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Gigi and the Dugout

1 Rachael sat on the porch swing, scraping her Sunday shoes against the weathered floor boards. "Please don't do that, Rachael," Mama said. "Those are your good shoes. I know you're upset, but it makes the most sense to stay here while we are helping your great-grandmother."

2 Rachael's great-grandmother, whom she called GiGi, was the kindest person she knew. Rachael loved to listen to the stories GiGi shared about growing up in rural Nebraska long ago. GiGi had recently sold her old farmhouse and was moving in with Rachael's family. They had three weeks to pack everything she had collected over the years, thoroughly clean the house, and move her things to Virginia.

3 "I just don't like staying in a tiny room with such old furniture," Rachael complained as she thought about her spacious bedroom at home. "I can barely turn around in GiGi's spare bedroom. It's so small!"

4 GiGi poked her head out the front door. "What's that about the spare bedroom?" she asked as she sat down beside Rachael. "I know it isn't as pretty as your room at home, but it's a lot nicer than the dugout. Did I ever tell you about the dugout?"

5 It was 1894 when GiGi's parents traveled to Nebraska to build a home and farm the land. As their covered wagon rumbled and bounced over the property they purchased, GiGi's father pointed and yelled, "There it is!" Just beside a stream, there was a hole carved out of the side of a grassy hill.

6 Like rabbits in burrows and foxes in dens, people have also lived in the ground. Sometimes, they lived in dugouts.

7 Soil formed the roof, floor, and three walls of the dugout. The fourth wall was covered with the canvas from the covered wagon, and served as the front door. A small hole was poked through the dirt ceiling to allow the smoke from the kitchen fire to escape. GiGi's parents had to be sure they didn't walk over the top of the dugout. Once, her father's boot went straight through the ceiling while her mother was cooking dinner.

8 The dugout was small, damp, and dark. Snakes and insects visited frequently, and mice lived in its walls. It was impossible to keep the dugout clean. Dirt from the roof constantly fell from the ceiling, but it wasn't as bad as the mud that poured in when it rained. Once, when a spring storm brought a torrent of rain, the stream rose all the way to the canvas door. No one could leave the dugout, or they might be swept away by the water.

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9 In 1904, GiGi's father began building a small farmhouse out of timber that he purchased from a store in town. Although it was small, the house had wooden floors, walls, and ceilings. There were windows on all four sides of the house and a fireplace with a brick chimney. When they finally moved in, GiGi's parents felt like they were living in a castle. Soon after, the dugout collapsed, and a tree was planted on it to help them remember the site of their first Nebraska home.

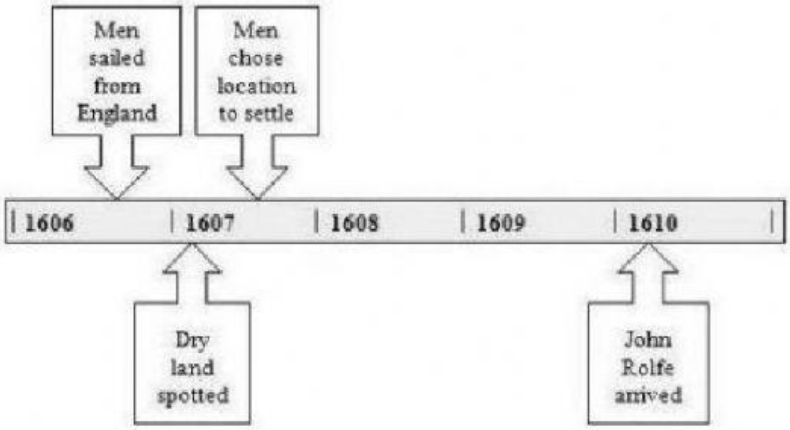
10 Ten years later, GiGi was born.

11 "The room that you are staying in," began GiGi, "was my bedroom. My father, your great-great grandfather, built it from the wood he sawed, sanded, and nailed together. For years, I slept on a bundle of quilts that my mother made. I was eight years old when I got my first piece of bedroom furniture. It was a bed that my father built. You might call it old, and I suppose it is, but I consider it a treasure."

12 Rachael swallowed hard and tried to keep the tears from leaving her eyes. "I'm sorry GiGi. I had no idea." GiGi wrapped her arm around Rachael and hugged her tightly.

13 "Well, now you do. With each new day, there are things to learn. When you learn, you come to better understand the world around you." GiGi smiled at Rachael and winked at Rachael's mother. She looked toward the western horizon as the sun set. "The tears in your eyes tell me that learning about the dugout today has helped you better understand some of the things around you."

Jamestown



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1 The King of England was eager to establish a colony in the New World. If the rivers were full of gold, as he hoped, then he would make a lot of money. He also thought that a colony in America would open new trade markets around the Atlantic. The king granted a charter to the Virginia Company of London so that it could start a colony under English rule.

2 In 1606, the Virginia Company sent over one hundred men to settle Virginia. They sailed aboard three ships named the Discovery, the Godspeed, and the Susan Constant. There were no women aboard the ships. After five long months at sea, the men grew restless. They were tired of the open ocean. Most of them had never been to the New World. They could not wait to see what Virginia looked like. Their prayers were answered when someone spotted dry land on April 26, 1607.

3 The Englishmen did not settle at the first place they saw. Instead, they sailed the ships forty miles up a wide river. On May 13, 1607, the men went ashore and decided on a location to settle. The site was chosen for a couple of reasons. It offered good views up and down the river, which would allow the men to defend themselves against attacks from either direction. Also, the water was deep enough for ships to dock. They named their settlement Jamestown, in honor of King James of England.

4 The settlers were not building on unoccupied land. Native Americans already lived on the lands near Jamestown. They were ruled by a powerful chief known as Powhatan. His empire stretched across much of eastern Virginia. It included many tribes and thousands of people.

5 The Native Americans were not surprised to see the settlers. Europeans had been visiting the Americas for over a century. England had even tried to establish colonies in the past, but none had succeeded. When Native Americans saw the settlers in Virginia, they may have thought that this settlement would also fail.

6 The settlers were not ready for the hardships they faced at Jamestown. Most of them were businessmen. They came in search of gold, and did not plan to build houses or plant food. They did not have experience with hard labor. This made their lives very difficult. The settlers had to rely heavily on their Native American neighbors just to survive.

7 The settlers were starting to lose their hope of a successful venture. They did not find any gold, and they struggled to survive. Luckily, things changed in 1610 when John Rolfe arrived in Jamestown. He was a very bright man and he worked hard to cultivate a new strand of tobacco. It was different than the tobacco that was grown in England. Within two years, he was exporting the crop back to Europe. It proved to be very profitable, and other settlers in Virginia soon joined him in growing tobacco.

8 Even though the settlers never found gold, they found a way to make money. Things started to improve for the men. Despite their many hardships during its first few years, the Jamestown colony finally began to grow. People in Virginia have continued to prosper for over four hundred years.

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1. In **Gigi and the Dugout,** if Gigi's great -grandfather told the story, how might it be different?

☐ A. Rachel and her mom would have lived with them in the farmhouse.

☐ B. He would have made sure Rachel had a nicer room to stay in while she was visiting.

☐ C. The dugout would have been kept cleaner.

☐ D. Selling the farmhouse would have been a sad event since he built it.

2. In **Gigi and the Dugout,** how does Rachael change during the story?

☐ A. She realizes her home is not important.

☐ B. She learns to appreciate what GiGi owns.

☐ C. She decides to live on GiGi's farm.

☐ D. She discovers that her great-grandmother is kind.

3. In **Gigi and the Dugout,** whose point of view is the story told from?

☐ A. 1st person- Rachel's Point of View

☐ B. 1st person- Gigi's Point of view

☐ C. Third person- Rachel's Point of View

☐ D. Third person- Rachel and Gigi's Point of Views

4. In **Jamestown**, using the timeline, the reader can identify which statement?

☐ A. It took three years for them to find a place to settle.

☐ B. John Rolfe arrived after the first settlers

☐ C. The ocean voyage was dangerous.

☐ D. John Rolfe planted tobacco at Jamestown.

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5. In **Jamestown,** which paragraph would best fit the heading "The Men Set Sail"?

☐A. Paragraph 8 ☐B. Paragraph 4 ☐C. Paragraph 5 ☐D. Paragraph 2

6. What are the similarities between the stories? Choose all that apply.

They had struggles settling in somewhere new.
They had everything they needed.
They sailed the seas.
They found ways to thrive in their environments.

7. In **Gigi and the Dugout,** how does the narrator's point of view influence how the events in the story are described? Choose all that apply.

The narrator only describes Rachel's thoughts and feelings.
The events are told by someone other than the characters, who explains Rachel and Gigi's thoughts and feelings.
The narrator shows Rachel and Gigi's point of views by their speaking parts and actions throughout the story.
The narrator only describes Gigi's thoughts and feelings.

8. In **Gigi and the Dugout,** which word describes how Rachel felt about staying with Gigi at the beginning of the story?

☐A. excited ☐B. annoyed ☐C. sad ☐D. bored

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9. In **Jamestown,** based on the timeline, which of the events took place first?

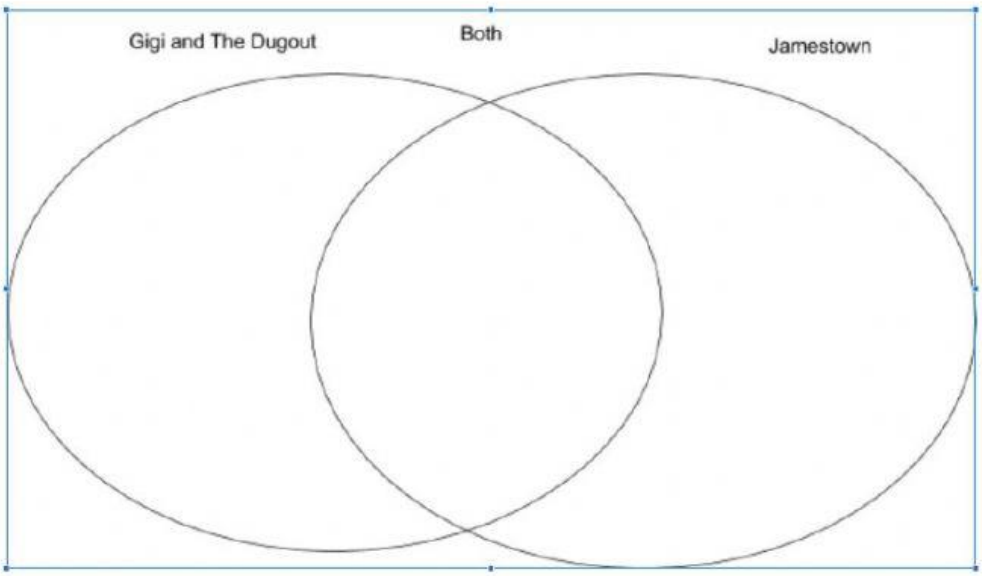
☐ A. Dry land was spotted

☐ B. John Rolfe arrived

☐ C. The men sailed from England

☐ D. The men chose a location to settle

10. What are the similarities and differences of the passages? Complete the chart below.



Sold a house
Settled in a new place
Grew tobacco
Lived in a dugout
Sailed the ocean
Had difficulties to overcome