

*Dear*  
**MR. HENSHAW**

*By Beverly Cleary*

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**a No Prep  
Novel Study**

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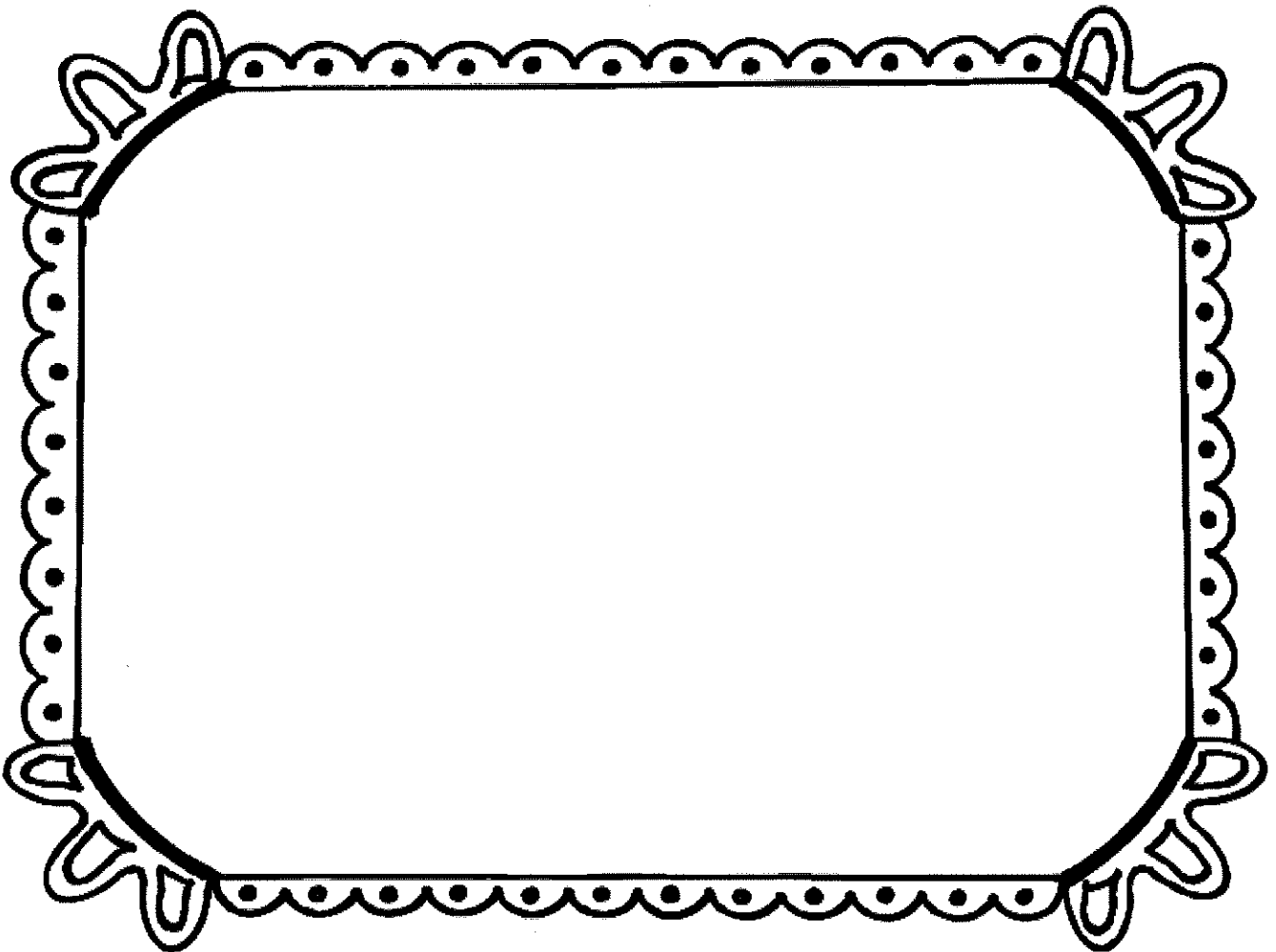
*By: Third and Goal*

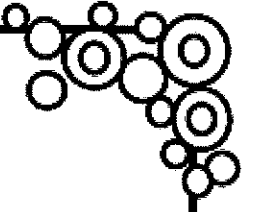
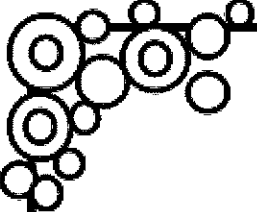


A large, blank, lined writing area consisting of approximately 15 horizontal lines, intended for students to write their responses or notes.

# Visualizing

Good readers create mental images of what they read. Visualize what you think could happen in this story. Draw the picture that appears in your mind.





# Section 1 (Pages 1-30)

1. Why do you think we don't get to see what Mr. Henshaw writes Leigh?

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2. Give evidence from the text that proves Mr. Henshaw answered Leigh's questions in a silly way.

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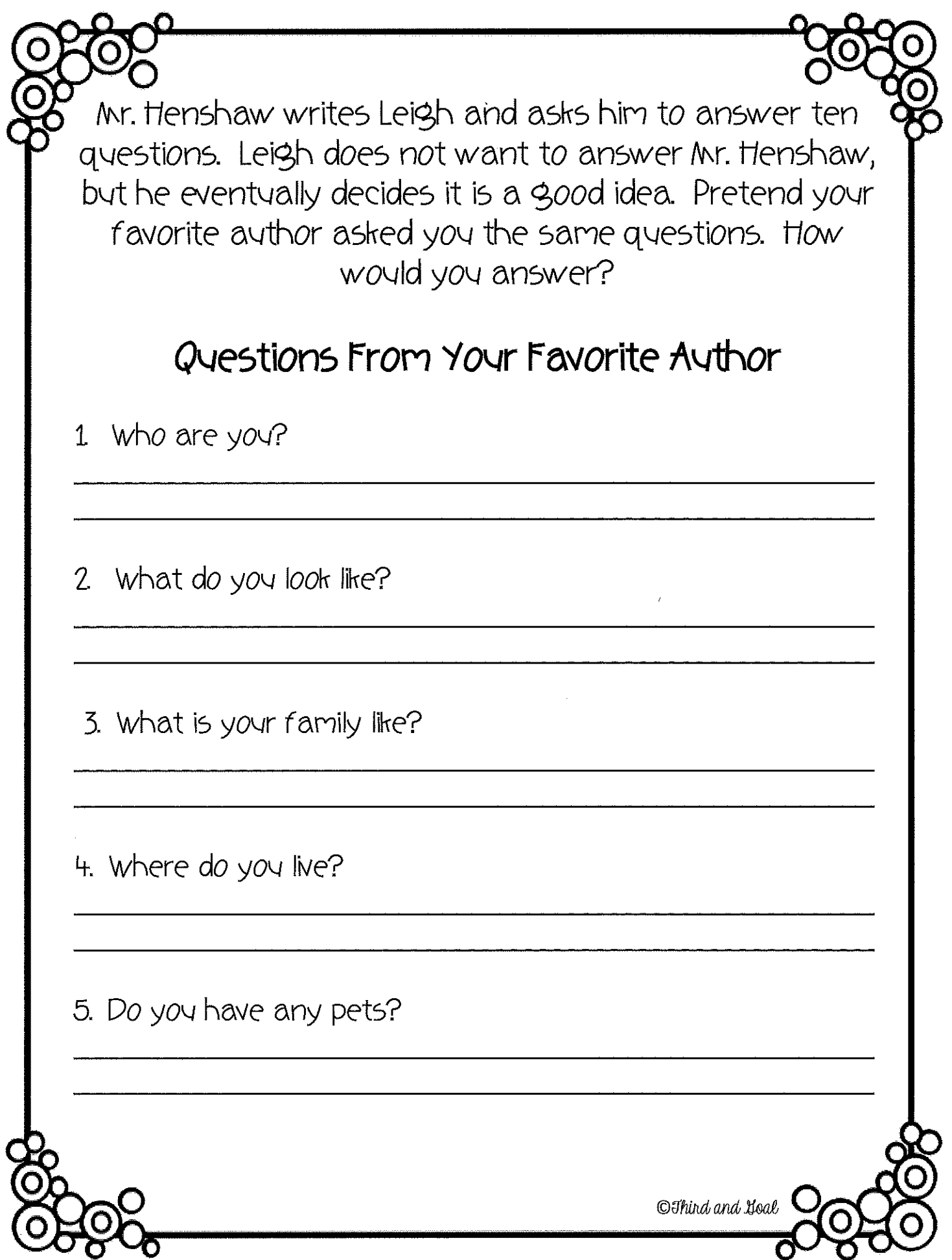
3. Why does Leigh feel medium? Have you ever felt that way?

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4. Leigh describes his neighborhood on pages 21-22. Draw and label his street in the space below.



Mr. Henshaw writes Leigh and asks him to answer ten questions. Leigh does not want to answer Mr. Henshaw, but he eventually decides it is a good idea. Pretend your favorite author asked you the same questions. How would you answer?

## Questions From Your Favorite Author

1. Who are you?

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2. What do you look like?

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3. What is your family like?

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4. Where do you live?

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5. Do you have any pets?

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## Questions from Your Favorite Author

6. Do you like school?

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7. Who are your friends?

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8. Who is your favorite teacher?

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9. What bothers you?

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10. What do you wish?

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# Cause AND Effect

Cause

Effect

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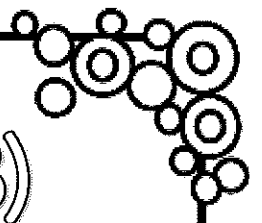
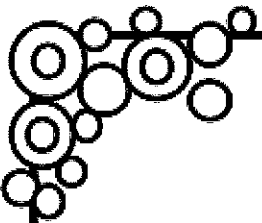
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Cause

Effect



## SECTION 2 (PAGES 31-53)

1. Why would Mr. Henshaw continue to answer Leigh when he is so busy?

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2. What do you think a "lonely hearts" dinner is?

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3. Describe the difference in how Leigh feels about his dad and the way his mom feels about his dad.

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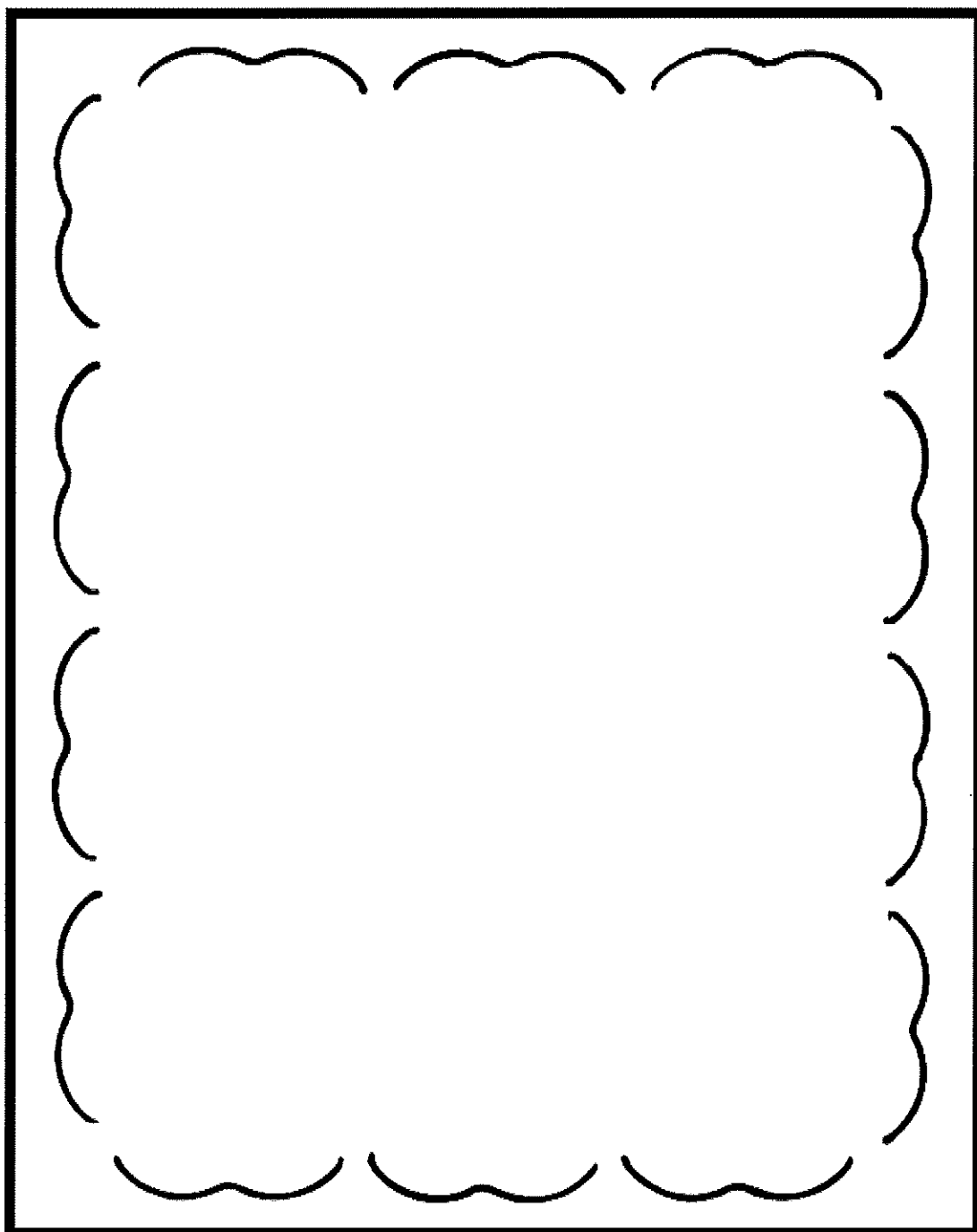
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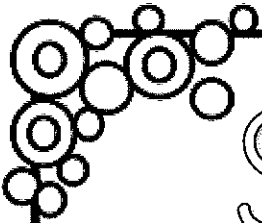
4. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_

Effect: Leigh wants to make a burglar alarm for his unchbag.

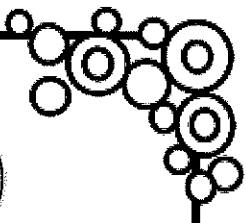
Design a lunchbag alarm for Leigh. What would it look like? How would it protect his lunch? Draw and Label your invention in the space below.







# Section 3 (PAGES 55-78)



1. How does Leigh know that Mr. Fridley is not the only one to notice him?

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2. Why is Leigh mad at his father?

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3. What happened to Bandit?

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4. Why does Leigh's mom cry?

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5. How can you tell Leigh feels better when they go to the beach?

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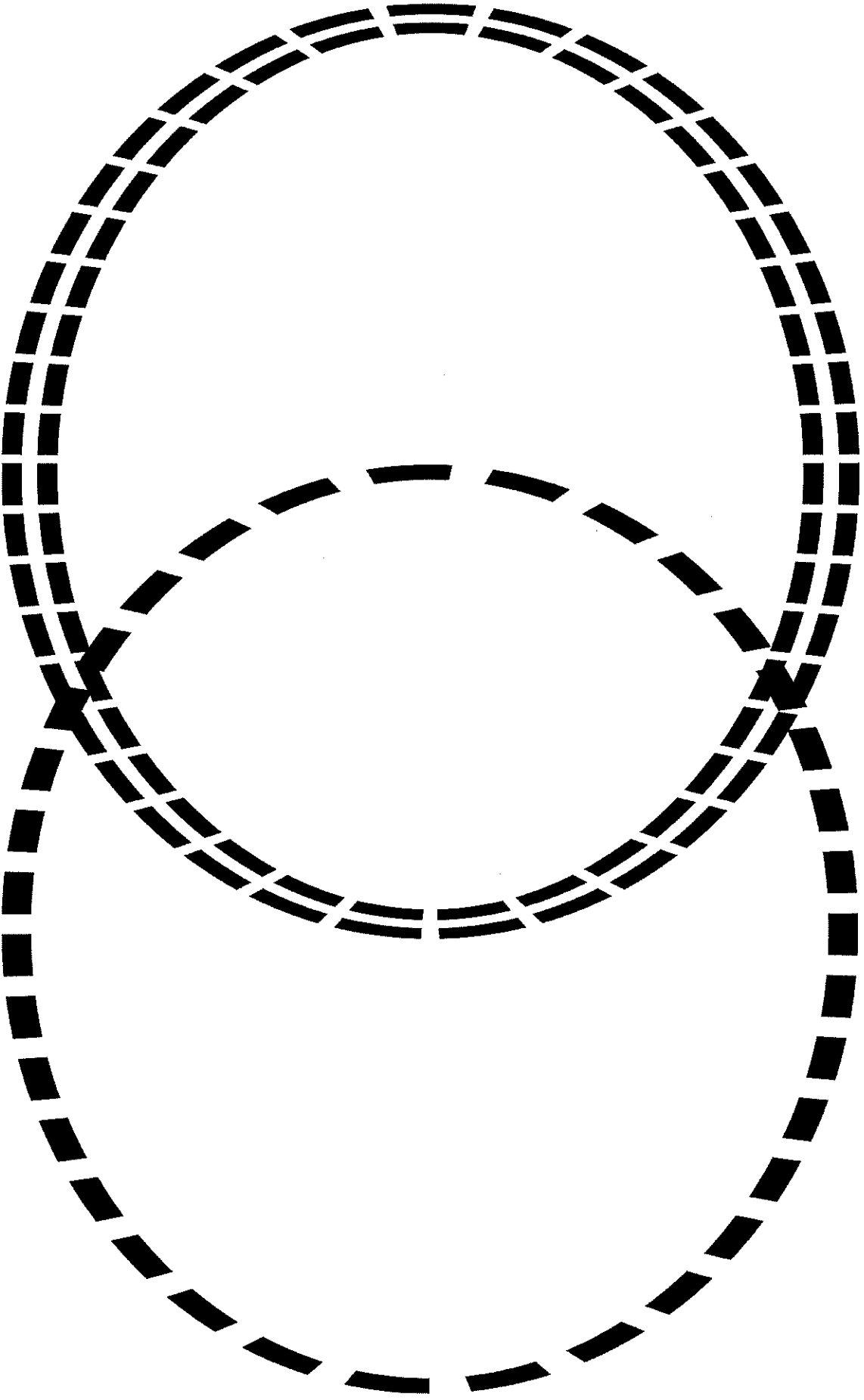
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# Compare and Contrast

Leigh

Me





# Section 4 (PAGES 79-104)

1. How does Leigh feel better after his talk with Mr. Fridley?

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2. Is Leigh's lunchbox alarm similar to the one you designed?  
Why or why not?

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3. How does Leigh's lunchbox alarm change things for him?

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4. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_

Effect: Leigh does not know who the thief is.

Cause Barry has little sisters that get into his stuff.

Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

# How's your Character Feeling?

Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Page: \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Page: \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Character: \_\_\_\_\_ Page: \_\_\_\_\_ Paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Section 5 (PAGES 104-121)

1. What does Leigh write about for the Young Writers' Yearbook?

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2. Why does Leigh get to meet Angela Badger?

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3. What did Mrs. Badger mean when she said, "You wrote like *you*?"

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4. Name three good things that happened for Leigh at the luncheon.

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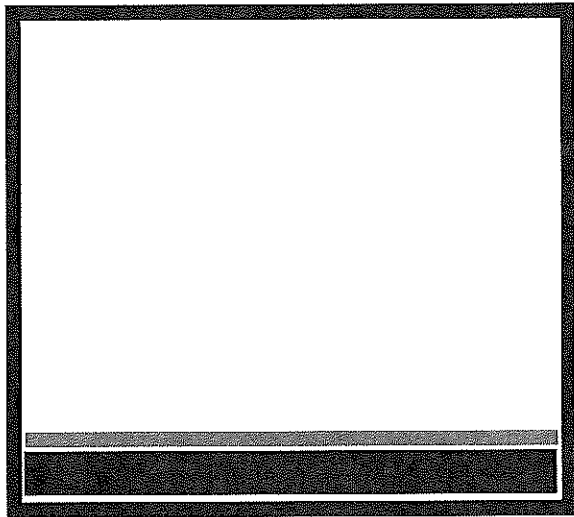
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5. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_

Effect: Leigh wished his Dad was home.

# TEXT to Self

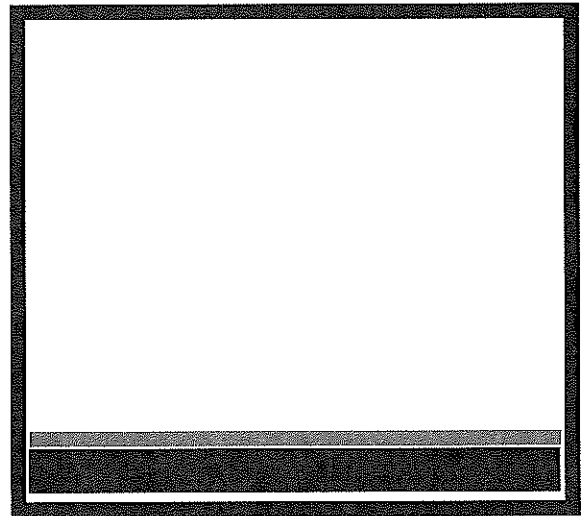


In the story \_\_\_\_\_

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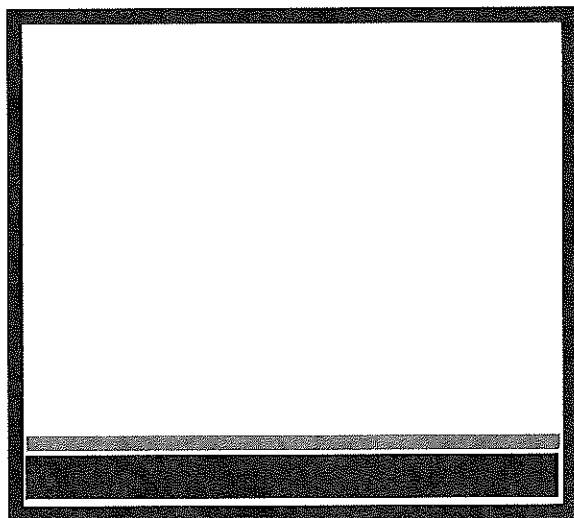
It reminds me of when \_\_\_\_\_

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# TEXT to Text

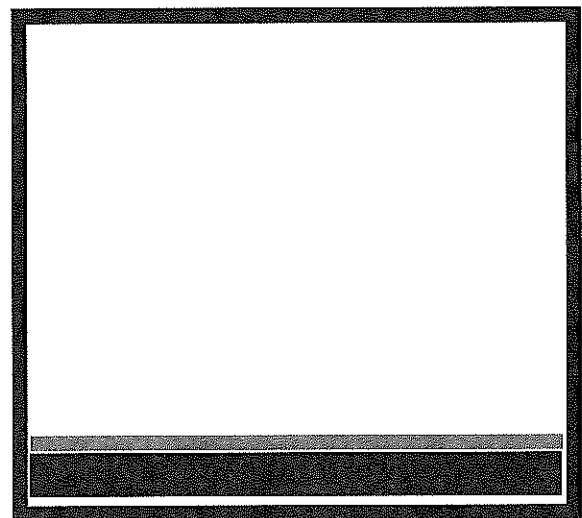


In the story \_\_\_\_\_

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It reminds me of when \_\_\_\_\_

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# Section 6 (PAGES 123-END)

1. How does Leigh feel when he sees his Dad?

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2. How did Leigh's dad find Bandit?

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3. Why does Leigh have mixed feelings at the end of the book?

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4. Do you think you could have given up Bandit? Why or why not?

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5. Name three positive character traits that could describe Leigh.

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Character Name

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Quote from the Character:

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Character's Thoughts:

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Character's Feelings:

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Picture of the Character:

**Characterization is how an author develops a character. We can study a character's thoughts, words, actions, and feelings.**





# SOMEBODY

Who is the MAIN CHARACTER?

# WANTED

What DID the CHARACTER WANT?

# BUT

What WAS the PROBLEM?

# SO

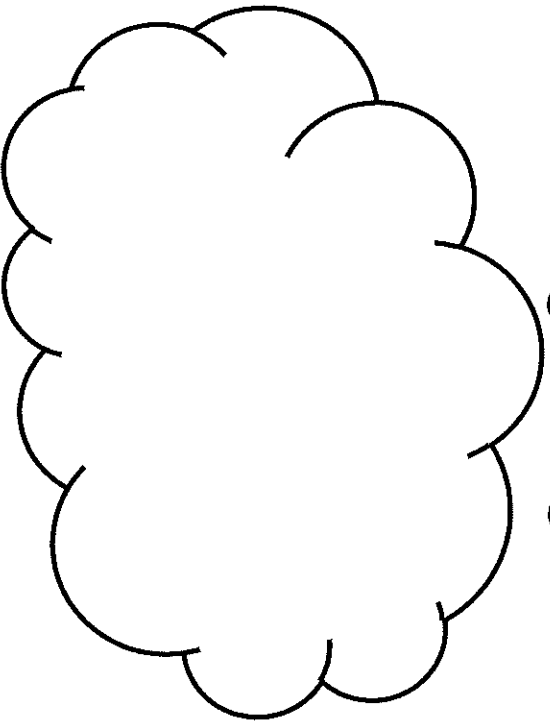
How DID the CHARACTER TRY TO SOLVE the PROBLEM?

# THEN

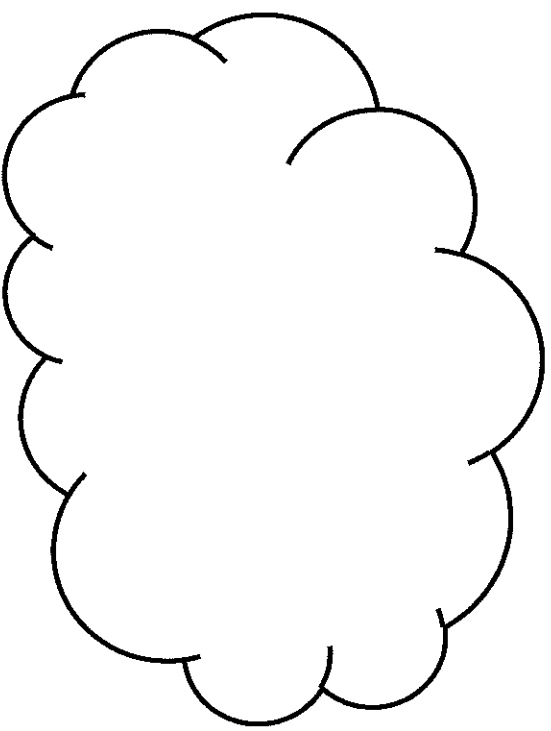
What WAS the SOLUTION to the PROBLEM?

# Character Changes

**Beginning**



**End**



THE MOMENT MY CHARACTER CHANGED WAS...

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# Theme OR Central Message

The central message is the moral or the big idea from a story.

What do you think the theme is in Dear Mr. Henshaw?

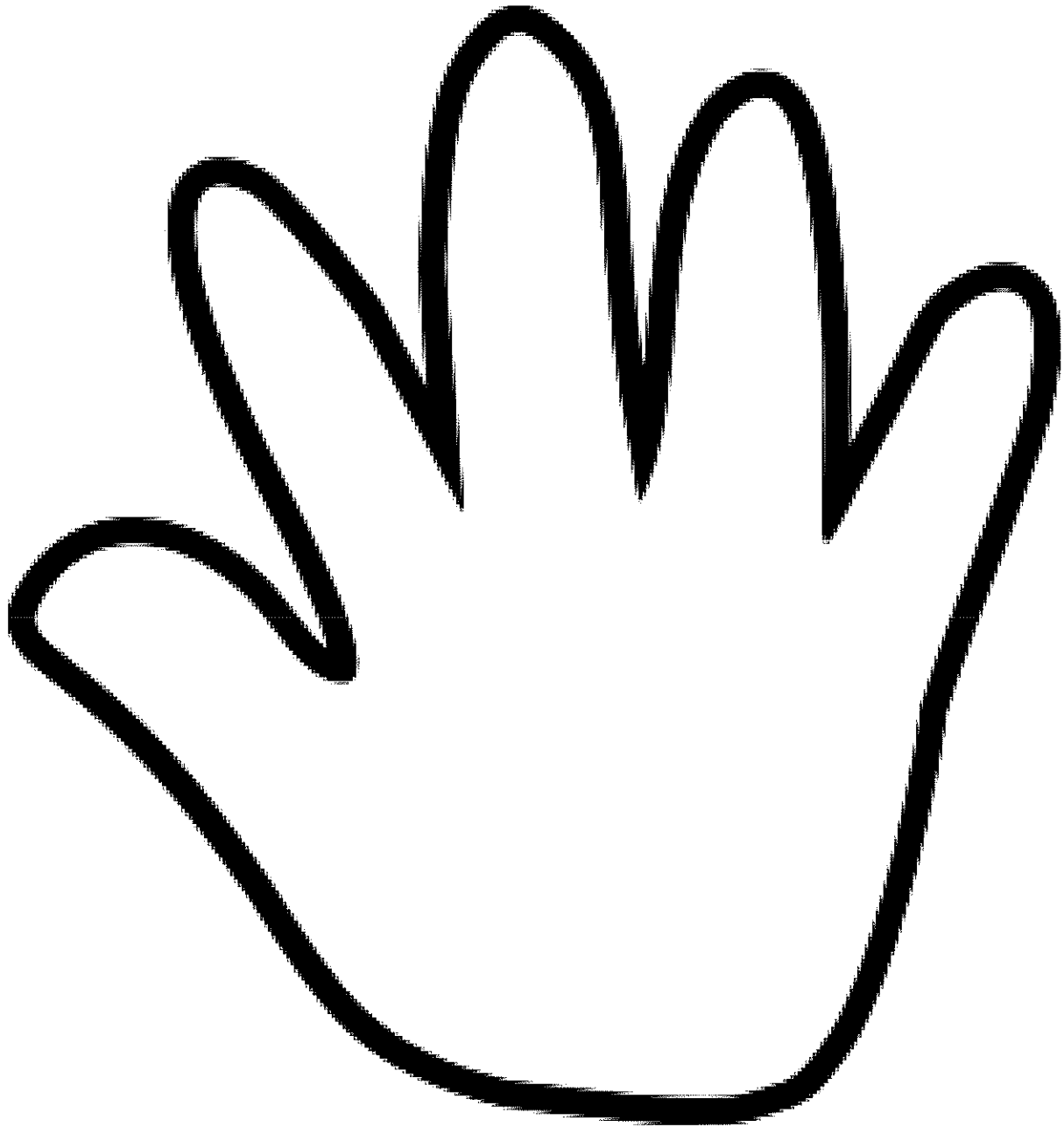
THEME:

IMPORTANT QUOTES TO PROVE THE THEME

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- 
- 
- 
-

# Let's Give our Book a Hand

Draw an illustration of your favorite part of the book.  
Explain your picture below.



## Narrative Essay Writing Prompts

Narrative essays tell a story based on a personal experience.

Select ONE of the prompts below to write a narrative essay.

Use descriptive writing to reflect on you experience, develop your ideas in a logical manner, and draw conclusions with a strong ending.

1. **New Beginnings.** In a few years, you will leave elementary school. What are you most excited or most nervous about when you think of starting middle school?
2. **Besties.** What is the best book you've ever read? What made it so special?
3. **Reflections.** Do you remember your first-ever day of school? Describe one vivid memory from that day.
4. **The Ultimate Field Trip.** If you could choose anywhere in the world to go on a field trip, where would you choose and why?



## Persuasive Essay Writing Prompts

Persuasive essays are those written to convince another person to agree with the writer or take action. A strong persuasive essay should include evidence to support your argument, follow a logical sequence, and include a strong conclusion.

1. **Yuck.** What is your least-favorite cafeteria food? Give three compelling reasons why your school should quit serving it.
2. **Let's Trade.** Your friend's lunches from home always look better than yours. Write an essay convincing your buddy that you should start swapping meals every day. Be sure to highlight the benefits of the food you bring!
3. **Home Alone.** Write an essay convincing your parents that you are old enough and responsible enough to stay at home alone.
4. **Sunny Day.** The weather outside is beautiful for the first time in weeks. Persuade your teacher not to assign any homework so that you'll have time to go out to play.
5. **The Ultimate Game.** What is the best video game on the planet? Explain why it's better than similar games.
6. **Life Lessons.** What are the three most important lessons parents should teach their children and why?
7. **Test Time.** Do you think standardized tests are helpful or harmful? Explain your answer.
8. **Tunes.** Some studies have shown that listening to music can help students concentrate. Should students be allowed to listen to music using headphones during independent work times at school? Persuade the reader of your answer.





## Expository Essay Writing Prompts

Expository essays are often called how-to essays. They usually teach the reader something or provide facts about a particular topic. Select ONE of the prompts below to write an expository essay.

1. **Upgrade Ahead.** You have an idea to improve your school. Explain it.
2. **Safety Zone.** Explain three of the best steps kids can take to be safe online.
3. **Family Traditions.** Does your family have any customs or traditions that might be unfamiliar to a classmate? Describe them.
4. **Creepy Crawlies.** Compare and contrast two insects or animals that are similar, but have different characteristics such as a bumblebee and a yellow jacket or a horse and a mule. How are they alike and how are they different?
5. **Action.** Your favorite book was made into a movie. Compare and contrast the film and book versions.
6. **Team Players.** Explain how contributing responsibly helps or how it hurts a group when someone doesn't do his part.
7. **Tell and Show.** Your class is having a "tell and show" day. You have to describe your item in as much detail as possible without naming it. Only when the class guesses or gives up can you show your item. Write out the description of your item.

