



Name _____

Date _____

TRUE LOVE

There once was an old man and an old woman. They had been married for 50 years. By this time in life, they had grown tired of each other. They fought day and night. The old man had tired of this practice and decided that it needed to stop.

He went to see the wise man of the village to ask his advice. The wise man counseled the old man to leave for two days. The old man did as he was told, but he didn't understand. After two days, he returned home, only to hear his wife complain about his absence and all the work she had to do while he was gone.

The old man sought the wise man's advice again, who this time told the old man to leave for a week. And so, the old man packed his bags and left for a week. Upon his return, his wife complained bitterly.

The old man was about to give up, but he went to the wise man again begging for advice. The wise man told the old man to leave for a month. The old man was about to protest, but left instead.

Upon his return, the wife ran to greet him and threw her arms around him. She had missed him so much. She never wanted him to leave again. The old man wondered what had happened, but he wasn't about to question his good fortune. He hugged the old woman and began unpacking his suitcase.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What did the old man learn from this experience?
 - a. Do not put all your eggs in one basket.
 - b. Good things come to those who wait.
 - c. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
 - d. Work before play.
2. From reading the story, which of the following words could be used to describe the wise man?
 - a. poor
 - b. clever
 - c. arrogant
 - d. simple
3. Why did the wife change her feelings about the old man?



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FIRE ON THE PRAIRIE

The smoke came pouring out of the barn all at once. It seemed that the fire started immediately and went from bad to worse. It took a while for the smoke to reach the noses of the Steed family inside the house. Pa had just sat down to say grace over the meal when he smelled the smoke. He jumped out of his seat. At the same moment, Joe yelled, "Fire!"

Mother gathered her skirts about her and ran to get a bucket. Mimi shuddered as she looked at her family in a panic. She grabbed Baby Ellie, who had started crying from all the commotion, and she ran outside. The smoke was thick, and the barn was engulfed in flames.

"If we hurry, maybe we can save part of it," called Pa.

Joe was throwing buckets of water as quickly as he could, but they didn't seem to have any effect. Mimi could see his muscles bulging through his shirt. Mother was hitting the flames with a large rug.

Just then, a wagon pulled up and Mimi saw the Jenkins who lived just down the way, jump out and rush over to help. They must have seen the flames from a distance. The Jenkins had five sons. Their help came at the perfect time. The fire that once seemed formidable was reduced to a small flame.

"Thanks," gasped Pa to the Jenkins. "I owe you one."

"Happy to help," said the oldest Jenkins boy as he climbed back into the wagon.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which sentence contains evidence that the story takes place during the time the settlers set up homes on the prairies?
 - a. At the same moment, Joe yelled, "Fire!"
 - b. "If we hurry, maybe we can save part of it," called Pa.
 - c. Mother gathered her skirts about her and ran to get a bucket.
 - d. Just then, a wagon pulled up and Mimi saw the Jenkins family jump out.
2. Where in the story does it explain the problem?

a. first paragraph	c. third paragraph
b. second paragraph	d. fourth paragraph
3. Which of the following characters did not have a speaking part in the story?

a. Pa	c. Mimi
b. Joe	d. the oldest Jenkins boy
4. What is the meaning of the word *formidable* as used in the story?
 - a. fearsome
 - b. poor quality
 - c. annoying



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FIRM IN THE FAITH

Faith had immigrated to America with her family three years ago. She loved adventure, and this had definitely been one. She had grown to love her new home and all its surroundings.

Times were tough for the colonists. They had been waging a war for independence against the British. Faith's father had gone to fight with the great George Washington. Washington was a legend in Faith's family, but especially in her mind. She dreamed of meeting him, but she knew that her chances were slim, for he was a busy man.

The day began with the normal chores and routine. Faith cleaned out the fireplace and got a wood stack for the midday meal. She was picking apples in the orchard when her mother called and asked her to take a letter to town. Faith scurried down the tree and headed towards town with the letter tucked inside her apron.

As she got closer to the town, she could see a commotion. A shot of fear raced down her back. What if it were the British? She could see a crowd gathered, and she pushed her way to the front. There, in the center of the crowd, was a man on a horse. It was none other than General Washington himself. People pushed Faith out of the way, but not before Faith saw him wink in her direction. Faith ran the whole way home to share her unbelievable story. Her heart pounded as she ran up the steps of the house.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following sentences does not show when the story takes place?
 - Faith had immigrated to America with her family three years ago.
 - Times were tough for the colonists.
 - She loved adventure, and this had definitely been one.
 - They had been waging a war for independence against the British.
- What is the meaning of the word *slim* as used in the story?
 - thin
 - small
 - timid
 - frail
- Which of the following statements was not mentioned in the story?
 - Faith cleaned out the fireplace and got a wood stack for the midday meal.
 - Faith rode her horse quickly into town to meet General Washington.
 - She was picking apples in the orchard when her mother called . . .
 - People pushed Faith out of the way, but not before Faith saw him wink in her direction.



Name _____

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FACE TO FACE

For as long as Matthew could remember, he had been walking behind a wagon. Day in and day out, Matthew had walked and walked and walked. He was ready to be done with the journey.

Each day at dusk, the wagon train would bring the wagons into a circle. This formation served as a shield of protection. Members of the wagon train were encouraged to stay inside the circle at all times. But tonight, Matthew was tired. He was tired of doing the same thing every day. Tonight he would sneak away right after dinner just to get some air.

Finally, it was time. Matthew walked so far away that he could barely hear the adults singing songs around the campfire. He squatted down against a rock and leaned back to look at the night sky. Matthew closed his eyes.

Suddenly, his eyes flickered open, and standing directly above him was the biggest wolf that Matthew had ever seen. Matthew's body began to quake with fear. He slowly got up. He didn't know what else to do, so he started edging his way back to the wagons. The wolf followed him the whole way.

Just then, Matthew heard a gunshot and watched the wolf fall at his feet. He turned to see his father standing a ways off. He ran to the safety of his father's arms. He knew that would be the last time he ever stepped out of the wagon circle again.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *edging* as used in this passage?
 - a. binding up
 - b. moving closer
 - c. closing up
 - d. along the perimeter
2. Which sentence shows how Matthew feels about his dad's help?
 - a. He was tired of doing the same thing every day.
 - b. He started edging his way back to the wagons.
 - c. He had been walking behind a wagon.
 - d. He ran to the safety of his father's arms.
3. Which paragraph shows the resolution to the problem in the passage?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. fifth paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. first paragraph



Name _____

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A GOOD BOOK

Nellie lived with her family on a large plantation. The plantation had been in the family for generations. Nellie's father owned slaves—hundreds of them. Because of the hard work of the slaves, Nellie's family was very successful.

Nellie loved to read, and as a result, books were strewn throughout the house. Nellie's nanny, Winifred, a black slave who had cared for Nellie since birth, spent most of her time picking up books after Nellie. Nellie was enthralled with books.

That afternoon, Nellie had left a book on the kitchen counter and slipped off to play with her friend, Rose. Rose was Winifred's daughter, and they were the same age.

"What do you want to do today?" asked Rose with a smile.

"I know exactly what we're going to do," replied Nellie. "I'm going to teach you to read."

"But I'm not allowed to read," cautioned Rose.

"Says who?" asked Nellie. "You've got to read. It's very important."

The girls sat in the window seat, and Nellie began to show Rose the alphabet. Just then, Nellie's father entered the room. He couldn't believe what he saw. "Nellie, what in tarnation are you doing?" hollered her father. "You know slaves aren't supposed to read!"

"Why not, father?" asked Nellie. "What's wrong with reading?"

"Well, nothing is wrong with reading. It's just that . . ."

Nellie quickly put her hand to her father's face. "Then let's continue our lesson," interrupted Nellie. "Rose, say it again," she continued, and her father walked out of the room.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why did Nellie's father think that it wasn't right for Nellie to teach Rose to read?

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 Nellie?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| a. careless | c. spirited |
| b. forgetful | d. mean |

**DAILY**

Warm-Up 5

Name _____

Date _____

A SAFE LANDING

Jacob's family had just staked the claim for the land two weeks before. They were clearing the land of trees to begin their crops. Jacob and his pa had been working long days to accomplish the task.

Thanks to Old Blue, the job was a bit easier. As each tree was cut down, Pa would attach a chain to the horse, and Old Blue would help pull the large stump out of the dirt.

"Let's do one more, Jake," encouraged Pa. "That way, the first section will be done."

Pa attached the chain once and stepped back to allow Old Blue to do her job. Jacob slowly got to his feet and began pushing the log. Every muscle in his body was taut and aching. The stump started to budge.

Just then, a loud SNAP could be heard. As if in slow motion, Jacob saw the chain break free from the horse and fly toward his father. Jacob lunged at his father, knocking him to the ground. Jacob lay on top of his father panting. Sweat dripped from his face, and he peered into the eyes of his father. Pa turned his head to hide the tear that was trickling down the side of his face, but Jacob saw it.

"Thanks, Jake," said Pa quietly. "I can't thank you enough."

"No problem, Pa," replied Jacob. "Why don't we call it a day?"

"Great idea," said Pa as he hugged his boy. And yet, this boy seemed more like a man.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jacob shoving his Pa to the ground?
 - a. Jacob could see that the chain was going to hit him.
 - b. Jacob was upset that they had to pull one more tree stump.
 - c. Jacob was trying to keep his dad from getting run over by the horse.
 - d. Jacob slipped and landed on his Pa.
2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. to explain how Old Blue slipped and the chain broke
 - b. to explain the relationship between Jacob and his Pa
 - c. to explain the process of how they were getting the stumps out of the ground
 - d. to explain the mannerisms of Old Blue
3. What is the meaning of the word *taut* in the fourth paragraph?
 - a. loose
 - b. strained
 - c. bothered
 - d. squirmed



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THE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Anna smiled as her little brother and sister each opened a gift left by Santa Claus. It had been a rough year for the Sorensen family. Father had worked hard to get a claim on land on the western side of Minnesota. The family had traveled from England to make a new start in America. The trip on the boat had been long and depressing. Everyone got sick; and Anna, who was the healthiest of the family, spent her time caring for the family.

Upon their arrival in America, the Sorensens had a hard time finding their trunks and belongings. It took three weeks before they were ready to leave New York. Mother was very sick during this time, and Anna worried about her constantly.

Once the luggage had been secured and Father made arrangements to travel to their land, they set off for Minnesota. Mother continued to worsen, and Anna took on all of her mother's roles. She cared for her mother in the back of the wagon. Day in and day out, her mother had a fever.

It all came to an end one morning when Anna came back from a spring with fresh water.

"Mama!" shrieked Anna. She saw her mother's slumped body leaning in the wagon. But it was too late: she was dead. The months that followed were filled with tears and grief. The summer months turned to fall, and soon winter was upon the family.

Anna's thoughts turned back to the present and Christmas morning. Just then, Father handed her a gift. Anna was surprised. She didn't expect to receive anything this Christmas. She started to protest.

"Open it," interrupted Father. Anna opened the gift and saw her mother's shawl.

"I just can't," said Anna softly.

"You must. Mother would have wanted you to have it," said Father. "You've worked so hard to care for our family. You deserve it."

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the main idea of paragraph two?
 - The family had a difficult time getting to Minnesota because of delays.
 - The family did not receive the land claim they desired.
 - Mother was trying to get well, but not much could be done.
 - Anna opened her Christmas gift and felt she couldn't take it.
- Which of the following sentences portrays the problem in this story?
 - Anna and her siblings didn't have Christmas gifts.
 - After the death of her mother, Anna doesn't feel she can take her shawl.
 - The Sorensens didn't have any heat in the winter.
 - Anna's father is upset he doesn't have any Christmas gifts.
- Which of the following did not happen in the story?
 - Anna takes on the burden of caring for her family.
 - Anna's little sister is sick and never recovers.
 - Anna's father insisted that she take her mother's shawl.
 - Anna's family lost their trunks and luggage.



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THE SUBSTITUTE

The students in the one-room schoolhouse had learned long ago that they were in charge. The students were unruly and impossible to manage. They were proud of the fact that they had run all 10 of their intended teachers out of the position so far that year. That was until Mrs. Snyder arrived.

Mrs. Snyder walked up the steps with an air about her. She had arrived at school long before the children got there so that she could get the fire burning in the fireplace. As the students filed into the room, it was warm and toasty.

When it came time to pull the slates out of the wooden box by the board, the boys held their breath, waiting to hear her scream when she saw the mouse. But she didn't scream: she picked it up and threw it out the open window.

Deflated, the kids resigned themselves to completing the lesson. Mrs. Snyder had a way of making things interesting and entertaining. Before they knew it, it was lunchtime.

At the end of the day, Mrs. Snyder thanked the students for their hospitality. She explained that she was the substitute called to teach for just one day. The students looked stunned.

"Mrs. Snyder, you've got to stay," cried Joey. "You're the best teacher I've ever had."

"That's right," added Missy.

"Please stay!" the students chanted.

"Oh, alright! If you insist," said Mrs. Snyder with a twinkle in her eye, and she began unpacking her bag.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following statements is not true in the story?
 - Mrs. Snyder decides to remain a substitute teacher.
 - Mrs. Snyder made the students get their work done.
 - The students were surprised when Mrs. Snyder said she was a substitute.
 - The students learn to appreciate Mrs. Snyder and pay her respect.
- Which of the following words could be used to describe Mrs. Snyder?
 - angry
 - clever
 - misguided
 - overly excitable
- What is the meaning of the word *resigned* as used in the passage?
 - intuitive and inspired
 - overbearing and rude
 - sadly accepted
 - instrumental in making change