

Name _____

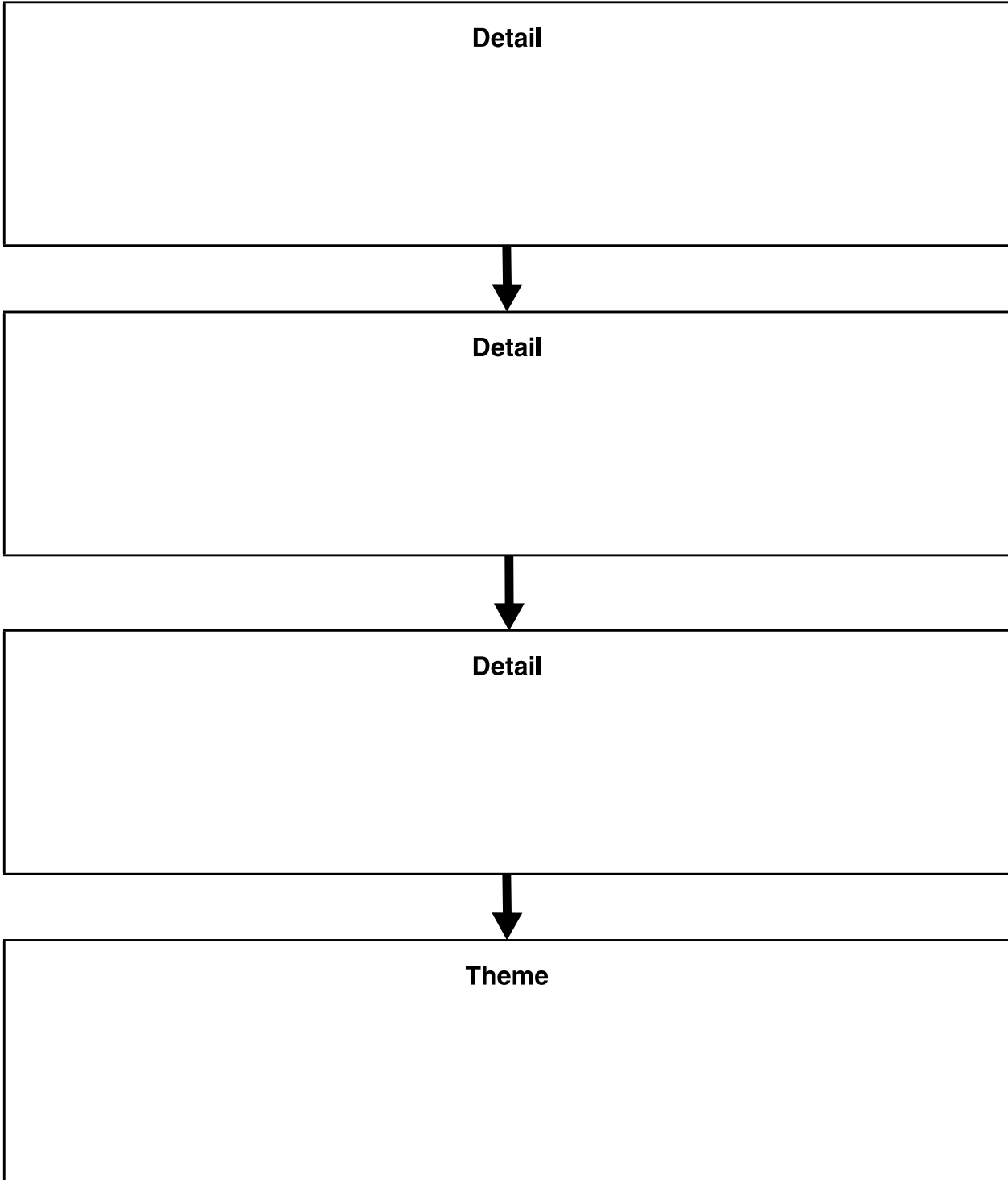
plumes meaningful barren expression

Finish each sentence using the vocabulary word provided.

- 1. **(plumes)** At the zoo our class _____
_____.
- 2. **(barren)** The desert land was _____
_____.
- 3. **(meaningful)** The old letter from her father was _____
_____.
- 4. **(expression)** In his notebook _____
_____.

Name _____

Read the selection. Complete the theme graphic organizer.



Name _____

Read the passage. As you read, check your understanding by asking yourself what theme or message the author wants to convey.

Grandpa's Shed

My grandpa is a mountain,
5 Brooding, looming, tall.
8 I stand in his shadow, silent as a stone.
17 Rattling rusty paint cans,
21 He gestures toward the shed. I gape.
28 That shed's a squat gray mushroom,
34 Needing more than paint to fix.

The old man's hands are vises,
46 Prying open paint cans lightning fast.
52 Astonished, awed, I gasp aloud,
57 "Red, yellow, green—and PURPLE!"
62 My words explode like fireworks.
67 Anticipating anger,
69 my mouth shuts like a trap.

Grandpa merely dips his brush,
80 Paints a horse and hound.
85 "The horse I harnessed as a boy,
92 Dog was mine too."

Impulse strikes—a flash of fire.
102 I seize a brush,
106 Soon swishing, swirling pictures.
110 With each stroke, a story,
115 My words painting pictures.
119 We share that shed like one vast canvas,
127 His strokes to mine, my words to his.
135 We step back, gazing at stories told.

Name _____

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. What key details in the poem describe events that happened?

2. What key details tell you about the speaker’s feelings?

3. What is the theme, or important message, of the poem?

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

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

Name _____

Climbing a Hill

Hiking is like a roller coaster.
It's not just one long climb
and then the ride is over.

The dizzying drop after that first
climb sets in motion a wild journey—
bends, curves, smaller hills
that take me by surprise.

I don't want the ride—the climb—
to ever end. All too soon, the coaster
car glides to a stop, like loping down
that last stretch of steep hill.

A sense of accomplishment
dares me to climb again.



Answer the questions about the text.

1. How do you know this is free verse poetry?

2. How is the text arranged on the page?

3. What other literary elements are used in the text?

4. What feelings does the speaker express?

Name _____

Meter, or **rhythm**, is a repeating pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables.

Stanzas are groups of lines in a poem that express a key idea.

Read the lines of the free verse poem below. Then answer the questions.

Grandpa's Shed

My grandpa is a mountain,
 Brooding, looming, tall.
 I stand in his shadow, silent as a stone.
 Rattling rusty paint cans,
 He gestures toward the shed. I gape.
 That shed's a squat gray mushroom,
 Needing more than paint to fix.

1. What is the key idea of this stanza?

2. What syllables are stressed in the first three lines of this stanza?

3. Write another stanza for this poem that uses irregular meter.

Name _____

Read each passage. Underline the similes and metaphors. Then explain the author's meaning in your own words.

1. My grandpa is a mountain, / Brooding, looming, tall.

2. I stand in his shadow, silent as a stone.

3. That shed's a squat gray mushroom,

4. The old man's hands are vises, / Prying open paint cans lightning fast.

5. My words explode like fireworks.

6. Anticipating anger, my mouth shuts like a trap.

7. We share the shed like one vast canvas

Name _____

The suffixes *-ance* and *-ence* can mean “an action or act” or “the state of.”
Read each sentence and write the word that has the suffix *-ance* or *-ence*.
Use what you know about the meaning of the suffix to write the meaning of the word.

1. The people in attendance cheered when their team scored the winning goal.

2. My brother and sister enjoyed the choir performance last weekend.

3. Our dependence on electricity is fueling a search for new types of energy.

4. The barking dogs created quite a disturbance in the neighborhood.

5. The sudden appearance of the fox startled us.

6. A good leader should have the ability to inspire confidence and trust.

7. Their idea to create a new park on the empty lot was met with great resistance.

8. It will take persistence to achieve your physical fitness goals.

Name _____

Evidence is details and examples from a text that support a writer’s ideas. The student who wrote the paragraph below cited evidence that shows how the author conveys theme.

Topic sentence	→	In “Grandpa’s Shed,” the author uses details to express a message about relationships. Key details show that, at first, the speaker is a little afraid of talking to Grandpa. When Grandpa opens the paint can, the speaker explodes into words. These details signal the opening of communication between Grandpa and the speaker. Details about how the two paint and talk help the author express a theme about sharing, caring, and communication.
Evidence	→	
Concluding statement	→	

Write a paragraph about a text you have chosen. Analyze why the author chose this topic to convey the theme, and how the speaker’s words and actions make it clear. Cite evidence from the text. Remember to clearly state the topic and correctly use frequently confused homophones.

Write a topic sentence: _____

Cite evidence from the text: _____

End with a concluding statement: _____

Name _____

A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you think about how you can add sensory language to make the writing more interesting.

Draft Model

The word *imagine* is the best.
I like the way it looks.
It sounds nicer than the rest.

1. Which words could you use to create a clearer image of the word *imagine*?
2. Which words can you add to explain why the sound of the word is pleasing?
3. What other sensory details would help readers share the writer's experience?

B. Now revise the draft by rewriting sentences to include sensory details and to describe an experience or subject for the reader.
