Name: _____ Date: _____

Grade: _____

English Literature

Cloze Passage

Read the passage carefully. Then fill the blanks with a single word so as to complete the sense. The word you use should be in the past tense and made out of the word in brackets.

Four Skinny Trees

They are the only ones that **(1)** _____(understand) me. I **(2)** _____ (am) the only one who understood them. Four skinny trees with skinny necks and pointy elbows like mine. Four who **(3)** _____(do) not belong here but are here. Four raggedy excuses planted by the city. From our room we **(4)** _____(hear) them, but Nenny just **(5)** _____(sleeps) and **(6)** _____(doesn't) appreciate these things.

Their strength **(7)** _____ (is) secret. They **(8)** _____ (send) ferocious roots beneath the ground. They **(9)** _____(grow) up and they grew down and **(10)** _____(grab) the earth between their hairy toes and bite the sky with violent teeth and never quit their anger. This is how they **(11)** _____ (kept).

Let one forget his reason for being, they'd all droop like tulips in a glass, each with their arms around the other. Keep, keep, keep, trees **(12)** _____ (say) when I sleep. They **(13)** _____ (teach).

When I **(14)** _____(am) too sad and too skinny to keep keeping, when I was a tiny thing against so many bricks, then it is I look at trees. When there was nothing left to look at on this street. Four who grew despite concrete. Four who

LIVEWORKSHEETS

(15) _____(reach) and do not forget to reach. Four whose only reason **(16)** _____(is) to be and be.

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