

Name \_\_\_\_\_

extremely

weird

courageous

adventurous

**Use the context clues in each sentence to help you decide which vocabulary word fits best in the blank.**

Helga's Aunt Gerta invited her to go hiking. Aunt Gerta hiked all the time in the canyon near her house. She even took pictures as she hiked the trails. Helga always enjoyed looking at the photographs of trees, birds, and even \_\_\_\_\_ **weird** looking bugs that she had never seen before.

Helga was very excited about going hiking in the canyon. The last time she had done something \_\_\_\_\_ **adventurous** was a nature walk she took in the field behind her house. But that was hardly as daring and exciting as a hike in a canyon. Helga remembered one of her favorite stories about a \_\_\_\_\_ **courageous** explorer who had been brave enough to climb Mount Everest. The canyon wasn't exactly Mount Everest, but it was a start.

There was a knock on the door. Helga ran to answer it, with her mother close behind. It was her aunt. "Are you ready for our adventure, Helga?" asked Aunt Gerta.

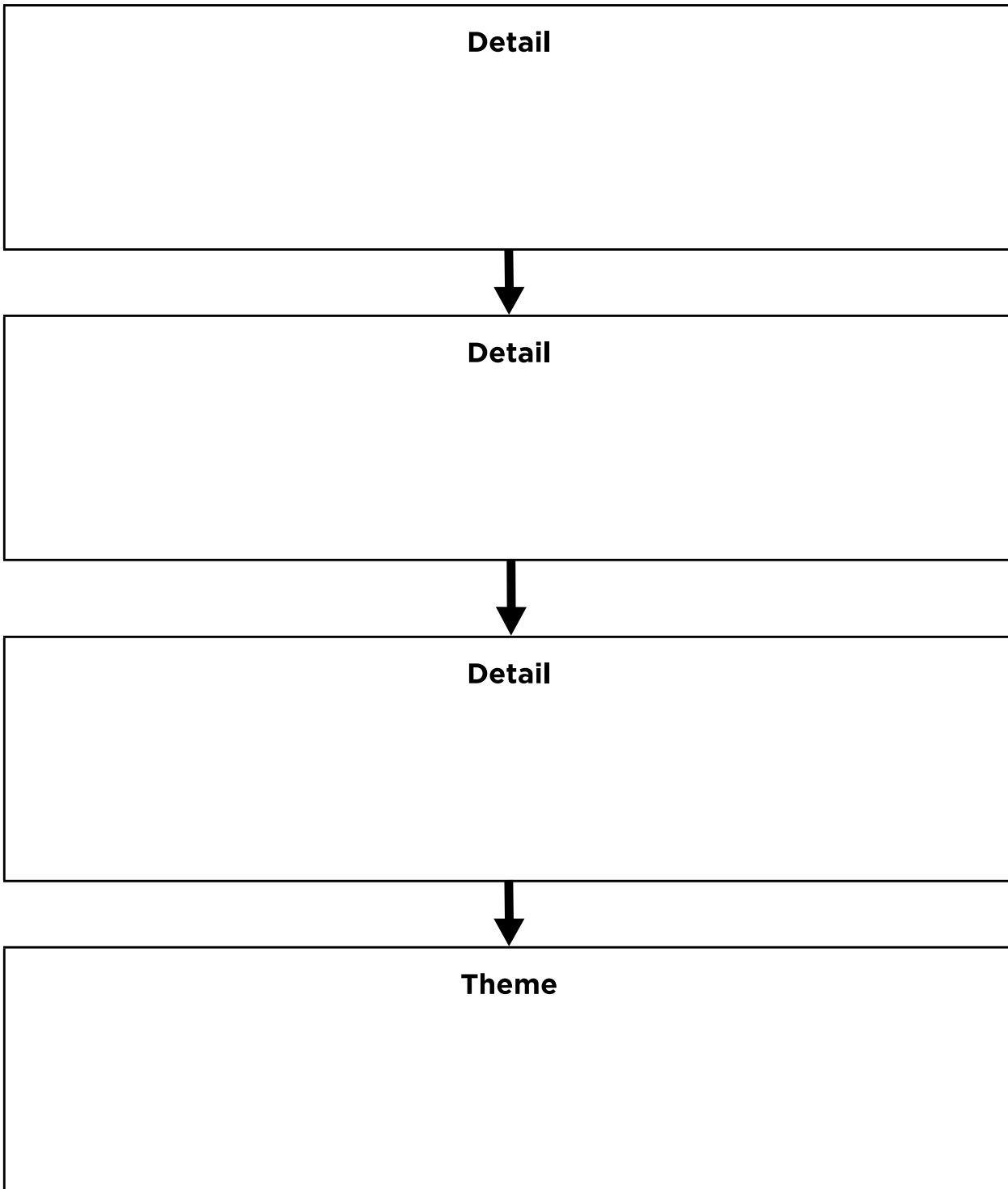
"More than you know!" said Helga. "Let me grab my backpack!"

"Your backpack is on the couch," said Helga's mother. "The summer sun is already shining brightly so it will be \_\_\_\_\_ **extremely** hot on the trails. I put two bottles of cold water and some apple slices in there for you."

"Thanks, Mom!" said Helga. Then she ran to join Aunt Gerta for their hiking adventure.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the selection. Complete the theme graphic organizer.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the poem. Check your understanding by asking yourself what message the author wants to share.

## Why I Run

6 The first marathon I ever saw  
 was years ago with my grandma.  
 12 We stood out on the Boston streets  
 19 and marveled at the number of feet  
 26 and marveled at the number of feet.

33 The runners were a rumbling herd,  
 39 except for a few—like the swiftest birds  
 47 who shot out alone to run their races  
 55 with determination carved into their faces  
 61 with determination carved into their faces.

67 Motorboats speeding over gray water,  
 72 these runners would inspire anyone's daughter.  
 78 That was the day I made the decision—  
 86 the bounce in my steps clarified my vision  
 94 the bounce in my steps clarified my vision.

102 I went home that day and laced up my shoes  
 112 and although my feet started out as one big bruise  
 122 I've run in every Boston Marathon since  
 129 and now I'm so strong I don't even wince  
 138 and now I'm so strong I don't *ever* wince.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

**Possible responses provided.**

**1. What is this poem about?**

**A girl is telling what inspired her to start running.**

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**2. What do you think is the theme of this poem?**

**People can be inspired to try new things. The narrator was impressed**

**and amazed by the runners in the Boston Marathon.**

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**3. Why do you think that is the theme?**

**She says that “these runners would inspire anyone’s daughter” and “the**

**bounce in my steps clarified my vision.”**

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**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to expression. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	–	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		–		=	
Second Read		–		=	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## If I Could Just Get Out of Bed

If I get out of bed, I could  
 read a book about the moon  
 and one about a rocket ship  
 and one that tells me how to make  
 a ship that flies me into space  
 to be the first kid on the moon  
 if I get out of bed.



Answer the questions about the poem.

1. What makes this poem free verse?

**It has no rhyming pattern.**

2. Whose point of view is the poem written from?

**It's written from the first-person point of view by someone who doesn't want to get out of bed.**

3. What event is the speaker in the poem describing?

**The speaker is describing all of the things that could happen once he or she gets out of bed.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the lines of the narrative poem below. Then follow the directions. **Possible responses provided.**

### **Why I Run**

*Motorboats speeding over gray water,  
these runners would inspire anyone's daughter.*

*That was the day I made the decision—  
the bounce in my steps clarified my vision  
the bounce in my steps clarified my vision.*

*I went home that day and laced up my shoes  
and although my feet started out as one big bruise*

*I've run in every Boston Marathon since  
and now I'm so strong I don't even wince  
and now I'm so strong I don't even wince.*

1. Find two examples of rhyme in the poem. Draw boxes around the words.
2. Circle an example of repetition in the poem.
3. Write another stanza for this poem that includes repetition and rhyme.

**Answers will vary, but should include use of repetition and rhyme.**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Read each passage. Find the metaphor and write it on the line.  
Then write the two things that are being compared.**

1. The runners were a rumbling herd,  
except for a few—

**runners were a rumbling herd; runners and a herd of animals**

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2. Motorboats speeding over gray water,  
these runners would inspire anyone's daughter.

**motorboats speeding over gray water/these runners; motorboats and  
runners**

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3. I went home that day and laced up my shoes  
and although my feet started out as one big bruise

**my feet started out as one big bruise; feet and a bruise**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Read each sentence. Underline the word with the soft c or soft g sound.**

1. I learned to ice skate last winter.
2. We saw giant trees in the redwood forest.
3. Mom bought celery for the salad.
4. It was fun to sing on stage last night.
5. He drew a perfect circle on his paper.

**B. Read each sentence. Write the correct form of the word shown below each line. Use -er or -est to complete the sentence.**

1. Oak Park is bigger than Blue Lake Park.  
**big**
2. Mr. Landon's house is the oldest house in our entire town.  
**old**
3. January is always our coldest month.  
**cold**
4. Who is younger, you or your sister?  
**young**
5. I think this apple is sweeter than the one I ate yesterday.  
**sweet**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Evidence* is details and examples from a text that support a writer’s opinion. This student wrote an opinion about whether or not the author gives enough details in a poem to help figure out the theme.

<b>Topic sentence</b>	→	In “Why I Run,” the author shares details about running that help me figure out that people can be inspired to try new things.
<b>Evidence</b>	→	At the beginning of the poem, the narrator is watching a marathon. She feels inspired. I read that she thought the runners were like the swiftest birds, and they would inspire anyone’s daughter. The narrator makes a decision to run. She has been running in every Boston
<b>Concluding statement</b>	→	Marathon since. The author’s details help me figure out that the theme of the poem is that we can all be inspired to try new things by other people.

**Write your opinion about a poem you read. Find text evidence to support your opinion of how the author gives enough details to help you figure out the main message or theme.**

Write a topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Cite evidence from the text: **Answers will vary but should discuss the** \_\_\_\_\_

**author’s use of details that help students figure out the theme.**

**They should include a topic sentence, evidence from the text, and a** \_\_\_\_\_

**concluding statement.**

End with a concluding statement: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you think about what strong words you can add.**

### Draft Model

Aunt Barb works really hard  
She speaks three languages  
Aunt Barb helps me fly  
And never lets me fall

1. What strong words would tell how Aunt Barb works?
2. What languages does Aunt Barb speak?
3. What strong verbs or details would show how Aunt Barb helps the speaker fly?

**B. Now revise the draft by adding strong words to make the poem clearer and more descriptive.**

**Answers will vary but should include strong verbs and nouns that describe Aunt Barb.**

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