

Name _____

Character and Plot

- **Traits** are the qualities, such as bravery or shyness, of **characters**, or the people and animals in a story. We see characters' traits in their words and how other characters treat them.
- The **plot** is the pattern of events in a story. Usually, the events are told in sequence, from start to finish.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

Every day, Nipper, Jack's favorite sheepdog, and Bowser, the German Shepherd, ran through the pastures on Jack's farm, protecting and corralling Jack's large sheep herd. The main job for the dogs was to keep the sheep from wandering too close to the woods, where a pack of wolves was known to live. A wolf could be very dangerous to a sheep.

One day a large grey wolf wandered onto the farm. It snuck around the farmhouse, crept slowly up behind the

herd, and was getting ready to pounce on one of the sheep. From across the field, Nipper and Bowser sprang into action. They raced like rockets across the field, barking like crazy. They ran straight toward the wolf. The wolf ran as fast as it could back into the woods. Jack drove up in his pickup truck shortly after the wolf ran away. He walked over, petted the dogs and asked, "Why do you guys seem so excited?"

1. Who are Nipper and Bowser?

2. What traits might describe the dogs?

3. What do Nipper and Bowser do when they see the wolf get ready to pounce on the sheep?

4. Are they successful? How do you know?

5. If Nipper and Bowser could have answered Jack's question, what might they have said?

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Home Activity Your child answered questions about plot and character based on a short passage. With your child, describe a character from a favorite book or movie.

Name _____

Multisyllabic Words

Proofread an Article Circle six spelling errors. Write the words correctly. Find one capitalization error and write the sentence correctly.

Fictional Detectives

Literature has its share of famous detectives. writers have created an enormous variety of detectives. All have curiosity about and a fascination with crime. Usually, they are average people with an especially high probability of being right in the middle of a crime scene! As one famous detective said, "It's elementary, my dear Watson!"

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | _____ |

Spelling Words

elementary
vehicle
miniature
probability
opportunity
substitute
variety
literature
elevator
Pennsylvania

ravioli
cafeteria
mosaic
tuxedo
meteorite
fascination
cylinder
intermediate
centennial
curiosity

Proofread Words Circle the word that is spelled correctly.

8. A ____ looks like a rock.
 metorit meteoright meteorite
9. I made a ____ out of glass tile.
 mosaic mosesic mosiac
10. My 99-year-old grandfather will have his ____ birthday next year.
 centenial centennial cintennial
11. William Penn was the founder of ____.
 Pennsylvania Pennsylvyvania Pennysalvenia
12. The tour ____ can go on land and water.
 veacle vehicle vehical
13. A soup can is a ____.
 cylindar cylander cylinder
14. My dog is a ____ poodle.
 miniature miniture miniatur

Frequently Misspelled Words

usually
especially



Home Activity Your child identified misspelled multisyllabic words. Ask your child to select four list words and tell you how many syllables are in each word.

Name _____

Vocabulary

Directions Draw a line to connect each word on the left with its definition on the right.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. bellow | gave up on, dismissed |
| 2. savage | try or make an effort |
| 3. attempt | shout or roar like a bull |
| 4. feat | wild, ferocious, angry |
| 5. abandoned | a difficult or skillful act |

**Check the Words
You Know**

___ abandoned

___ attempt

___ bellow

___ cavern

___ feat

___ immensely

___ savage

Directions Choose a word from the box that best matches each sentence. Write the word on the line.

- _____ 6. The outlaw buried the gold in the _____ just before his arrest.
- _____ 7. For her latest brave accomplishment, or _____, the escape artist freed herself from chains just in time to pull the cord on the parachute.
- _____ 8. Their effort, or _____, to hike the entire Appalachian Trail in two months had little chance of success.
- _____ 9. The _____ popular rock music star was greeted at the coliseum by thousands of his adoring fans.
- _____ 10. The _____ expression on her face would not have been out of place on a panther or some other wild animal.

Write a News Report

On a separate sheet of paper, write an imaginary news report that describes two local youth who surprise everyone by succeeding at a difficult task. Use as many vocabulary words as you can.



Home Activity Your child identified and used vocabulary words from the story *The Skunk Ladder*. Together, come up with a list of accomplishments that you or your child performs regularly, but that might seem amazing to other people.

Name _____

Author's Purpose

Directions Read the article. Then answer the questions below.

The restless look on Winnie's face made me nervous. "There's nothing to do around here," she complained. She was right. Our town was boring. "We should protest something," Winnie declared. Winnie loved to protest. She became energized when she made signs and handed out flyers.

Suddenly, Winnie's face brightened. "What about the senior center?" she asked.

"Winnie, our town doesn't have a senior center," I said.

"Exactly!" she exclaimed. "We'll demand that the town turn the abandoned factory downtown into a senior center. It'll be our best protest ever!" she said. "After we succeed, the senior citizens will be so grateful that they will give us a hand in our next protest!"

1. What is the author's purpose in the passage above?

2. Does the narrator or Winnie make the big decision in the story?

3. What do the narrator and Winnie plan to do?

4. What is the motivation, or purpose, behind Winnie's plans?

5. Does the author succeed at his or her purpose? Why or why not?

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Home Activity Your child has answered questions about an author's purpose in a fictional passage. Read a short story with your child and identify how the author succeeds or fails to write a humorous or dramatic tale.