catch one. When he saw us, he quickly ran off. Johnny ran to catch him with Mama on his heels. I hitched up my dress and ran off after them.

The chickens were squawking and cackling and flapping their wings furiously. Mama, Johnny, and I were yelling our heads off saying, "Stop! Come back here! Wait! Hold your horses!"

Johnny got close enough to grab the strange boy's suspenders and he pulled him back. Over breakfast we tried to figure out what the boy wanted with our chickens. He explained that he was starving. My dad explained to the boy that there was an easier way to get food and offered him a job caring for the chickens. That was the day I was "fired" from that job. It couldn't have been a happier day.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which would be the most logical explanation as to why Melinda's dad offered the job to the boy who tried to steal their chickens?
 - He wanted the boy to work off the time they had spent chasing him.
 - He was trying to punish the boy and knew that it was a terrible job.
 - He was afraid the boy would steal the chickens if he let him go.
 - In that time period, many people were out of work, and he was trying to help.
- According to the passage, which sentence shows how Melinda feels about feeding and caring for the chickens?
 - That was the day I was "fired" from that job.
 - Over breakfast we tried to figure out what the boy wanted with our chickens.
 - That was the day I was fired from my job.
 - I hated feeding the chickens.
- What did it mean that Melinda was "fired"?
 - She was fired because she didn't do the job right.
 - She was not allowed to be around the chickens any more.
 - She had heard the word before and wanted to try using it.
 - She used that word to show that the job was taken away from her.



Name _____ Date _____

BABY DOLL

A week before Christmas, Grace and her family made a visit to the general store. It was 1897, and they had lived in the area for two years. Grace loved to travel to town and see all the pretty things in the store. There were dresses, dolls, and lots of candy. She admired all the beautiful things in the storefront window as she waited for her ma and pa to buy the goods.

Grace was enthralled with one of the items in the window that day. It was a baby doll in a beautiful blue dress. She couldn't take her eyes off it. A man standing nearby noticed Grace. He asked her what she was looking at, and she happily pointed it out to the man.

"Looks like you are going to be one lucky girl on Christmas Day."

"Oh no. I won't, sir. You see, my ma and pa, we don't have very much money. We don't get big Christmas presents, but we sure have fun together."

Christmas Day soon arrived. That morning, Grace was surprised to see the little doll from the store window sitting in a cradle under her Christmas tree. Her parents were just as surprised.

"Wow. Santa brought you a real treat, didn't he?" said Pa.

"Oh, this wasn't from Santa. This is from a special man I met at the store," explained Grace with a twinkle in her eye. She smiled when she thought about this stranger who made her Christmas.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did Grace know the gift came from the man at the store?

2. What does the word *enthralled* mean?

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| a. opposite | c. partnership with |
| b. enchanted | d. opened up |

3. After reading the passage, what is a word that could be used to describe Grace?

- a. studious
- b. forgetful
- c. gracious
- d. spirited



Name _____ Date _____

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

On November 19, 1863, President Lincoln had been invited to speak at a dedication of a Civil War cemetery. The Civil War was still in the middle of being fought. Thousands and thousands of soldiers had been killed at Gettysburg, and land had been obtained to bury the dead.

Rebecca had read about the event in a local newspaper. She didn't live far from Gettysburg, and she wanted to go! She begged her parents for a week before they finally relented.

Early on November 19, Rebecca and her father took the quick trip to Gettysburg. She admired Lincoln's bravery and his courage. It had been a dream of hers to one day meet the president. This would be the day.

Rebecca didn't realize how long it would take. Mr. Everett, the first speaker, spoke for two hours. Rebecca thought she was going to die as she sat fidgeting in her seat.

Then it was time for President Lincoln. He rose from his seat and began his speech. Rebecca was enthralled. She loved his words about freedom. President Lincoln spoke for just two minutes. Rebecca couldn't believe it. She jumped out of her seat and ran to the stage. She just had to meet Mr. Lincoln. President Lincoln's bodyguard stopped her, but Mr. Lincoln beckoned her to join him for a minute.

Walking back to the wagon, Rebecca stared at her hand. "I'll never wash it, Dad, never." Her dad smiled and loaded her into the wagon.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What was it specifically that Rebecca liked about Mr. Lincoln?
 - a. She knew that he would remember her.
 - b. She liked him just because he was president.
 - c. She liked his words about freedom.
 - d. She thought he was nice looking.
2. What is the main idea of the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Rebecca was finally able to meet President Lincoln.
 - b. Rebecca learned about the Civil War.
 - c. Rebecca was planning a trip to Gettysburg.
 - d. Rebecca begged her parents for permission.
3. What is the meaning of the word *fidgeting* in the fourth paragraph?

a. settling	c. bothering
b. unbecoming	d. squirming



Name _____

Date _____

Warm-Up 6

MAREN'S WISH

The last item was packed in the wagon. Everyone in Maren's family was ready to leave—that is, except for Maren. Maren's dog Missy got lost yesterday. Maren went to bed knowing that if Missy did not show up by morning, she would be left behind. Maren had looked one last time, hoping that Missy was hiding somewhere. But now it was time to go.

That night her family stopped to build a fire for dinner. Maren didn't eat much dinner and was having a hard time getting to sleep. Tears kept coming. Before long, her brother Benjamin called for their pa.

"Pa!" called Ben.

"What is it?" asked Pa.

"I don't know, but it looks like a wolf," he answered.

Maren's heart skipped a beat and she froze with fear. The wolf had probably eaten Missy. Maren's pa grabbed his rifle and stepped outside. He too saw the gleaming eyes in the distance. He knew that if he did not shoot the wolf, it would follow them and try to attack at night.

Maren poked her head out of the wagon. She watched in fear as her pa cocked the gun. Just then she heard a familiar whimper.

"Pa! It's Missy." Maren jumped from her perch and ran to the eyes in the dark. Sure enough, it was Missy. She was a bit bedraggled, but home.

"How on Earth?" asked Pa. A smile crept across Maren's face as she hugged Missy.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following statements is not true in the story?
 - Missy is Maren's lost dog.
 - Benjamin hoped that Missy would be shot.
 - Pa almost shot the dog Missy.
 - Maren recognizes Missy's whimper just in time.
- Which of the following words could be used to describe Maren?
 - angry
 - devoted
 - misguided
 - overly excitable
- Why does Missy get confused with a wolf in the story?
 - They both have glowing eyes at night.
 - The wolf and Missy share the same whimper.
 - Both animals prowl around at night.
 - They are both canines.



Name _____

Date _____

THE UNIFORM

Evan climbed to the top of the mountain. He had been with a group of Union soldiers all day. It was his job to get the water and supplies to the soldiers. Evan was young, but he was proud to serve with these men. General Armstead praised his efforts. Evan couldn't wait to wear the uniform one day.

Just then, a messenger rode into camp. The messenger brought word that Confederate soldiers were spotted heading their way. General Armstead signaled the troops to assume their places. It was a hot and sticky day. Evan filled up the water buckets and had them ready.

Before long, shots rang out, and the battle had begun. Evan ran to his place behind the cabin. But it was too late. A stray bullet landed in his leg. Evan shouted out in pain, and a soldier dragged him inside the cabin. The doctor on hand took one look and determined the shrapnel could be pulled easily from his leg. Evan gritted his teeth in pain.

Gunfire soon came to a stop outside. The battle was over for the day. General Armstead came in the cabin and saw Evan sitting with a bandaged leg.

"What happened?" asked the general.

"I got shot," replied Evan sheepishly.

"Well, you better put this on to make it official," said the general as he took off his hat and put it on Evan. Evan smiled through the pain as he touched the piece of the uniform sitting on his head.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of paragraph three?
 - a. Evan is given instructions on caring for the soldiers.
 - b. Evan delivers the supplies to the first group.
 - c. Evan is planning his future.
 - d. Evan is shot in the leg and needs medical attention.
2. What did General Armstead mean when he said to wear the hat to make it official?
 - a. He wanted Evan to have the same care as a soldier.
 - b. He felt that since Evan had been wounded in battle, he'd earned the right to wear the uniform.
 - c. He was trying to tease Evan about not having a hat on.
 - d. He was sure that if Evan had on a uniform, he would not have been hurt.
3. Which of the following did not happen in the story?
 - a. Evan was helped by the military doctor.
 - b. Evan was able to see his brother fighting for the Union army.
 - c. Evan dreamed of being a Union soldier one day.
 - d. A messenger brought word on where the enemy was.



Name _____

Date _____

Warm-Up 8

REFUGE FROM THE STORM

Jason had set out on horseback early in the morning. He was intent on finding food for his family. His family was new to the area, having just arrived from Boston. They had a land claim and were beginning their own homestead. It had been a long trip, and the family was exhausted and hungry. Jason knew that a deer or other large animal would bring great satisfaction and relief to his family.

Jason climbed off his horse and crept over the side of the hill. He gazed down the hillside looking for large game. He did not see game, but what he saw was a huge, dark cloud. Jason realized he'd better take shelter quickly. He led his horse to a nearby cave just as the rain came crashing down.

Jason crouched down, waiting for the rain to stop. He worried that he would not have time to catch some food before he had to head back. He had promised to be back before dark. Suddenly he found himself impatient and angry. Why couldn't the rain stop? A cool breeze of wind went down his neck.

Jason heard a noise over his shoulder. He slowly turned to see a large animal staring at him. It was a deer. The deer had gone for shelter too. Jason wasted no time killing the deer and readying it for the trip home. "This is just too good to be true!" thought Jason. At that moment, he didn't mind how long the rainstorm lasted.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which sentence contains evidence that the story takes place in the past?
 - His family was new to the area having just arrived from Boston.
 - They had a land claim and were beginning their own homestead.
 - Suddenly he found himself impatient and angry.
 - Jason had set out on horseback early in the morning.
- Which paragraph explains the circumstances in which Jason's family was living?
 - first paragraph
 - fourth paragraph
 - second paragraph
 - third paragraph
- What is the meaning of the word *intent* as used in the story?
 - content and happy
 - having a goal or purpose
 - expect and look forward to
 - rearrange and reconfigure



Name _____ Date _____

SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

Nathan had been riding his bike outside with friends. It had been a typical day in his life, but he felt unsettled and didn't know why. His favorite team, the Dodgers, had just won the World Series. He waved goodbye to his friend David and wheeled his bike up the steps.

He opened the door and walked inside. He could hear the television playing in the background. His entire family was sitting around the set. He thought it was strange that his dad was home from work so early.

"Hey, what's up?" asked Nathan.

"Oh, Nathan, sit down. Something terrible has happened," replied his mother.

Nathan got a lump in his throat and sat down. What could have happened? Just then, the announcer on the television made the stunning announcement: "We have just received word that President John F. Kennedy has been shot and killed in Dallas, Texas. More information after these commercials."

"President Kennedy shot?" asked Nathan in a stunned voice.

"Yes, just about an hour ago," answered Dad.

Nathan loved President Kennedy. He had been excited to have someone so young in the White House. Nathan realized what this would mean. He ran upstairs to grab his book about the United States. He wanted to know exactly who would become president next.

Nathan read about how the vice president would become president and looked up more information about Lyndon B. Johnson. Nathan wiped his eyes and went downstairs to talk with his family.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which statement from the story shows the year in which the story takes place?
 - "We have just received word that President John F. Kennedy has been shot and killed in Dallas, Texas."
 - He ran upstairs to grab his book about the United States.
 - He could hear the television playing in the background.
 - His favorite team the, Dodgers, had just won the World Series.
- What is the meaning of the word *stunned* as used in the story?
 - excited
 - bewildered
 - pressured
 - coerced
- Which of the following statements contains information shared in the story?
 - Nathan's parents voted for President Kennedy.
 - Lyndon B. Johnson was the vice president when Kennedy was shot.
 - Nathan had written a letter to President Kennedy.
 - President Kennedy died of a heart attack.



Name _____

Date _____

BLAST OFF!

Seth adjusted the straps of his homemade astronaut suit and climbed up the stairs to the treehouse. Seth was an avid astronomer and loved to explore the outer worlds. He had convinced his friend Tim to help him build a spacecraft that would make it to the moon. The boys had spent weeks on the project, but Seth was sure it could be done. Tim wasn't so sure.

The boys had heard about the space race in school. They didn't think that the United States government was doing enough to win the space race, and they were determined to do their part. Tim was upset about the number of days it was taking to put the manifold together. The boys were competitive, and they could feel the intensity of the situation gaining on them.

Just then, Seth's mother called from the house. "Seth Stewart, come here! You have got to see this!"

Seth and Tim hurried down the makeshift ladder and through the door.

Blaring on television was the announcement that Neil Armstrong had just been the first person ever to walk on the moon. Seth and Tim said simultaneously, "Oh, man!"

"It's no use, Seth. It's been done. Someone else beat us to the moon," said Tim.

Seth didn't skip a beat and said, "Come on, Tim. We've got work to do. Let's go try to be the first on Mars."

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Based on reading the passage, why do you think Seth wanted to go to the moon?
 - a. Seth was an avid astronomer and loved to explore the outer worlds.
 - b. He wanted to prove to himself that he could do it.
 - c. He was afraid no one would ever make it to the moon.
 - d. He was inspired by Neil Armstrong.
2. What can you conclude about Seth after reading the passage?
 - a. He is friends with everyone.
 - b. He shares an interest in the U.S.S.R.
 - c. He is competitive and has set high goals.
 - d. He is an excellent student in school.
3. Which sentence helps you answer the previous question?
 - a. Tim wasn't so sure.
 - b. Seth was sure it could be done.
 - c. "Let's go try to be the first on Mars."
 - d. Blaring on television was the announcement that Neil Armstrong had just been the first person ever to walk on the moon.



Name _____

Date _____

BEING NEEDELED

Lynda hurried upstairs in an intent but deliberate manner. She just had to find her needlepoint. She had it yesterday, but this morning it was nowhere to be found. The ladies from the Society would be over soon. Whatever would she work on? She was excited to share the progress of her needlepoint with the other young ladies.

Lynda checked under her pillow, but the needlepoint was not to be found.

"Lemonade?" asked the maid.

"Not right now, Amelia. I'm trying to find my needlepoint. Have you seen it?" asked Lynda.

"I have not," said Amelia as she put the pitcher back in the refrigerator. "All of the goodies are set for your tea."

"Thank you, Amelia." Lynda scurried upstairs to have one more look. But it was to no avail. The needlepoint could not be found. Just then, the doorbell rang. She heard a group of voices in the hall. Lynda went downstairs with a sad face to greet her guests.

After she welcomed each of the young ladies, she brought them to the sitting room, and Amelia went to get the tea and cookies.

"Whatever is the matter, Lynda?" asked Corrine. "You look as though you have lost your favorite pet."

At that very moment, Lynda sat on the couch. She felt a prick in her leg. She almost let out a cry in pain but giggled instead.

"Oh, nothing, Corrine. I thought I had lost something, but it has been found," smiled Lynda.

STORY QUESTIONS

- How can you tell that Lynda has found her needlepoint?
 - Amelia informs her that it is found.
 - Lynda sees it on the counter in the sitting room.
 - Lynda accidentally sits on her needlepoint and is poked by the needle.
 - She has stopped crying.
- What would be a good title for this story?

a. "Lost for Good"	c. "Needlepoint Instructions"
b. "Society Tea"	d. "Needle-less Worries"
- What is another word for *deliberate* as used in this story?

a. instruction	c. question
b. purposeful	d. gaze



Name _____

Date _____

OVER THE TOP

Franklin and Shiloh set out early in the morning to get the field plowed. They were brothers and worked well as a team. Father trusted them to work alone far from home. These days it was time to plow the fields so they would be ready when the rains came. Plowing a field was hard work, but not too hard for these two young men.

Old Betsy, the mule, had been teamed and ready. She did not seem happy about the plans for the day. Franklin hit her gently on her back, and she began walking.

Halfway through the field, the boys heard a snap and realized that the plow had broken loose from the harness. The loud snap scared Betsy, and she started to run. Shiloh ran after Betsy, and Franklin went to survey the damage on the plow.

It was at least 30 minutes before Shiloh came back with Betsy in tow.

"What are we going to do now?" asked Shiloh.

"Well, as far as I can figure," said Franklin, "I've fixed the plow, but it's stuck. If we can get Betsy to pull it out, I think we're good to go."

The boys harnessed Betsy to the plow and snapped the whip. Betsy obeyed, but she sent the plow flying. It sailed right alongside Franklin and Shiloh, who had to jump to get out of the way in time.

"That was close," said Franklin.

"Yes, but we did it," stated Shiloh. "We did it."

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of paragraph three?
 - a. The plow was finally hitched to Betsy.
 - b. The plow broke loose from the harness.
 - c. Franklin snapped the whip on Betsy.
 - d. Betsy is hit in the leg from the plow and needs medical attention.
2. Which of the following sentences portrays the problem in this story?
 - a. Franklin and Shiloh have to work in the heat of the sun.
 - b. Shiloh and Franklin have to hurry out of the way of the plow.
 - c. Shiloh has to chase after Betsy.
 - d. The boys heard a snap and realized that the plow had broken loose.
3. Which of the following did not happen in the story?
 - a. Franklin and Shiloh's dad shows up to help.
 - b. Franklin devises a plan to fix the plow.
 - c. Shiloh chases after Betsy when she got loose.
 - d. Franklin and Shiloh work well together as a team.



Name _____ Date _____

SACRIFICE BRINGS BLESSINGS

Jarom came in from school feeling hot and tired. He sure could go for some butter cookies. It had been a long time since he had eaten butter. Just the sound of the word made his mouth water.

Jarom's father was away at war in Europe. He was a military doctor working to help the wounded soldiers in the war. Jarom's family had sacrificed great things—just like many others in the country—to help the men fighting the war.

Jarom looked out the window and saw his mother in the victory garden. She worked daily in the garden. It seemed to keep her mind off things.

They hadn't received a letter from his dad for almost a month. The officer Jarom's mother spoke with assured her that it wasn't uncommon to go through a dry spell without letters or correspondence. That's because he didn't know Jarom's dad. Jarom's dad faithfully wrote a letter each week. Jarom went out to pull weeds with his mom.

"Hi, Jarom. I hope it was a good day," said his mom.

"Good as ever," replied Jarom. Just then, the mailman came up the street. "I have a deal for you, Mom," said Jarom as he tried to cheer his mom up.

"What's that?" asked Mom.

"If a letter comes in the mail from Dad, I'll do the dishes for a week," offered Jarom.

"It's a deal," said Mom. Jarom groaned as he saw the huge smile on the postman's face. He had spoken too soon.



STORY QUESTIONS

- Which would be the most logical explanation as to why Jarom's dad didn't write for weeks?
 - He was tired of writing and it made him homesick.
 - He just did not have the interest in doing so.
 - He was afraid his letters were worrying his family.
 - He had been injured in the war.
- According to the passage, which sentence shows how Jarom feels about washing the dishes?
 - Jarom went out to pull weeds with his mom.
 - Jarom groaned as he saw the huge smile on the postman's face.
 - "If a letter comes in the mail from dad, I'll do the dishes for a week."
 - He had spoken too soon.
- Using the context clues, what is the meaning of the word *correspondence*?

a. facts	c. instructions
b. communication	d. information



Name _____

Date _____

SICK OF IT

Laura's baby brother was gravely ill. The doctor had been sent for, but it would take at least two days for him to arrive. Laura's family didn't know if her brother would make it that long. Laura had dreamed for many years of having a little sibling. It just didn't seem right to have him taken away so quickly. Little Owen had pneumonia. The disease had stricken many people in town, but it was especially hard on the young and old ones. Owen's cough made the windows rattle. Laura was scared.

Laura was a dutiful sister and sat right by his side morning and night. She kept the water bowl clean and filled. As she slept by his side at night, she would sing lullabies to help him sleep.

"When will the doctor come?" thought Laura.

Early the next morning, Laura was awakened to hear footsteps outside her door. It was the doctor. Laura rose from her chair in the bedroom and hurried to the door. The doctor rushed in with his bag. He quickly unloaded his tools and checked Owen's chest. Owen let out a little cough and smiled at Laura.

"What do you think?" Laura's mother anxiously asked the doctor.

"I think he's going to make it," said the doctor with a twinkle in his eye. "I think he has had the perfect care. I can tell he's got a mother that knows what to do and the devotion of a sister that carried him through."

The doctor left medicine with Laura's mother, and Laura sat down to breathe a huge sigh of relief.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which sentence shows the time period in which the story was written?
 - Laura's baby brother was gravely ill.
 - The doctor left medicine with Laura's mother.
 - He quickly unloaded his tools and checked Owen's chest.
 - The doctor had been sent for, but it would take at least two days for him to arrive.
- What conclusions can be drawn about how Owen feels about Laura?

a. He doesn't know her very well.	c. Owen loves Laura as much as she loves him.
b. He is too sick to care about Laura.	d. Owen is just beginning to learn who Laura is.
- After reading the passage, which of the following statements helps you answer the previous question?
 - Owen let out a little cough and smiled at Laura.
 - Little Owen had pneumonia.
 - "When will the doctor come?" thought Laura.
 - Owen's cough made the windows rattle.



Name _____

Date _____

OUT OF THE DUST

Hannah let another tear drop on her pillow that night. She knew she had better stop or else she would have mud all over herself. This wasn't a joke; she was serious. Hannah and her family were living in Oklahoma during the time of the Dust Bowl. Hannah's father had been a farmer, but now he was just like the others trying to scrape money together to feed his family.

Hannah missed her old life. She missed her life before the dust. The next morning at breakfast, she shared her feelings.

"I'm sick of it!" she demanded. "I'm so tired of wiping dust off of everything."

"We're doing the best we can," encouraged Hannah's mother. "It won't last forever you know."

"What do you miss, Hannah?" asked her father.

"I miss our life. I miss laughing and playing outside without a handkerchief over my face. I miss sleeping in my bed without grains of sand to rub my skin raw. I miss dancing together as a family watching the moon come up."

The family quietly finished their meal contemplating Hannah's words. The day continued as usual, but when Hannah came to dinner that night, things were different. She was surprised to see the fancy dishes. She smelled meat cooking. They hadn't had meat for months. Hannah put her hands over her mouth to see the dandelions in a bowl on the table. Just then, someone tapped her shoulder.

"Would you like to dance?" asked her father.

Hannah smiled and said, "Love to!"

STORY QUESTIONS

- Using the context clues, what does the word *scrape* mean?
 - organize
 - intensify
 - gather
 - chide
- According to the passage, what did Hannah's family do to help her cope with her problems?
 - They scolded her for not counting her blessings.
 - They ignored her comments because they couldn't do anything about it.
 - Her family made plans to move.
 - They created a special evening for everyone to enjoy.
- What is the theme of this story?
 - If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
 - If you try hard enough, you can win.
 - It's important to knock out your competition.
 - We may not have it all together, but together we have it all.