

## ELA PACKET

In this packet there will be a number of not only fun but helpful activities that will keep students structured and prepared for testing and everyday experiences worksheets to keep their minds active during this time away from class.

This packet will include worksheets involving

- Reading Comprehension
- Character Traits
- Context Clues
- Drawing Conclusions
- Inference in Literature
- Writing Prompts
- Building Plots
- Cause and Effect
- Character Description
- Fact of Opinion
- Short Story Composition

Both 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
Graders were given a  
Packet on 03/12/20  
as well.

(I have also included the  
Writing Project I was to  
give out 03/16/20)



# WRITING ESSAY

Student Lives, a magazine for young people, wants to know how technology has changed over the last 50 years. They have asked their readers to send in essays from a kids perspective, and the best one will be published in the magazine.

**Here is your time to shine! Write an essay ...**

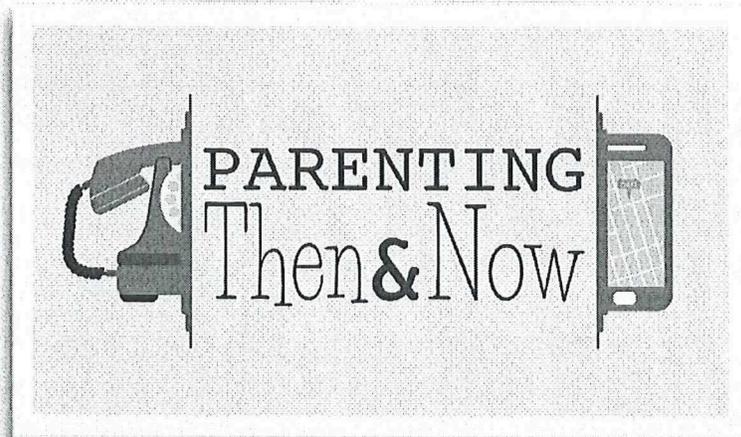
- Describing the changes in today's technology styles as compared to 50 years ago
- Explain the benefits and disadvantages of these technology changes
- Analyze which form of technology you think is best

**To get this essay done you will need to do a few thing...**

- **First:** You will do some research (using the internet, your knowledge, or talking to you family members/people around) make sure you document your findings.
- **Secondly:** You will then analyze your findings.
- **Lastly:** You will type (or write) a **400-500** words (double spaced, times new roman, 12point font ) essay discussing your findings.



- To give your essay a title.
- To have a proper Introduction(with topic sentence), Body (with supporting details), and Conclusion.
- To have your name, date, and class number on the top of your essay.
- Be confident!





Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Build a Plot: Write the Steps

The plot of a story is the main action that runs through the whole story. It begins with a problem or situation and ends when the problem is solved or finished in some way.

Below is the opening of a story and the end of a story. Decide what the problem is, then what the steps, or plot actions, should be to link the beginning of the story with the end. You may have new characters or a new setting that should be added in your steps. There is space provided for three steps. You may add more if needed.

## Beginning:

Lance walked quickly through the gate and into the alley. He went to the small pen he had built near the trash dumpster. The little puppy was curled up asleep on a blanket. Lance pulled out a water bottle and filled the water bowl. He reached in his pocket for the puppy food he had gotten from his friend Ben. He put the food in the bowl. The puppy woke up and wagged its tail.

Lance knew his parents would never let him keep this stray puppy. His father always sneezed around dogs. But Lance loved this silly little puppy, with its bright eyes and playful ways. Lance didn't know what he was going to do.

### Step 1

### Step 2

### Step 3

## Ending:

Sunday afternoon Lance rang the doorbell at his aunt's house. He could hardly wait to play with Bright Eyes. When his aunt opened the door, Bright Eyes bounced around behind her. His aunt laughed. "Come in, Lance," she said. "Every dog deserves a little boy to play with," she said smiling.

# The School Letter

As Mark walked into his house he saw his mother and father sitting closely together at the kitchen table. The tone of their voices was calm yet serious. They were looking at a piece of paper with the logo of Mark's school at the top. Dad's eyebrows were drawn together, his eyes focused on the paper scanning the information. Mark was hesitant to enter the kitchen and thought for a moment about sneaking back out the door. Just then his mother noticed him standing in the hallway and said, "Mark, please come in here". Mark's heart began to race and his palms started sweating. As he entered the kitchen Mark knew he was going to be spending the next few weeks up in his room hitting the books. Goofing off in class didn't work after all.

## How does Mark feel?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



## How do you know?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## What are the main details or context clues of the story?



- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Talking Points

- What are the benefits of being a good student?
- Do you think Mark thought he would get away with having bad grades?
- What's better in your opinion, doing the work on time or leaving it all until later?
- 

## Grading

# of answers completed independently \_\_\_\_\_

divided by

# of answers provided by the student \_\_\_\_\_

= % completed independently \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Using Context Clues with Literature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Jules Verne published "Around the World in Eighty Days" in 1873. It's the story of English gentleman Phineas Fogg who takes a bet that he can travel around the world in eighty days. This was almost impossible in those days with limited railroads and no air travel at all. The passage below is when Fogg tells his servant Passepartout to prepare for the trip. Read the passage and pay special attention to the underlined words. Complete the grid at the bottom of the page.

## Around the World in Eighty Days *by Jules Verne*



"...We start for Dover and Calais in ten minutes."

A puzzled grin overspread Passepartout's round face; clearly he had not comprehended his master.

"Monsieur is going to leave home?"

"Yes," returned Phileas Fogg. "We are going round the world."

Passepartout opened wide his eyes, raised his eyebrows, held up his hands, and seemed about to collapse, so overcome was he with stupefied astonishment.

"Round the world!" he murmured.

"In eighty days," responded Mr. Fogg. "So we haven't a moment to lose."

"But the trunks?" gasped Passepartout, unconsciously swaying his head from right to left.

"We'll have no trunks; only a carpet-bag, with two shirts and three pairs of stockings for me, and the same for you. We'll buy our clothes on the way. Bring down my mackintosh and traveling-cloak,

and some stout shoes, though we shall do little walking. Make haste!"

Passepartout mechanically set about making the preparations for departure. Around the world in eighty days! Was his master a fool? No. Was this a joke, then? They were going to Dover; good! To Calais; good again! After all, Passepartout, who had been away from France five years, would not be sorry to set foot on his native soil again. Perhaps they would go as far as Paris, and it would do his eyes good to see Paris once more. But surely a gentleman so chary of his steps would stop there; no doubt—but, then, it was none the less true that he was going away, this so domestic person hitherto!

By eight o'clock Passepartout had packed the modest carpet-bag, containing the wardrobes of his master and himself; then, still troubled in mind, he carefully shut the door of his room, and descended to Mr. Fogg.

Word	part of speech	What do you think it means?	What were your clues?
1. overspread			
2. returned			
3. stupefied			
4. carpet-bag			
5. mackintosh			
6. stout			
7. native			
8. chary			
9. hitherto			
10. wardrobes			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

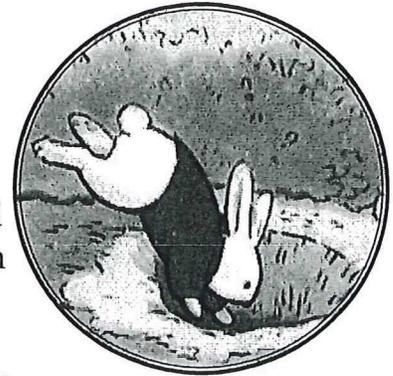
Cause and Effect:

# Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Lewis Carroll wrote "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" in 1865. It's the story of a girl who follows a rabbit and has some amazing adventures. Below is a passage from the book. Alice is sitting with her sister near a river.

## I: Down the Rabbit-Hole

So she was considering in her own mind (as well as she could, for the day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.



There was nothing so very remarkable in that, nor did Alice think it so very much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!" But when the Rabbit actually took a watch out of its waistcoat-pocket and looked at it and then hurried on, Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and, burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it and was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole, under the hedge. In another moment, down went Alice after it!

1. Name the cause: Alice wasn't sure she wanted to get up to pick daisies. Why was she feeling this way? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name the effect: The White Rabbit had a watch and was wearing a coat. What effect did that have on Alice? \_\_\_\_\_

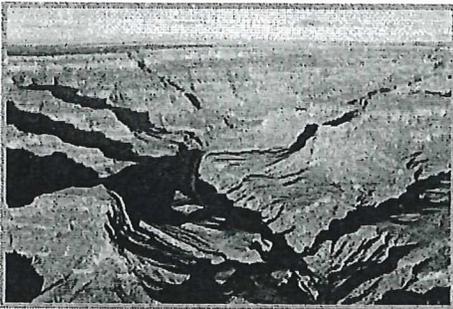
3. Name the cause: Alice follows the White Rabbit. What was she feeling that made her follow the rabbit? \_\_\_\_\_

# The Grand Canyon

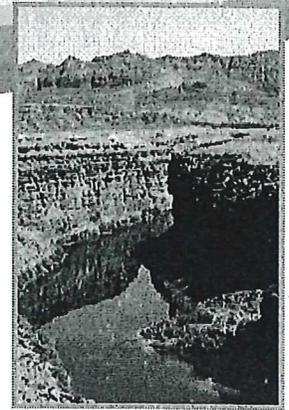
The Grand Canyon is a large river canyon in Arizona. It is over 220 miles long and over a mile deep in some places. Its widest point is 18 miles wide. The canyon is considered one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

Over millions of years, the Colorado River wore away rocks as it passed through the area. Slowly, the river made the path deeper and deeper. Now, the canyon is surrounded by steep walls on either side, while the river continues to flow at the bottom of the canyon.

Besides its large size, the Grand Canyon is also known for its magnificent colors. The canyon is made of layers of rock, and each layer of rock has a different depth and color. Geologists have identified almost 40 different layers of rock exposed by the river's erosion.



*Aerial view of the Grand Canyon*



*The Colorado River formed the Grand Canyon.*

The climate in canyon area is primarily desert, with both high and low temperatures. The upper rims of the canyon often receive snowfall. The air quality is usually very high, although dust storms and smoke from fires can change the air.

The Grand Canyon is home to a variety of plants and animals. Plants range from various species of cactus to pine forests. Many types of animals live in the area, including the bald eagle, bobcats, bats and gila monsters. Six different kinds of rattlesnakes have been identified in the area.

Native Americans have inhabited the area for around 3,000 years. Spanish conquistadors first explored the area in 1540. Later, Spanish priests and explorers returned in 1776. However, they did not stay, as they found the canyon impassable.

Arizona became part of the United States in 1848, and the first geological studies were completed on the Grand Canyon in 1856. Today, the canyon is part of the Grand Canyon National Park. About five million tourists visit the park each year.

## What Does It Mean?

Circle the correct meaning for each of the following words from the passage.

### 1. geologists

- a. scientists who study the physical properties of the earth
- b. scientists who study plants and animals in Arizona
- c. scientists who study numbers

### 2. various

- a. desert
- b. different kinds
- c. rare; unusual

### 3. impassable

- a. unable to cross
- b. far from civilization
- c. haunted

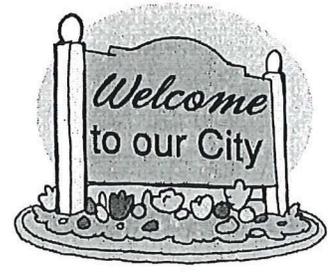
### 4. erosion

- a. the act of drying up or evaporating
- b. change of direction
- c. the act of wearing away or grinding down

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Hometown

In the space below, write about your hometown. How big is it? What are some interesting facts about it? What is the climate and geography like? There is also a space for you to add pictures.



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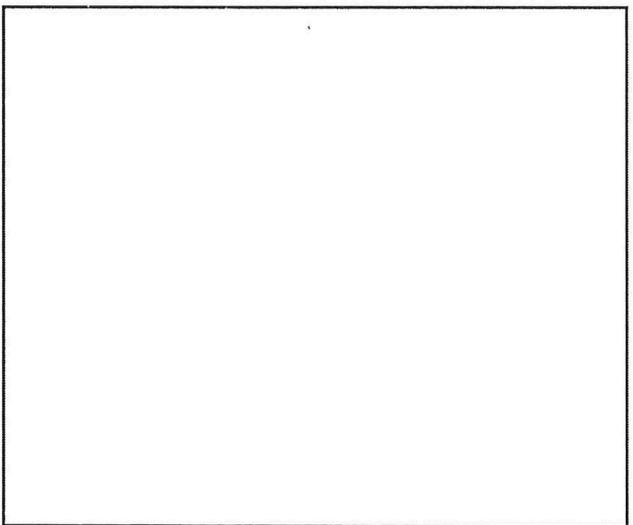
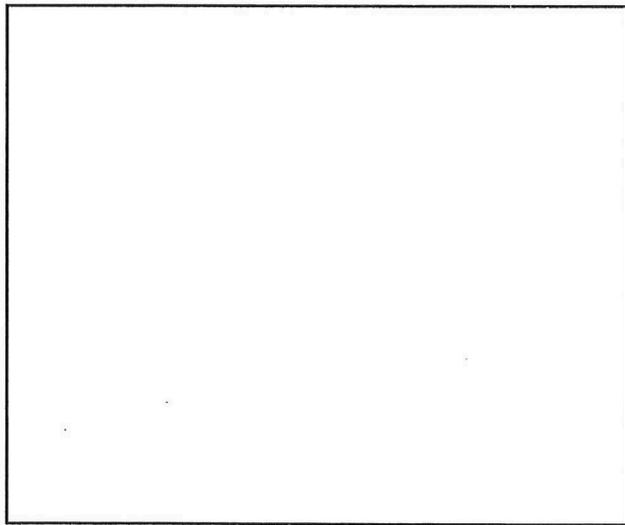
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# Character Traits and Jane Eyre

Charlotte Brontë published her novel *Jane Eyre* in 1847. It tells the story of a young orphan, Jane Eyre, from childhood to adulthood. At the beginning of the story, Jane is 10 years old. Her uncle and his family have cared for her since her parents died a few years earlier.

In this passage, the uncle has died, and Jane is left with her aunt and cousins, none of whom are kind to her. Her cousin John is sitting in a chair and has called Jane.

## Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

### CHAPTER I

John Reed was a schoolboy of fourteen years old; four years older than I, for I was but ten: large and stout for his age, with a dingy and unwholesome skin; thick lineaments in a spacious visage, heavy limbs and large extremities. He gorged himself habitually at table, which made him bilious, and gave him a dim and bleared eye and flabby cheeks. He ought now to have been at school; but his mama had taken him home for a month or two, "on account of his delicate health." Mr. Miles, the master, affirmed that he would do very well if he had fewer cakes and sweetmeats sent him from home; but the mother's heart turned from an opinion so harsh, and inclined rather to the more refined idea that John's sallowness was owing to over-application and, perhaps, to pining after home.

John had not much affection for his mother and sisters, and an antipathy to me. He bullied and punished me; not two or three times in the week, nor once or twice in the day, but continually: every nerve I had feared him,

and every morsel of flesh in my bones shrank when he came near. There were moments when I was bewildered by the terror he inspired, because I had no appeal whatever against either his menaces or his inflictions; the servants did not like to offend their young master by taking my part against him, and Mrs. Reed was blind and deaf on the subject: she never saw him strike or heard him abuse me, though he did both now and then in her very presence, more frequently, however, behind her back.

Habitually obedient to John, I came up to his chair: he spent some three minutes in thrusting out his tongue at me as far as he could without damaging the roots: I knew he would soon strike, and while dreading the blow, I mused on the disgusting and ugly appearance of him who would presently deal it. I wonder if he read that notion in my face; for, all at once, without speaking, he struck suddenly and strongly. I tottered, and on regaining my equilibrium retired back a step or two from his chair.

### List 10 character traits of John Reed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

### Bonus question:

Name three of Jane's character traits that are the opposite of John's.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Character Description: Huck Finn from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Below is the description of Huckleberry Finn in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. Read the description and answer the questions below.

**H**uckleberry was cordially hated and dreaded by all the mothers of the town, because he was idle and lawless and vulgar and bad—and because all their children admired him so, and delighted in his forbidden society, and wished they dared to be like him. Tom was like the rest of the respectable boys, in that he envied Huckleberry his gaudy outcast condition, and was under strict orders not to play with him. So he played with him every time he got a chance. Huckleberry was always dressed in the cast-off clothes of full-grown men, and they were in perennial bloom and fluttering with rags. His hat was a vast ruin with a wide crescent lopped out of its brim; his coat, when he wore one, hung nearly to his heels and had the rearward buttons far down the back; but one suspender supported his trousers; the seat of the trousers bagged low and contained nothing, the fringed legs dragged in the dirt when not rolled up.

Huckleberry came and went, at his own free will. He slept on doorsteps in fine weather and in empty hogsheads in wet; he did not have to go to school or to church, or call any being master or obey anybody; he could go fishing or swimming when and where he chose, and stay as long as it suited him; nobody forbade him to fight; he could sit up as late as he pleased; he was always the first boy that went barefoot in the spring and the last to resume leather in the fall; he never had to wash, nor put on clean clothes; he could swear wonderfully. In a word, everything that goes to make life precious that boy had. So thought every harassed, hampered, respectable boy in St. Petersburg.

### Questions:

1. Where did Huck's clothes come from? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Huck hold up his pants? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How often did Huck have to take a bath? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who told Huck what to do? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When did Huck go barefoot? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Is It a Fact or an Opinion?

A fact is something that is true and can be proven. An opinion is what a person thinks or feels. Read each sentence below. Write *fact* in the blank if it is a fact. Write *opinion* in the blank if it is opinion.

- 1. Blue is the prettiest color. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Sarah went to the store on Monday. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. A camel is a mammal. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Spinach tastes great. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Everyone should go to the movies on Friday. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Theresa's dog is a poodle. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Bears are very interesting. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Jake is the best baseball player. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. George Washington was the first president of the United States. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Picnics are better in the summer. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Soccer is a dumb game. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. The earth has a north and south pole. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Cheetahs can run faster than horses. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. George Washington was the greatest president of the United States. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. Red shoes are better than white shoes. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Tuesday comes after Monday. \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Spiders are creepy. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. January is the worst month of the year. \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. Dogs have a better sense of smell than humans. \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. Halloween is in October. \_\_\_\_\_

fact? opinion? fact? opinion?

# Inference in Literature:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Below are two passages from L. Frank Baum's classic story "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." The first passage is about Dorothy's home in Kansas. The second refers to the road outside the Emerald City in Oz. Read both passages and answer the questions.

### Passage A

When Dorothy stood in the doorway and looked around, she could see nothing but the great gray prairie on every side. Not a tree nor a house broke the broad sweep of flat country that reached to the edge of the sky in all directions. The sun had baked the plowed land into a gray mass, with little cracks running through it. Even the grass

was not green, for the sun had burned the tops of the long blades until they were the same gray color to be seen everywhere. Once the house had been painted, but the sun blistered the paint and the rains washed it away, and now the house was as dull and gray as everything else.

1. What is the most common color of the area around Dorothy's home?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Does this sound like a pleasant place?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Passage B

The road was smooth and well paved, now, and the country about was beautiful, so that the travelers rejoiced in leaving the forest far behind, and with it the many dangers they had met in its gloomy shades. Once more they could see fences built beside the road; but these were painted green, and when they came to a small house, in which a farmer evidently lived, that also was painted green.

They passed by several of these houses during the afternoon, and sometimes people came to the doors and looked at them as if they would like to ask questions; but no one came near them nor spoke to them because of the great Lion, of which they were very much afraid. The people were all dressed in clothing of a lovely emerald-green color and wore peaked hats like those of the Munchkins.

3. What is the most common color of the surroundings in this passage?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Does this sound like a pleasant place?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What do you think the author is trying to say about the differences in these two places?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Self Reflection

Do you ever feel like you are running from one activity to another, or studying a mad rush of one subject after another? When things happen at such a fast pace, it is easy to lose sight of what you are doing, or what you are learning. It is important to stop yourself every now and then to think about what you've been doing or learning.

Self reflection means stopping the mad rush of activity and calming yourself and your mind so your brain can evaluate the input it has already received. Some people prefer to do their self reflections mentally, while others keep a journal or written notes of some kind. Either method can work, depending on what your own personal style is. Whether written or purely mental, the process is the same.

School textbooks are often divided into chapters and units of study. This can make it easier for someone who wants to begin the process of self reflection to get started. Watch for the times when you complete a unit of study in any of the subjects you are learning: math, social studies, science, art, or any other topic that might be specific to your school. Sometimes you are reminded that the unit is over because there is some kind of test or quiz. Use these natural

breaks as opportunities to stop and reflect.

Find a quiet place. This can even be sitting at your desk at school when you finish something early and the other students are still working. If you are going to take notes, take out paper or your reflection journal. Jot down some notes on things that you learned in this unit that you did not know before you began. Let your mind ponder on the notes you have written and make some connections.

Sometimes just pausing to think deeply allows your brain to make connections so that new information can be quickly retrieved when you need it again. Next, think about things that you still wonder. For example, maybe you learned about a certain body system, but you're not sure how it works together with the other body systems. Maybe you learned a new way to solve a math problem, but you're not sure when to use it. Writing down your questions will help you remember to continue seeking answers the next time you are exposed to the same topic. Self reflection is an essential skill for a successful student. If you have never taken the time to reflect, try it now.

## What Does It Mean?

Explain what self reflection means as it is used here.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# What Is It?

Read each paragraph below carefully. Then answer the question and write three words or phrases from the text that you used as clues for your answer.

A. When Laura opened the front door, there it was. The little one was black and white, with long shaggy ears. It was not wearing a collar. As she came closer, it wagged its tail and looked at her with big brown eyes.

What did Laura see at the front door? \_\_\_\_\_

Words or phrases you used as clues:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

B. It lay on the shelf, dusty and sad. Its brown leather cover was dry and cracked. The title and author's name were once printed in gold, although some of the gold had worn away. Certainly no one had read it for a long time.

What was on the shelf? \_\_\_\_\_

Words or phrases you used as clues:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

C. It drifted across the blue sky slowly. At one time it looked like a white dragon, but then it shifted and became a fluffy bunny. There would be no rain from it today.

What was it? \_\_\_\_\_

Words or phrases you used as clues:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
 And sorry I could not travel both  
 And be one traveler, long I stood  
 And looked down one as far as I could  
 To where it bent in the undergrowth;

And both that morning equally lay  
 In leaves no step had trodden black.  
 Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
 Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
 I doubted if I should ever come back.

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
 And having perhaps the better claim,  
 Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
 Though as for that the passing there  
 Had worn them really about the same,

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
 Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
 I took the one less traveled by,  
 And that has made all the difference.

## Figuratively Speaking

The poem's literal meaning is about a person who has a choice between two roads and decides to take the road that has been used less. Write a short paragraph about the figurative meaning of the poem.

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