DAILY Warm-Up 8

Name _____ Date _____

HERDING CATTLE

Hannah and Henry were born two minutes apart. Since that time, they had seldom been separated. Today was no different. The two had been given the assignment of rounding up the herd of cattle.

The twins lived with their parents on a large ranch in Texas. Generations of their family had run cattle across the many miles for many years. Their grandfather had fought in the Mexican-American War. They were proud of their land and freedom.

"C'mon, Hannah," yelled Henry. "Let's go. The cows are starting to head for the wash."

"I'm trying," barked Hannah. The day was hot and sticky.

Just then, a cow with a big head of sharp horns raced to a stop in front of Hannah. Dust billowed into the air. The cow stood panting as if daring Hannah to move. Hannah let out a whimper. "Henry?"

"Come on!" yelled Henry. He turned to look back at his sister. He was surprised to find the whole herd lined up in front of Hannah. "Wow," said Henry, whispering this time. "Walk as slowly as you can out of the way. They're just trying to pass."

Hannah slowly stepped out of the way. After a few minutes, the cattle began shuffling their way towards the corral. Henry shut the gate as the last cow made her way in. Laughing, he slapped Hannah's back, "Way to go! You rounded up the herd single-handedly!"

Hannah replied coyly, "Don't thank me. Those cattle herded your sister this time!"

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of paragraph two?
   a. It provides the problem in the story.
   b. It provides the solution to the story.
   c. It is the climax of the story.
   d. It provides the background and the setting of the story.
2. What is the meaning of the word *billowed* as used in the passage?
   a. rushed
   b. reverberated
   c. swirled
   d. descended
3. Which of the following did <u>not</u> happen in the story?
   a. Hannah was able to outsmart the cattle this year.
   b. Henry was thrilled with the fact the cattle went into the corral.
   c. Hannah's grandfather fought in the Mexican-American War.
   d. Hannah and Henry were herding cattle together.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 9

Name _____ Date _____

MYREEL'S MOMENT

Myreel was just 13 years old when she entered the town's poetry contest. This contest usually attracted more established poets with many years of schooling under their belts, but Myreel's spirited personality had gotten her into situations like this before. Her confidence was enough to support her in moments of doubt.

"You're crazy," Jed had said. He had grown up as Myreel's neighbor since birth. Jed liked to put Myreel in her place. One time he had even put a skunk inside her carriage to get a rise out of her. Myreel sought revenge by putting a porcupine in Jed's bed. Myreel had done more things than most girls her age just because she was willing to try.

On the day of the poetry contest, Myreel selected a light blue dress with lace to wear. She blew a kiss to herself in the mirror.

Myreel sat nervously with the other poets, waiting for her name to be called. When it was her turn, Myreel rose to her feet. She read her poem in the most dramatic of voices. The crowd was moved and clapped enthusiastically.

It was no surprise at the end of the day when Myreel was presented the winner's trophy. Myreel saw Jed slink out the back after the award show. Myreel ran to catch up.

"So, Jed, am I still crazy?" asked Myreel.

"Crazy and amazing," said Jed, and he walked away shaking his head.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which sentence contains evidence that the story takes place in the past?
   a. Myreel was just 13 years old when she entered the town's poetry contest.
   b. Myreel selected to wear a light blue dress with lace.
   c. Myreel sat nervously with the other poets, waiting for her name to be called.
   d. One time he had even put a skunk inside her carriage to get a rise out of her.
2. Which paragraph explains the relationship between Myreel and Jed?
   a. first paragraph
   b. fourth paragraph
   c. second paragraph
   d. third paragraph
3. What is the meaning of the word *spirited* as used in the story?
   a. content and happy
   b. feisty and energetic
   c. ghostly and ghastly
   d. foreboding and sad

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 10

Name _____ Date _____

OPENING UP

Elizabeth blew out the candle and headed up the stairs for bed. It had been a long day, and she was tired. She climbed into the bed with her two little sisters. Elizabeth was the second-oldest in her family. She and her older brother Ben used to laugh and run and play as kids, but when their parents both died of the flu, they had assumed heavy loads of responsibility. Elizabeth's family wasn't the only one that had suffered losses from the flu epidemic. Many families in town had lost members of their family. Elizabeth's friend, Anne, had lost her mother, as well. Anne and Elizabeth got together frequently to can jams and vegetables.

Early the next morning, Elizabeth glanced out the window and saw Anne's wagon coming up the drive.

"That's odd," thought Elizabeth. "We didn't have any plans today."

Anne climbed out of the wagon and began pulling at a huge trunk. Ben stepped around Elizabeth to give Anne a hand.

"What's inside?" questioned Elizabeth.

"Dresses! More dresses than you will ever want," explained Anne. She opened the trunk to display beautiful dresses with lace and bows.

"No, I can't," said Elizabeth.

"Yes, you can," said Anne. "Mrs. Langston insisted that I take this trunk and share it with you. She said we could have every one of these dresses."

Elizabeth was stunned and didn't know what to say. "What can I say?"

"Say thank you," suggested Ben, giving Elizabeth a hug. "You deserve it."

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which statement from the story would give a clue as to when the story took place?
   a. Elizabeth's family wasn't the only one that had suffered losses from the flu epidemic.
   b. She opened the trunk to display beautiful dresses with lace and bows.
   c. Anne and Elizabeth got together frequently to can jams and vegetables.
   d. She climbed into the bed with her two little sisters.
2. What is the meaning of the word *epidemic* as used in the story?
   a. plague
   b. monument
   c. orchestration
   d. eventt
3. Which of the following statements contains information from the story?
   a. Arrangements were being made for the children to be adopted.
   b. Anne had six brothers and sisters to care for.
   c. Elizabeth had learned to can from her mother.
   d. Elizabeth and Ben were orphans.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 11

Name _____ Date _____

THE BULL RIDE

Jess jumped into the saddle and kicked his spurs in deep. He had to hurry to catch up. Every year, Jess's family had a rodeo. It was a family affair, and all of Jess's aunts, uncles, and cousins would be there.

Jess had been practicing all year for the bull-riding event. The family owned the meanest bull around. His name was Charley. Taking a ride on Charley was like asking to die.

Jess practiced on cows and steers. Ms. Bailey, Jess's teacher, had encouraged him to write about his experiences. Jess shared one story with the class. Billy Letcump laughed so hard that he fell off his chair when he heard the story. Jess got so mad that he walked over and broke his slate over Billy's head. Ms. Bailey liked the story, but she didn't like Jess's behavior. He was suspended from school for two days.

Thoughts of school vanished from Jess's mind as he slowed to a stop. When he reached the edge of the corral, he got off his horse and joined his clamoring cousins. Finally, it was his turn.

Uncle Pete helped Jess, while his dad kept Charley in control. The gate flew open before Jess had a minute to catch his breath.

Jess came to and could hear everyone screaming. What had happened?

"You won!" they all screamed. "You beat Uncle Quinn! You stayed on for four seconds!"

Jess rolled over and clutched his aching side—but not without grinning from ear to ear.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is meant by the word *clamoring* as used in the passage?
   a. whispering
   b. jumping
   c. crying
   d. bellowing
2. What can you conclude about Jess's bull ride?
   a. He was seriously injured.
   b. He was the new record-holder in the family for riding the bull.
   c. He was given a second chance.
   d. He was surprised to see he was riding Charley.
3. Which sentence helps you answer the previous question?
   a. Thoughts of school vanished from Jess's mind as he slowed to a stop.
   b. Jess rolled over and clutched his aching side, but not without grinning from ear to ear.
   c. "You beat Uncle Quinn! You stayed on for four seconds!"
   d. The gate flew open before Jess had a minute to catch his breath.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 12 Name _____ Date _____

FIRST AID FRIENDSHIP

Esther jumped down out of the tree and straightened her clothes. She had climbed the tree to avoid being seen by her neighbor. Jimmy drove Esther crazy. He teased her incessantly, and just yesterday had dipped her braids in the ink at school. Her tips were still dyed black.

Esther walked through town. She made it to the general store and slipped inside. As she entered the store, she noticed a commotion going on in the corner. Esther wondered what was happening.

"He fainted and hit his head on the sink," yelled a girl as she pushed past Esther. "Get the doctor right away!"

"Who?" asked Esther, but nobody listened to her. Esther was scared of blood, but curiosity had gotten to her. She gasped and covered her mouth when she saw that it was Jimmy.

The crowd had thinned at this point, as people were looking for the doctor. Jimmy's eyes were closed and his head limp. Esther went up to Jimmy and put her apron on his forehead. Blood was everywhere.

"You've gotten yourself into a fine mess," said Esther. "I hope you aren't going to die. All those things I've said about you . . . why I could . . ." Esther's voice faded.

"You could what?" asked Jimmy. Had he been listening to her the whole time? Esther almost dropped Jimmy's head at this point.

Instead, she gathered her wits and said, "Jimmy Stevens, I could just spit!" Jimmy chuckled and closed his eyes.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
   a. to explain the meaning of the word *incessantly*
   b. to explain the relationship between Esther and Jimmy
   c. to provide background as to Esther's first aid training
   d. to explain why Esther's hair is black
2. What would be a good title for this story?
   a. "First Aid Guidelines"
   b. "New-found Friendship"
   c. "Help from a Neighbor"
   d. "Getting Needled"
3. What is another word for *incessantly* as used in this story?
   a. instructional
   b. purposeful
   c. questioning
   d. non-stop

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 13

Name _____ Date _____

I AM JAPANESE

Lin's family had been at this internment camp for three months now. Since the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the American government didn't feel it could trust the Japanese Americans and placed them in camps situated in the desert.

Lin and his family slept in barracks with lots of other people. Sleeping conditions were poor, and it was noisy. Dust storms raced through the camps, and swirling clouds of dust were everywhere.

One evening Dad asked Lin, "What's wrong?" He could tell that something wasn't quite right.

"I just don't get why we're here. I don't understand why there's a guard up there. I don't get why we live in a prison."

"It's not a prison: it's a camp," interrupted Dad.

"What's the difference? We couldn't leave if we wanted to. That's a prison, Dad," replied Lin.

That's when Lin's father decided to make a baseball field. This would keep people's minds off their troubles. Night and day they dug up the sagebrush and cleared a field.

Weeks later, Lin circled the baseball field for the second time that day. He was hoping to get three home runs for the evening. He glanced up at the guard on the tower. As usual, the guard kept his gun ready and poised.

Lin's dad waved him in safely. "Way to go, Lin! That was an awesome home run!" yelled his dad.

"Thanks, Dad," replied Lin. He hustled back to the bench. He was sure he had another one in him.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Using the context clues, what is the meaning of the word *internment* as used in the passage?
   a. imprisonment
   b. realignment
   c. cultural
   d. problematic
2. According to the passage, which sentence shows how Lin feels about living in the internment camp?
   a. He glanced up at the guard on the tower.
   b. "I don't get why we live in a prison."
   c. As usual, the guard kept his gun ready and poised.
   d. He hustled back to the bench.
3. What is the purpose of the first paragraph?
   a. to introduce the characters in the story
   b. to explain the problem and resolution in the story
   c. to provide the background and the setting of the story
   d. none of the above

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 14

Name _____ Date _____

BLISSFUL GRATITUDE

The Jensens were picking apples off the tree. They wanted to get as many as they could.

"This one's gross," yelled young Billy. "It has worms in it." Billy threw it across the yard. Mother scurried to pick up the apple.

"Now Billy, it may seem gross, but we can cut the worm out. We can't afford to waste anything."

"Why not?" asked Sue.

Mother calmly explained, "Sue, things are getting worse. You know how we've been trying to save as much money as we can on this farm. Farm prices have dropped again. Daddy's having a hard time making payments on the farm."

"I miss the days when we weren't worried and grouchy all the time," said Sue. "I miss the days when we were a happy family."

Just then, a car drove into the driveway of the farm. From a distance, mother and the children watched a man put a box on their doorstep."

"What's that, Mommy?" asked Billy.

"I bet it's another bill needing to be paid," she sighed.

"Tell that man that we don't want any," stammered Sue angrily. Growing up in the Depression was tough.

"Can I go see what it is?" asked Billy.

"Yes," said Mother.

Billy ran across the yard and peered in the box. "It's a box of food!" he hollered. Mother smiled and said, "Well, that was so nice. I guess there's no room for worry or grouchiness today!" Sue smiled and ran across the yard to take a look.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which sentence shows the time period in which the story was written?
   a. Sue smiled and ran across the yard to take a look.
   b. "I miss the days when we weren't worried and grouchy all the time."
   c. "We can't afford to waste anything."
   d. Growing up in the Depression was tough.
2. What conclusions can be drawn about how Sue feels about the Depression?
   a. She doesn't know very much about it.
   b. Sue is learning about the Depression from a book she's reading.
   c. She is tired of the affects it is having on her family.
   d. Sue thinks it has important lessons to be learned.
3. After reading the passage, which of the following helps you answer the previous question?
   a. Sue smiled and ran across the yard to take a look.
   b. "I miss the days when we weren't worried and grouchy all the time," said Sue.
   c. "Tell that man that we don't want any," stammered Sue angrily.
   d. "Daddy's having a hard time making payments on the farm."

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 15 Name _____ Date _____

CURIOUS JOE

Joe hurried home after school. He had plans to go to Miss Annie's house. Rumor was that Miss Annie had died three weeks ago, and no one had discovered her body yet. Joe wanted to check it out. This was the most excitement Joe had ever experienced. Growing up in a small town in 1950s was definitely not the height of adventure.

After a snack, Joe grabbed his binoculars and headed for the back pasture. He figured he'd get to Miss Annie's house through the fields so that no one from the street would see him walking up to her house.

As he stopped at the field just outside Miss Annie's back door, he stopped to catch his breath. His heart was racing. What if he found Miss Annie's body?

Slowly he opened the back door. It creaked as it went. He stepped inside and glanced around, but he didn't see anything unusual. He sniffed the air, but it smelled normal. Joe began climbing the stairs. When he reached the top of the stairs, a door opened and a figure came running at Joe with a bat! Whack!

"Get out of my house, you intruder!"

"What?" Joe asked and then opened his eyes. He stared into the face of Miss Annie. He didn't say another word, but jumped up and ran out the door as quickly as he could. He didn't stop running until he got to his house. He decided then and there that his spying days were over!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Using the context clues, what does the word *height* mean as used in this passage?
   a. pinnacle or top
   b. intensify or interrogate
   c. gather or collect
   d. chide or scold
2. According to the passage, what did Joe neglect to do when making his plans?
   a. He didn't talk to anybody about his plans.
   b. He forgot his plan at home.
   c. He lost his way and ended up in the wrong house.
   d. He went at the wrong time of day.
3. What is the theme of this story?
   a. If at first you don't succeed, try again.
   b. If you try hard enough, you can win.
   c. It's important to knock out your competition.
   d. Mind your own business.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 1

Name _____ Date _____

SKY HIGH

Jeff and Chris breathed heavily as they climbed the mountain. The switchbacks were getting steeper and steeper. The boys had slowed considerably since they had started. Chris could tell that Jeff was losing steam.

"Do you want to sit for a minute?" asked Chris.

"Yeah," replied Jeff in a hollow voice.

The boys sat down on pine needles and took swigs of water in an attempt to cool off.

"We are at the same point where we quit last time," commented Jeff.

"That's right," said Chris, "so we should keep going to get further up this mountain."

"I just don't think I have it in me today," said Jeff.

"C'mon Jeff, you've got to try," encouraged Chris.

Jeff thought about it and then decided he did want to give it a try. Before he could change his mind, he bolted up the hill. He climbed so fast he almost fell over.

"Dude! Slow down," called Chris.

"No way. If I stop, I'm never going to make it," yelled Jeff. He continued his push up the mountain. Chris followed close behind. Each grueling step shot pain throughout their bodies, but they just kept going. Higher and higher they climbed. Before long, they found themselves just below the top of the mountain. Jeff looked back at Chris.

"Are you ready?" asked Jeff.

"More than I'll ever be," answered Chris.

The two climbed to the top of the mountain and watched the sun rising. It was a beautiful morning.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Using the context clues, what does the word *hollow* mean?
   a. filled
   b. perplexed
   c. vacant
   d. ferocious

2. According to the passage, what helped Jeff make it up the mountain?
   a. He was in better shape than Chris.
   b. He was motivated by a stronger incentive than Chris.
   c. He knew his friends were waiting at the top.
   d. He didn't want to fail again.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?
   a. Being creative and using many resources can help you accomplish a task.
   b. If you try hard enough, you can do it.
   c. It's important to knock out your competition.
   d. Having a good friend can be helpful at times.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS