



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE DAILY NEWS

"Have you read the paper today, dear?" asked Grandma as she folded dishtowels. She seemed disgusted. "They have got to do something about Hitler."

"What can be done?" asked Mother. She wiped the sweat off of her brow.

"What's going on?" asked Cynthia. Cynthia was old enough to know that something was going on, but she was ignorant of the significance of the events taking place in their lives.

"Hitler is a very bad man," stated Grandma.

"Momma! Stop! You are going to scare the young girl," reprimanded Mother.

"She's got to learn soon enough," said Henry. Henry was in seventh grade. He was older and he thought he was very mature for his age. Henry and Cynthia's father had been away fighting the war for months now. Mother could barely talk about it. Henry was frustrated that they didn't discuss more of this topic. At times he would prod Grandma into discussing the topic even though it usually ended in an argument.

"Everyone's afraid to talk about it," Henry went on. "It's like people think that if they don't talk about it, then it's not really happening. But it is happening. Horrible things are happening and we need to do something about it!"

"Henry," Mother pleaded, "it is not that simple."

"What's not so simple? Will somebody please tell me what's going on?" asked Cynthia. She was curled up in a ball on the sofa. The heat had been turned off in an attempt to save money.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which sentence is the first to show that the story takes place during World War II?
  - Henry and Cynthia's father had been away fighting the war for months now.
  - She seemed disgusted. "They have got to do something about Hitler."
  - "Hitler is a very bad man," stated Grandma.
  - "Everyone's afraid to talk about it," Henry went on.
- Which sentence explains the problem in the story?
  - Mother could barely talk about it.
  - "Hitler is a very bad man," stated Grandma.
  - "What's going on?" asked Cynthia.
  - Henry was frustrated that they didn't discuss more of this topic.
- Who is the main character of the story?
 

a. Mother	d. Cynthia
b. Grandmother	e. there is no main character
c. Henry	



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## DEAR MR. PRESIDENT

Jackson hurried up to his apartment after school, skipping two or three steps at a time. When he got inside the apartment, he slammed the door shut.

"Are you okay, dear?" asked Mom. "You look as white as a ghost."

"I'm fine now," said Jackson. "The protesters were out again today, Mom, and they are scary!"

"Oh, dear, they sure can be," agreed Mom. "I wish they didn't have to do that so close to our apartment!"

"Mom, why are they protesting? Why are they so angry?" asked Jackson.

"They are upset about the war," explained Mom. "They don't think we should be in Vietnam."

"What do they want the government to do about it?" asked Jackson.

"I think they want them to send the troops home," replied Mom.

"But why are they burning the American flags?" asked Jackson incredulously.

"It does seem crazy," Mom explained, "but they feel it is their right to burn the flag protesting what the U.S. government is doing. Burning the flag is a way of making a statement."

"Kind of like freedom of speech?" asked Jackson.

"That's right," said Mom.

"Why don't they try writing a letter to the President instead?" inquired Jackson.

"Perhaps this form of communication is more effective," answered Mom.

Jackson shrugged his shoulders and headed up the stairs. He had a letter to write and he didn't want to waste another minute.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- What of the following sentences below shows when the story takes place?
  - "I'm fine now," said Jackson. "The protesters were out again today, Mom, and they are scary!"
  - "They are upset about the war," explained Mom. "They don't think we should be in Vietnam."
  - "Mom, why are they protesting? Why are they so angry?" asked Jackson.
  - "Oh, dear, they sure can be," agreed Mom. "I wish they didn't have to do that so close to our apartment!"
- What is the meaning of the word *incredulously* as used in the story?
  - in disbelief
  - remotely
  - timidly
  - frail
- Which of the following sentences explains the problem in the story?
  - He had a letter to write and he didn't want to waste another minute.
  - "What do they want the government to do about it?" asked Jackson.
  - "The protesters were out again today, Mom, and they are scary!"





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## YANKEE FEVER

For as long as Matthew could remember, he had been dreaming of watching Babe Ruth play in Yankee Stadium. The time had finally come. Matthew was still not old enough to go to the game by himself, but he had a seat reserved just for him. His seat happened to be in the branches of the tree just outside the fence. He had paid lots of money to Big Jim for the seat. He was so excited he could hardly sleep that night.

The next day after school, Matthew helped his mom fix dinner and even did the dishes afterwards.

Matthew hustled out the door and ran towards Yankee Stadium. "Be back by 9:00," he shouted.

He felt as though his heart might pound right out of his chest. He couldn't believe it. Big Jim and the boys were all waiting when Matthew got there. Matthew swung his leg over the branch and climbed up. He sat down on his designated branch and peered through the holes of a fence enclosing Yankee Stadium.

The janitor came strolling by. Matthew tried to keep from being seen. He was afraid to get caught. If the janitor caught you, he sent you home. But tonight, there was a new janitor.

Just then little Danny fell out of the tree. He screamed in pain and the janitor turned to look. He helped Danny up and brought him into the stadium. "The rest of you can join me," he called.

The boys looked at each other in disbelief. They all jumped from the tree and hurried inside the stadium. They didn't need to be asked twice.

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### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *designated* as used in this passage?
  - a. free
  - b. last
  - c. assigned
  - d. original
2. According to the passage, which sentence shows how Matthew feels about the new janitor?
  - a. Matthew tried to keep from being seen.
  - b. The boys looked at each other in disbelief.
  - c. He screamed in pain and the janitor turned to look.
  - d. He helped Danny up and brought him into the stadium. "The rest of you can join me," he called.
3. Which paragraph shows the resolution to the problem in the passage?
  - a. second paragraph
  - b. sixth paragraph
  - c. fourth paragraph
  - d. last paragraph



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## DREAM BIG

Nellie skimmed through the newspaper and folded it back up.

"I don't get why we have to read about other people's dreams in the newspaper," stated Nellie.

"What do you mean?" asked Grandma Bay. Grandma was knitting a scarf to keep Nellie warm.

"The paper has an article about this man who keeps dreaming," explained Nellie.

"Show me that article," prodded Grandma.

Nellie fetched the paper off the table and brought it over to Grandma. She also picked up Grandma's reading glasses to save herself a trip. Grandma began to read intently. "Oh, this is so good. Dr. King's words just resonate with me."

"Why? What's so great about dreaming?" asked Nellie, innocently.

"It's not a dream like the one you have at night. His dream is about the future and what it can hold for people like us," explained Grandma.

"I can dream my own dreams, thank you very much," stated Nellie. She didn't know what she thought about this Dr. King.

"What if this Dr. King was the very person who enabled you to live your dreams?" questioned Grandma. Nellie didn't respond.

"Dr. King is working to help all of us live out our very dreams," cooed Grandma. Nellie stiffened her back and walked over to look at the newspaper article. "This man can help me live my dreams?" asked Nellie.

"That's right, Nell. Think about it. He's opening doors for people everywhere," said Grandma. Nellie liked the sound of that. She smiled down at Dr. King.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What can you infer about Grandma's feelings about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?
  - a. Grandma felt that he had some interesting points to make.
  - b. Grandma admired and respected Dr. King.
  - c. Grandma was opposed to most of what Dr. King stood for.
  - d. Grandma was still trying to learn more about Dr. King.
2. Which of the following quotes helps answer the previous question?
  - a. "Why? What's so great about dreaming?"
  - b. "Oh, this is so good. Dr. King's words just resonate with me."
  - c. "I don't get why we have to read about other people's dreams in the newspaper."
  - d. "Show me that article."
3. What does the word *resonate* mean as used in this passage?
 

a. echo	c. partnership with
b. enchant	d. open up





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Jacob's mother stormed through the house with a handful of wooden signs in her hand.

"What are those, Mother?" asked Jacob. He had never seen his mother so energetic before.

"These are signs for the ladies march!" exclaimed Mother.

Jacob looked at his mother try on three different hats. She was bustling around hanging up hats and pulling others down. Jacob could feel the excitement in the air.

Outside the window in the street, Jacob watched a group of neighborhood ladies line up with signs of their own.

"What's going on?" asked Jacob.

"Votes for women!" his mother stated. "It's time that women get the right to vote!"

His mother grabbed a hat with big black feathers and marched downstairs carrying a sign. She threw open the door and joined the group of women outside.

"Votes for women?" asked Jacob.

Just then Jacob's dad came through the door. "Where's your mother headed?" he asked.

"She's off to get the right to vote," answered Jacob curiously.

"Oh, I see," chuckled Dad.

"What's so funny?" asked Jacob.

"Mother and her friends have been trying for years to get the U.S. government to allow women the right to vote," explained Jacob's dad.

"That seems like a reasonable request," said Jacob timidly. "Why should men be the only ones with the right to vote?" demanded Jacob. He walked over and picked up one of his mom's signs. He joined the group outside shouting, "Votes for women!"

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. How does Jacob's dad feel about women's suffrage?
  - a. He thinks it is a great idea.
  - b. He is upset that his wife is protesting.
  - c. He is spying on his wife's activities.
  - d. He thinks it's a silly idea that will never happen.
2. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?
  - a. to explain how Jacob's dad feels about the right to vote
  - b. to explain the relationship between Jacob and his mother
  - c. to explain the process of how women got the right to vote
  - d. to explain Jacob's feelings about women being allowed to vote
3. What is the meaning of the word *stormed* as used in the passage?
  - a. directed
  - b. engaged
  - c. stomped
  - d. squirmed



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## CHOOSE THE WRIGHT

Andy slipped into his parka and raced towards the outskirts of town. He was glad school was over. It had been a long day of math numbers and penmanship. Miss Carol seemed determined to do him in. Andy threw his book bag over his shoulder and kept on running.

Andy wasn't the best student, but ask him anything about flying and he could spew out facts. He was a flying expert. He loved to sit and watch birds fly. He studied their landings and their takeoffs. On occasion, he had been known to capture one and try experiments with its wings. The poor creature was left to flap around indignantly.

On the day Andy read the sign stating that Orville and Wilbur Wright were coming to town, he thought he would explode from excitement. The sign said that these two brothers were inventing a real flying machine and would be demonstrating it on the grassy hill above the town. Andy had hiked up his suspenders and raced the whole three miles home barefoot to share the news.

Today as Andy hiked up the grassy knoll, he was almost knocked flat on the ground. Just above him in the air was a huge flying machine. It was beautiful. Andy sat back on the grass to watch. The machine seemed to be flying all on its own. He scanned the crowd looking for the Wright brothers. He finally spotted the two. They were smiling with great pride.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of paragraph two?
  - a. Andy is not a very good student.
  - b. Andy is trying to get to the edge of town quickly.
  - c. Andy is trying to meet the Wright brothers.
  - d. Andy is intrigued with flying and spends all his free time learning about it.
2. Which sentence shows best how Andy feels about the Wright brothers?
  - a. Andy wasn't the best student, but ask him anything about flying and he could spew out facts.
  - b. The sign said that these two brothers were inventing a real flying machine and would be demonstrating it on the grassy hill above the town.
  - c. On the day Andy read the sign stating that Orville and Wilbur Wright were coming to town, he thought he would explode from excitement.
  - d. Andy slipped into his parka and raced towards the outskirts of town.
3. What is the meaning of the word *indignantly* as used in the passage?
  - a. in control
  - b. in annoyance
  - c. in line with
  - d. in tune





Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## DUST OFF THE MEMORIES

"Close the door," hollered Clara. "You are going to let all the dust in!" Clara and her best friend, Jenny, were busy hanging decorations in the gym. It had been Clara's idea to put on the party.

It had been a rough school year so far. Living through the Depression had been difficult. Many of the families in the little farming community were struggling. The drought and dust storms had been severe. The land was dried up and blowing everywhere. The economy was depressed with no help in sight. Having dust everywhere only aggravated the situation. You couldn't eat, sleep, or bathe without having to deal with the mountains and mountains of dust pouring in.

As head of the celebration committee, Clara took her job very seriously. She was amazed with the donations that had already poured in. Clara knew these were sacrifices when so many families were wondering where their next meal would be coming.

The night of the party arrived and the townspeople lined up outside the gymnasium.

"How can they put on a party with all this dust everywhere?" asked some of the people in line. Clara nervously took tickets from guests entering the party. As Mr. Paulson, the principal, walked in, he was moved to tears. The gymnasium was beautiful. Clara had placed jars filled with flowers all over. Candles were lit in bottles that were filled with dust and sand to stabilize them.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following sentences is first to show that this is a historical fiction story?
  - The economy was depressed with no help in sight.
  - Living through the Depression had been difficult.
  - The land was dried up and blowing everywhere.
  - The drought and dust storms had been severe.
- Which of the following words could be used to describe Clara?
  - angry
  - clever
  - misguided
  - a leader
- What is the meaning of the word *aggravated* as used in the passage?
  - intuitive and inspired
  - overbearing and rude
  - prepared to accept
  - irritated and annoyed



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## A LETTER FROM HOME

Dear Dad,

How are you? I hope you are safe. In school today, we talked again about the war and all that's going on. It always makes me feel nervous and I start to sweat. Mrs. Peterson talked about Hitler again and the terrible things he is doing. I'm proud to know that my dad is helping to fight evil like that.

The last of vegetables are coming off of our victory garden. Squash is mostly what is left. We haven't tasted butter in over three weeks. I miss it on my bread, but each time I get to missing it, I think about why we are not eating it. Mrs. Egen seems to think this war could be wrapped up by the end of the year.

The other day, the newspaper had a story about the clothes from wounded soldiers billowing in the wind. I just ignore those types of stories.

I know you want to know about school. It's going well. I'm getting all my homework done. Mom is doing well, too. She seems to be very strong, but sometimes I can hear her crying at night. Cindy is sick a lot, but I think she is just missing you.

Dad, I have just one question. How am I going to remember you? I look at your picture every day, but my memories from the past seem to be fading. I want to try and keep those memories alive. Any suggestions?

Your son,

Abe

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the last paragraph in the letter?
  - a. It provides the problem in the passage.
  - b. It provides the solution to the passage.
  - c. It is the climax of the passage.
  - d. It provides the background and the setting of the passage.
2. What is the meaning of the word *billowing* as used in the passage?

a. rushing	c. flapping
b. reflecting	d. descending
3. What is the real problem expressed in this passage?
  - a. Abe doesn't like writing letters to his dad.
  - b. Abe is worried that his father will get hurt.
  - c. Abe is worried that he won't remember his dad.
  - d. Abe is worried about the war.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## JUST A SCRATCH

"We're gonna rock around the clock tonight!" sang Billy as he danced around the room shaking his hips like crazy.

"Whoa, Billy! You are really moving those hips!" said Jimmy. Billy's hips were moving so fast that it was hard to see them from the blur. Jimmy and Billy were great friends.

The boys loved to get together to listen to records. They each had a collection of 45 records. In reality, Billy's collection of records actually belonged to his dad. But his dad seemed happy to share.

Billy's hips kept swinging and moving to the beat. As Billy's hips moved closer to the record player, he accidentally bumped the record player. Zrrrrrk! The needle of the record player sliced right across the record.

Billy froze and slowly turned around. He was mortified. What had he done? He knew this was his dad's favorite record. Was it now ruined?

Jimmy looked sheepishly up at Billy, scanning his face for a reaction. Billy put his hand to his face and gasped, "He's going to kill me!"

Billy moved in slow motion to the record player and pulled the record off. He surveyed the damage as he held the record up to the sunlight. Indeed there was a huge scratch.

Bang! The front door slammed shut and footsteps could be heard in the hallway. Billy cringed and Jimmy said, "Well, I think it's time for me to go home. I'll see you at the sock hop!"

Billy nodded and looked back down at the floor.



### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following sentences does not contain evidence that the story takes place in the past?
  - "We're gonna rock around the clock tonight!" sang Billy as he danced around the room shaking his hips like crazy.
  - They each had a collection of records.
  - Billy moved in slow motion to the record player and pulled the record off.
  - The needle of the record player sliced right across the record.
- Which paragraph explains the relationship between Billy and Jimmy?
 

a. first paragraph	c. second paragraph
b. fourth paragraph	d. third paragraph
- What is the meaning of the word *surveyed* as used in the story?
 

a. content and happy	c. inspected and examined
b. feisty and energetic	d. foreboding and sad



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE DRILL

"Here I come!" hollered Molly as her sled went flying down the hill. The brisk air on her cheeks made Molly close her eyes. It was cold, but the thrill of the ride made it worth it. Molly was dumped from her sled and landed in a heap at the bottom of the snowy hill.

"Hey, Molly, let's make a train," yelled Max. Max and Molly were brother and sister. They got along famously and seemed to get even closer as the years went by.

"Okay!" smiled Molly as she brushed the snow off her hair.

Just then a snowball sailed through the air and landed smack on Molly's head.

"Ted!" screamed Molly. He had lobbed the snowball lackadaisically into the air. He raced for the cover of the snow fort. Ben laughed at his friend and sat down to rest his legs.

BRRRRRRRIIIINNNGGGG! The loud noise from the siren made all the children cover their ears. At an instinct, all three children raced to the house as quickly as they could.

"Hurry!" called Mrs. Jones. "Get into the shelter!" The children ran in after her.

"Mom, why are we doing this again?" asked Molly.

"We want to be prepared. We are in the middle of the Cold War with the Soviet Union."

"Remind me again why it's called the Cold War," said Max.

"Because of the snow, silly. In the summer, it will be the hot war," said Ted laughing at his own joke.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which statement from the story would give a clue as to when the story took place?
  - As an instinct, all three children raced to the house as quickly as they could.
  - "Because of the snow, Silly. In the summer, it will be the hot war."
  - The loud noise from the siren made all the children cover their ears.
  - "Hurry!" called Mrs. Jones. "Get into the shelter!" The children ran in after her.
- What is the meaning of the word *lackadaisically* as used in the story?
 

a. happily	c. with drama
b. unenthusiastically	d. crazily
- Which of the following statements can be inferred from information shared in the story?
  - The Jones family was living during the time of the Cold War.
  - The neighborhood where the Jones' lived had a shelter for all the families.
  - Everyone was ordered to build a shelter in their homes.
  - Ted ran to the shelter in his own house.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## A NATION DIVIDED

Sadie let the door slam behind her as she came in.

"Hi," Mom called from the kitchen. "How was your day?"

"It was okay," replied Sadie. "As good as school gets, I guess."

"What's the long face for?" asked Mom. "You look as though you just heard an announcement that all the birthdays have been cancelled."

"It's worse than that," said Sadie. "We are learning about the Korean War in social studies, and it sounds a lot like the Vietnam War going on now."

"In what way?" inquired Mom.

"In the way that a lot of people are dying and it is scary! I'm not sure if our own government knows what is going on. It's all confusing."

"War is indeed confusing," reassured Mom, but her words didn't seem to help much.

"The two wars both involve a country that is split in two. Can you imagine our country being divided in half?"

"Well, if you want to talk about countries divided, what about the Civil War?" said Mom posing the question.

"My point exactly!" said Sadie. "Look at the carnage that the Civil War produced! If we are using former wars as the predictor, is the Vietnam War going to end up like the Korean War? How many people have to die for no reason at all?"

"To hear you talk, it sounds like you have a good understanding of what being at war means," commented Mom.

"It doesn't take much for a seventh grader to see that the war protesters in Washington might have a good point," added Sadie.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is meant by the word *carnage* as used in the passage?
  - a. rumors
  - b. agreement
  - c. dispute
  - d. bloodshed
2. What can you conclude about Sadie's understanding of history?
  - a. She is not very enlightened to historical facts.
  - b. She is more interested in her free time than what is taking place in the world.
  - c. She is frustrated by the lack of information she has.
  - d. Sadie seems to make it a point to learn about current events, as well as historical events.
3. Which sentence helps you answer the previous question?
  - a. "In the way that a lot of people are dying and it is scary!"
  - b. "I'm not sure if our own government knows what is going on."
  - c. "If we are using former wars as the predictor, is the Vietnam War going to end up like the Korean War?"



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## TIMBER!

"Timber!" screamed Ben. "Look out below!"

"Ben, you only say that when a tree is actually falling," said Felicity disgustedly.

"I'm just practicing," said Ben smiling. "Besides, I think it will bring me some luck."

"Relax," said Dad. "Let your brother have some fun. Today is a day to finally relax. We've been working so hard on clearing the land. It's about time we enjoy the beauty of our land."

Felicity lifted her skirts and kept walking. She knew her dad was right. She knew it was time to relax, but she couldn't get her mind off of her home—her last home, that is. Since her family had moved, she couldn't get her mind off of Boston. After all, she reasoned, she was a city girl.

Felicity's family had taken the train as far as it would go. From there, they purchased a wagon and supplies. They traveled incessantly for days on end. The further they traveled, the dirtier they got. Felicity felt like she belonged in a pigpen. Her dad had never run a team of mules before, so it was crazy at the beginning. One could hardly say this family was fit to tame the wilds of the west, but try as she might, Felicity couldn't convince her dad of that.

Felicity could barely stand the thought of taking another bath with freezing water. She missed the luxuries of city life. And now this! They were chopping down their own Christmas tree.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following could be used to describe Felicity?
  - a. angry
  - b. easily provoked
  - c. lonely
  - d. intelligent
2. What would be a good title for this story?
  - a. "First Settlers"
  - b. "Settling the West"
  - c. "Felicity's New Life"
  - d. "Felicity's Thorn"
3. What is another word for *incessantly* as used in this story?
  - a. continuously
  - b. purposefully
  - c. questioningly
  - d. halfheartedly





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE FEMALE AVIATOR

"Tell me again what she looked like," asked Mary.

Mary dangled her feet from the wicker furniture. The day was hot and steamy. Sweat beads were forming on Mary's forehead. She put her glass of lemonade to her forehead and looked at her aunt.

"Oh, Mary, aren't you tired of hearing about that?" asked her Aunt Mini.

"How on Earth could I ever tire of such a story?" replied Mary.

"Because it's the same story over and over, and it doesn't change," replied Aunt Mini.

Aunt Mini was home visiting for the summer. She was a professor at an all girls' college in the East. Mary loved it when she came home. Mary lived with her grandmother and her dad. Aunt Mini was like a breath of fresh air. She brought excitement to the farm.

"Yes, but it's your story," explained Mary. "You know somebody famous!"

"Knew somebody famous," reminded Aunt Mini. "I only knew her for a short time. In fact, only one semester."

"Yes, but she was the one and only Amelia Earhart," beamed Mary.

"That's right, she was," said Aunt Mini quietly. "What a tragedy."

"Was she good in school? When did she learn to fly?"

"She learned to fly at a flying school near college. She was fascinated with flying, and with every chance she got, she'd be at the flying school taking lessons. She spent more time doing that than studying."

"She must have been a natural," said Mary.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Using the context clues, what is the meaning of the word *beamed* as used in the passage?
  - smiled
  - opened
  - arranged
  - organized
- According to the passage, which sentence shows how Mary feels about Amelia Earhart?
  - "Was she good in school? When did she learn to fly?"
  - "Yes, but it's your story," explained Mary. "You know somebody famous!"
  - Aunt Mini was like a breath of fresh air. She brought excitement to the farm.
  - "How on earth could I ever tire of such a story?" replied Mary.
- What is the purpose of the first sentence?
  - to introduce the first character in the story
  - to explain the problem and resolution in the story
  - to provide the background and the setting of the story
  - none of the above



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Warm-Up 14

## YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Catherine opened the telegram as slowly as she could for fear of ripping it. Her trembling hands stopped short of opening it completely. The glue held fast on the corner. What if the letter bore bad news? What would she do? Catherine didn't think she could handle the disappointment. It had been a busy quarter with all of the papers and readings to do, but this letter and its contents were never far from her mind. She was exhausted both physically and mentally.

"Open it!" gushed Theresa. She couldn't handle the intensity. This letter would contain all the details of Catherine's future life. Would she move? Would she stay? What would happen?

"Oh, Theresa, it could all be over now. I'm just not sure I'm ready to accept that," said Catherine.

"The deal is already done," she explained. "Your life's course is already decided. You just don't know the details. Open it! Please! I'm begging you!" urged Theresa.

Catherine opened up the last bit of the telegram.

"Dear Miss Butler . . ." read Catherine.

"It sounds official!" exclaimed Theresa.

"We regret to inform you that the position of the school master in Frankfurt has been filled . . ." continued Catherine.

"Oh, dear," moaned Theresa, a lump forming in her throat.

"However . . ." Catherine interrupted. "We would like to offer you the school master position here at the school in Heatherby!"

"You got the position?" asked Theresa incredulously.

"Yes," sighed Catherine, as she smoothed her skirts. "Say hello to the new school master."

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which sentence does not hint at the time period in which the story was written?
  - Catherine opened the telegram as slowly as she could for fear of ripping it.
  - "We regret to inform you that the position of the school master in Frankfurt has been filled . . ." continued Catherine.
  - "Yes," sighed Catherine, as she smoothed her skirts.
  - "Oh Theresa, it could all be over now. I'm just not sure I'm ready to accept that," said Catherine.
- What conclusions can be drawn about how Theresa feels about Catherine?
  - She doesn't know very much about her.
  - She is unsure whether she is excited for Catherine or not.
  - She is hoping that Catherine will have to move for the new position.
  - She really likes Catherine and hopes that she can stay.
- What is the meaning of the word *incredulously* as used in the passage?
  - amazingly
  - skeptically
  - ignorantly





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

The rain was coming down so hard that Tilly felt like she was going to drown. She was slopping through the mud and could feel her shoes sticking each time. She didn't have a coat, so she was beginning to shake uncontrollably. The blanket she had grabbed to wear was torn and ragged. It wasn't good for much.

Every muscle in Tilly's body ached with exhaustion. She had been on the road running for days now. She wasn't sure exactly how many days she had been gone because all of her running was done at night under the light of the moon. But tonight there was no moon: only the clouds that blocked the moonlight and her feeling of freedom. As long as the moon was in the sky, Tilly felt like she was safe and everything would be okay.

It all started when a new slave showed up on the plantation. She was assigned to work in the shed just outside the barn. But this new slave had also brought a plan—a plan for an escape. She was careful whom she shared the plan with, as it was dangerous to let too many people know. Tilly had listened to the plan, and she and her sister were resolute about going.

The escape route was dangerous and filled with fear. At any minute, a slave could be caught and returned to his or her owner to face the severe consequences of trying to run away.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Using the context clues, what does the word *resolute* mean as used in this passage?
  - determined
  - intensified
  - interrogated
  - chided
- What is the main idea of the last paragraph?
  - to explain whether or not Tilly should trust the new slave
  - to explain the dangers involved with the escape plan
  - to explain the climax of the story
  - to explain the resolution of the story
- What is the name of the escape route that Tilly will take to escape?
  - The Freedom Train
  - The Liberty Bell
  - The Underground Railroad
  - none of the above