DAILY Warm-Up 8

Name _____ Date _____

CHARLIE PARKHURST

Have you ever been tricked? Charlie Parkhurst tricked a lot of people. When Charlie died, we found out the truth—Charlie was really Charlotte!

Charlotte was born in New Hampshire around 1812. She was orphaned at an early age, and her life changed. In order to survive, Charlotte became Charlie. She escaped from an orphanage by dressing as a boy. She learned that boys could get jobs, but little girls could not. Boys could learn trades; they could make a living. So she dressed in pants and boys' things.

Charlie tried a few jobs, and "he" found his calling. Charlie worked as a stable boy. People saw that he was good with horses. This skill led to a great career. He learned to handle teams of horses. Stagecoach driving was the perfect job for him!

He could drive a stagecoach plum full of passengers, bags, mail, and gold dust. He would get it safely across the Sierra Nevada Mountains. For twenty years people rode safely across the mountains with Charlie. He proved that he was one of the best drivers. Everybody felt safe when they were with him.

Charlie met outlaws twice. The first time, they got the box of money. It was full. The second time, Charlie was ready for them. He made sure the bandits didn't get what they were after. The passengers watched from inside the stagecoach.

When Charlie died, the coroner found out the truth. Charlie was a woman! She had done things women never dreamed of. She'd been the best stagecoach driver in the area. She had even voted for the president of the United States 50 years before women were allowed to vote!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why is "he" in quotes in paragraph three?
   a. because someone said these words
   b. because "he" is really a "she"
   c. it should not have quotes
   d. because it is the title of an article

2. A group of words that could be used instead of "plum full of" in paragraph four would be . . .
   a. stuffed with.
   b. empty.
   c. full of plums.
   d. missing several.

3. Why did Charlie take a fake identity?
   a. to hide from his parents
   b. to hide from police
   c. because no girls' clothes were available
   d. to escape from an orphanage and be able to get work

4. What question would Charlie have been able to answer?
   a. How did the United States win its freedom?
   b. What do railroads keep in the engine room?
   c. How did you keep your identity a secret all of those years?
   d. How do you take care of sheep?

 ©Teacher Created Resources, Inc.

LIVEWORKSHEETS