

Name _____

anxious	assemble	decipher	distracted
navigate	retrace	accomplish	options

Write a complete sentence to answer each question below. In your answer, use the vocabulary word in bold.

1. Why might a student **assemble** books and magazines that are all on the same subject?

2. Why might campers lost in the woods **retrace** their steps?

3. How could you **decipher** a passage written in another language?

4. What **options** do students have to improve their work in school?

5. Why is a **distracted** driver a dangerous driver?

6. What is a way to **accomplish** a task more quickly?

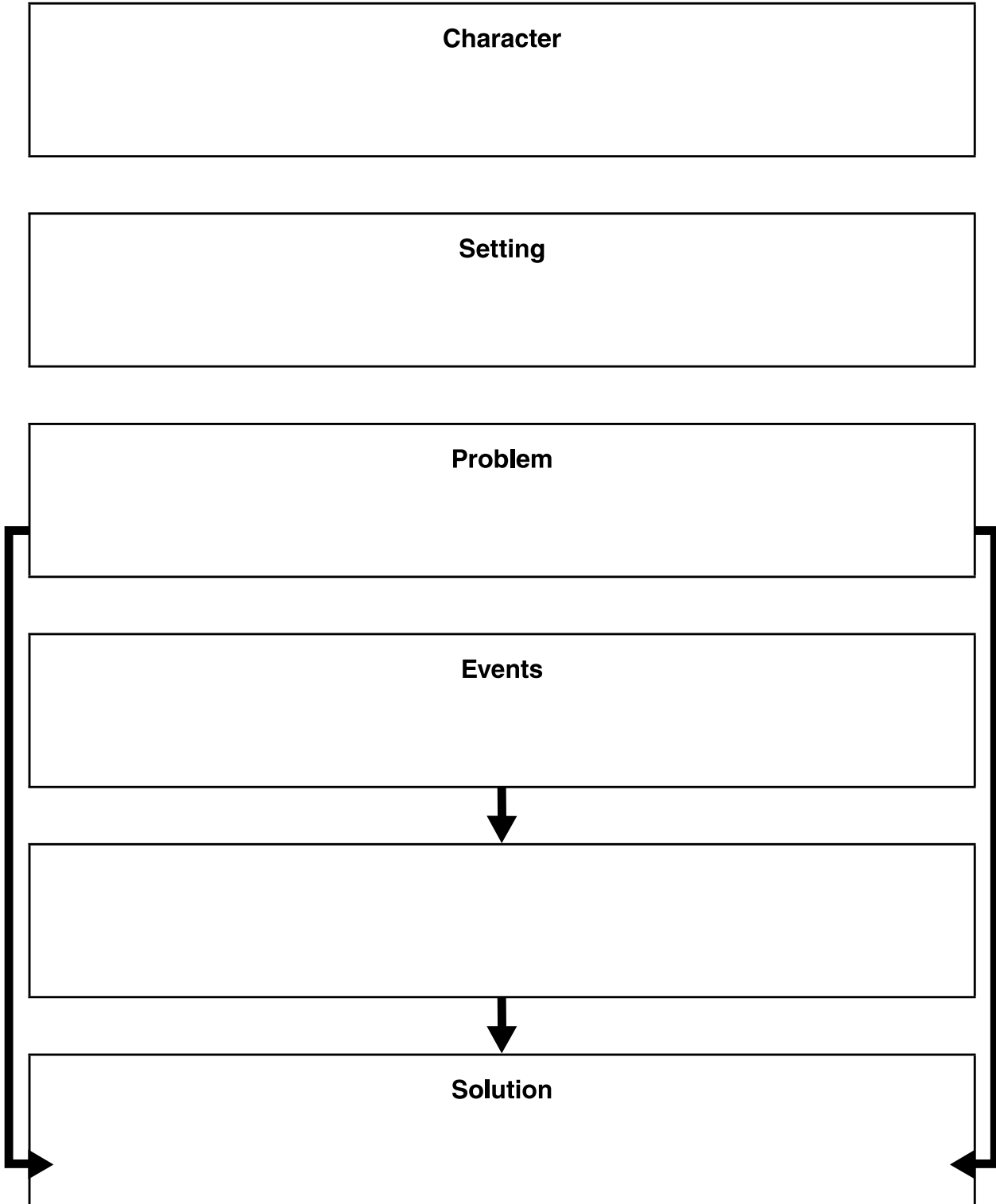
7. What can you use to help you **navigate** from one place to another?

8. Why do some people feel **anxious** in a thunderstorm?

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Read the selection. Complete the problem and solution graphic organizer.



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Read the passage. Use the reread strategy to check your understanding of the story.

A Race Against the Clock

13 Lian gazed in awe at the giant redwood trees towering far overhead. Her
14 family's vacation to Northern California had been full of fun activities and
15 historic sites. Getting to see the majestic redwoods was icing on the cake.

16 Lian's father interrupted her thoughts. "Shake a leg everyone," he said,
17 clapping his hands quickly. "We don't want to miss our flight."

18 Lian and her older brother Shing hurried back to the family's rental
19 car. Their mother was already in the front passenger seat, drumming her
20 fingertips against the center console. Lian knew her mother was worried
21 about missing their flight home. Mrs. Yee had wanted to stay close to the
22 airport during the last morning of their vacation, but everyone else wanted
23 to see the giant redwood trees. She finally gave in.

24 Mr. Yee slid into the driver's seat. "We have two hours before we need
25 to check in at the airport," he said, checking his watch. "We'll have plenty
26 of time to spare."

27 Lian admired the trees as they drove through the park. Shing's attention,
28 however, was focused elsewhere. "Hey, Dad, I think you were supposed to
29 turn there," he said, pointing over his shoulder at a road marker.

30 "Good catch, Shing," replied Mr. Yee. It took several minutes to find
31 a place to turn around on the narrow road. They retraced their route and
32 tried again. This time, Lian and Shing kept their eyes peeled watching
33 for markers.

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Lian and Shing spent the next hour chatting quietly in the backseat. Their conversation was interrupted by a loud “Bang!” as Lian’s side of the car abruptly sagged low to the ground.

Mr. Yee calmly slowed down and pulled the car to the side of the road. “Everybody stay in the car,” he ordered. He turned on the hazard lights and got out to inspect the car. Mrs. Yee was on the phone with the rental company when he returned. “The axle is damaged,” he sighed.

After a few moments of discussion, it was decided that the rental company would send a taxi to take the family to the airport, and a tow truck would haul the car to a repair shop. Lian was on pins and needles while they waited. What would happen if they missed their flight? She was still nervous when the taxi arrived. They swiftly piled into the yellow van, her father riding shotgun next to the taxi driver.

The driver was upbeat. “I’ll have you folks at the airport in two shakes of a lamb’s tail,” he said. “Traffic shouldn’t be a problem at this time of day.”

Unfortunately, traffic was a problem. A line of slow-moving cars snaked around the airport. The taxi came to a halt three blocks away from the main terminal. Mr. Yee groaned.

Mrs. Yee made a decision. “Kids, grab your things. If we hurry, we can still catch our flight,” she said.

Mr. Yee paid the driver while Mrs. Yee, Lian, and Shing retrieved their luggage from the trunk. Suitcases in hand, they jogged past the line of stopped cars.

The Yees hurried through the airport and made it to their gate with just minutes to spare. As they caught their breath before boarding the plane, Mrs. Yee looked at her family and grinned. “Next time, we stay near the airport,” she said.



The Yee family raced toward the airport.

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A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. What is the main, or most important problem in the text?

2. What are two important problems the Yeas encounter on their way to the airport?

3. How are each of these problems solved in the text?

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

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

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Building a Team

Noah's class, as a group, was assigned to navigate the obstacle course. He was first in line and anxiously wondered, "How can I help my team?"

The first task was to walk the length of a swinging log, a foot off the ground. Noah found it was easy for him to balance and reach the other side. Then he had a realization. He could help "spot," or guide, classmates who were less athletic than he. *That*, he decided, would be his contribution to his team!



Answer the questions about the text.

1. How do you know this text is realistic fiction?

2. What gave Noah confidence and an idea of how to contribute to his team?

3. What words in the first paragraph show suspense?

4. Why do these words create a feeling of suspense?

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Read each passage below. Underline the words that give a clue to the meaning of each idiom in bold. Then explain the idiom on the lines.

1. Lian's father interrupted her thoughts. "**Shake a leg** everyone," he said, clapping his hands quickly. "We don't want to miss our flight."

2. The driver was upbeat. "I'll have you folks at the airport **in two shakes of a lamb's tail**," he said. "Traffic shouldn't be a problem at this time of day."

3. After a few moments of discussion, it was decided that the rental company would send a taxi to take the family to the airport, and a tow truck would haul the car to a repair shop. Lian was **on pins and needles** while they waited. What would happen if they missed their flight? She was still nervous when the taxi arrived.

4. They swiftly piled into the yellow van, her father **riding shotgun** next to the taxi driver.

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Write three words from the box that have the same long vowel sound as the example in each row. Then underline the letter or letters that make the long vowel sound.

greed	music	spice	paste	unit
oak	plead	fuse	bride	growth
shave	folks	theme	paid	grind

- 1. rake _____ _____ _____
- 2. feet _____ _____ _____
- 3. kite _____ _____ _____
- 4. flow _____ _____ _____
- 5. cute _____ _____ _____

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Evidence is details and examples from a text that support a writer’s opinion. The student who wrote the paragraph below cited evidence that supports his or her opinion about how well an author expresses a theme.

Topic sentence	→	In “A Race Against the Clock,” I think the author includes events that help to clearly express the theme.
Evidence	→	Mrs. Yee warns her family to stay close to the airport the morning of a big flight, but she is overruled. The story describes the family’s many problems making the flight.
Concluding statement	→	The events of the story do a good job of expressing the following theme: “It is wiser to choose caution over instant gratification.”

Write a paragraph about the two texts you have chosen. Show how well the authors developed the themes. Cite evidence from the texts. Remember to include a strong closing and to include sentences that use subjects and predicates correctly.

Write a topic sentence: _____

Cite evidence from the texts: _____

End with a concluding statement: _____

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A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you think about how it could be revised to improve its style and tone.

Draft Model

Macy saw her favorite baseball player. He was big. He talked to her. She got his autograph.

- 1. How could sentence structure and word choice be changed to create an engaging style and positive tone?
- 2. What descriptive details could be added to help the reader visualize the action?
- 3. What details could be added to convey Macy's enthusiasm?
- 4. What details could be added to describe the people and the actions in this draft?

B. Now revise the draft by adding details to create an engaging style and to convey Macy's positive feelings about getting the autograph.
