

Name _____

disdain

prospect

focused

superb

genius

stunned

perspective

transition

Finish each sentence using the vocabulary word provided.

1. **(perspective)** We looked at the problem from _____

2. **(disdain)** When he said he didn't like any of my favorite things, _____

3. **(superb)** She liked all the food, but _____

4. **(transition)** My little sister will soon _____

5. **(genius)** We each have our own talents, but _____

6. **(stunned)** When the best runner slipped on the track, _____

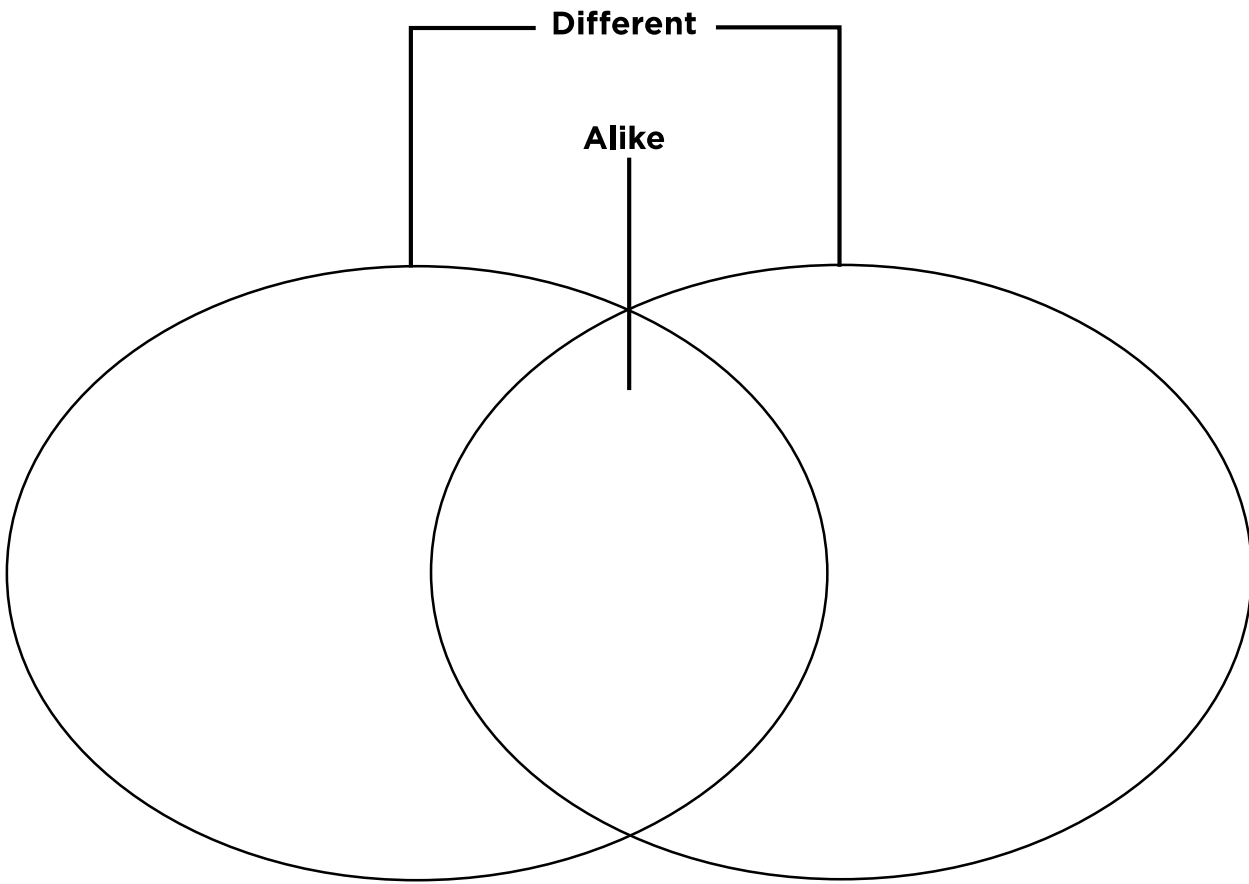
7. **(prospect)** After working hard all year, _____

8. **(focused)** The dog was sitting at the window _____

Comprehension: **Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer**

Name _____

Read the selection. Complete the compare and contrast graphic organizer.



Name _____

Read the passage. Use the make predictions strategy to help you understand what you are reading.

Bringing Home Laddie

12 “Papa, let’s go!” Sofia was dressed and waiting on the shabby wooden
16 porch. Her father couldn’t hear her. He was in the neighbor’s garden,
18 digging up an ancient tree stump. Sofia shifted her feet and picked at the
20 peeling paint on the railing. The sun hammered down on the porch, so
22 that it was not merely hot, but sweltering. It would serve Papa right if she
24 melted away like the Wicked Witch of the West. Why should Sofia have to
26 wait? Why couldn’t their neighbor, Mrs. Stone, wait instead? Then Papa
28 could drive Sofia to the animal shelter now to adopt her new dog.

30 Sofia peered into the shadows of the house. “Mom,” she yelled, “Papa
32 promised we could go early. Do I have to walk?” She could imagine how
34 unhappy she’d look—just another stray dog trudging dejectedly down
36 the road.

38 Her mother came to the door, a damp dish towel in her hand. “Sofia,
40 come help me.” Sofia stayed where she was, as rooted as the neighbor’s
42 tree stump. “Standing here won’t make your father finish any sooner. If
44 you help me, he’ll be here before you know it.”

46 Sofia gave a sigh of profound suffering and followed her mother
48 through the cool house into the spotless, lemony kitchen. She leaned
50 against the counter and dried the dishes her mother handed her—along
52 with a reminder of the promise she’d made to take care of the dog herself.
54 “I know, Mom, I know,” Sofia whined. To her surprise, by the time the
56 dishes were dry, Papa was back. The time really had passed quickly, just as
58 Mom had said it would.

60 When Sofia and her parents arrived at the shelter, an attendant escorted
62 them to the dogs’ quarters, a glaring concrete courtyard lined with tiny
64 cages on all four sides. Its smell was revolting—a mixture of mouthwash
66 and Papa’s old fishing bucket.

Name _____

“Go look at them, Sweetie,” said her father with a smile. Sofia was already heading toward one of the cages. As she neared it, the gaunt gray dog inside bared its teeth, backing away and growling. Sofia stared at it blankly. Didn’t the dog like her? Maybe none of them would! Tears crowded her eyes, making them ache.

The attendant, who had followed Sofia, offered an explanation, “That poor thing’s just skin and bones, and she’s terrified of people. I think she’s been mistreated. Let’s go meet Laddie.” Sofia looked back at the forlorn little dog, and she could see now how sad it looked.

Laddie was larger than the first dog, and his black and white fur was shaggier. When he saw Sofia, he rushed to the front of his cage, lifted his front legs, and scrabbled at the wire with his forepaws. One of his eyes was sky blue, and the other was chocolate brown. “You can pet him,” the woman said to Sofia. “He won’t bite.” Sofia reached toward Laddie’s smiling muzzle. The little sheepdog whined and gently licked her fingers. Sofia felt a tug at her heart and realized that Laddie had just slipped a leash over it.



The attendant took Laddie from his cage. He rolled onto his back, wagging his tail and gazing devotedly at Sofia. She rubbed his belly. The attendant showed how to hold his leash in two hands when she walked Laddie and reminded her to clean up after him. “Never leave his mess on other people’s lawns,” the attendant instructed. Sofia nodded, smiling.

As soon as they arrived home, Sofia got bowls of water and food for Laddie. She set them on a rubber mat on the kitchen floor and watched while Laddie ate. When he was done, she washed his food bowl and put it back on the shelf. “Well,” said her mother with a proud smile, “it seems like you’ll be looking after someone else for a change.” Sofia grinned, petting the head of her contented dog.

Stuffing some plastic bags into her pocket, she picked up Laddie’s leash. “Want to go meet Mrs. Stone?” As Laddie bounded beside her, his tail waved hello to all his new neighbors.

Name _____

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. Contrast the first dog and Laddie. How are they different?

2. How does Sofia change from the beginning of the story to the end?

3. What causes the change in Sofia?

4. How are the settings of the animal shelter and Sofia’s kitchen different?

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 _____

The Spelling Bee

Gabe stood in the wings of the high school auditorium. The stage was huge, with chairs for 45 students. There were 3,000 people in the audience. “This is very different from our school’s auditorium,” he thought. “Ours holds only 300 people, and our stage isn’t big enough to hold a fly.” Gabe had won his school’s spelling bee, but he doubted he would do well here. “I’ll do the best I can,” Gabe said to himself as he stepped onto the stage and focused on the spelling bee. By the end of the day, Gabe had made it to the state finals, and he felt a lot better about himself.

Answer the questions about the text.

1. **How do you know this text is realistic fiction? What makes the characters, events, and dialogue realistic?**

2. **Write an example of figurative language found in the text. Explain why it is figurative language.**

3. **Who is the narrator of the story? Explain how you know.**

4. **Write a descriptive detail from the text that tells how Gabe felt after the spelling bee. How does this detail help you experience the text as realistic?**

Name _____

Read each sentence. Underline the context clues in the sentence that help you define each word in bold. Then, in your own words, write the definition of the word in bold.

1. The sun hammered down on the porch, so that it was not merely hot, but **sweltering**.

2. Its smell was **revolting**—a mixture of mouthwash and Papa’s old fishing bucket.

3. As she neared it, the **gaunt** gray dog inside bared its teeth, backing away and growling. . . . The attendant, who had followed Sofia, offered an explanation. “That poor thing’s just skin and bones, and she’s terrified of people.”

4. Sofia looked back at the **forlorn** little dog, and she could see now how sad it looked.

5. As soon as he saw Sofia, he rushed to the front of his cage, lifted his front legs, and scabbled at the wire with his **forepaws**.

Name _____

A. Add the suffix in parentheses to the word in bold.

New Word

- 1. (less) **weight** _____
- 2. (ist) **violin** _____
- 3. (ion) **express** _____
- 4. (ist) **art** _____
- 5. (ful) **forget** _____

B. Circle the suffix in each word. Then write a definition of the word based on the suffix.

- 6. narration _____
- 7. thoughtful _____
- 8. biologist _____
- 9. eruption _____
- 10. limitless _____

Name _____

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 the author's use of setting.

Topic sentence	→	In "Bringing Home Laddie," the author uses a change in setting to cause a change in Sofia.
Evidence	→	At home, Sofia is anxious and thinks about her own needs over her neighbor's needs. At the shelter, Sofia has sympathy for the sad dog and even takes a dog home.
Concluding statement	→	With details like these, the author has shown that Sofia has learned to care for others and is happier.

Write a paragraph about the text you have chosen. Show how the author used setting to cause change in the main character's behavior. Remember to present points in a logical order and to use complex sentences.

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 change the opening to get the reader's attention.

Draft Model

I had waited a long time for a trip to the water park. The biggest slide was really high, but it was supposed to be fun.

1. What descriptive words could you add to the first sentence to make the reader want to know more about the writer's trip?
2. What details could you add to tell how the writer felt about going on this trip?
3. What details could you add to describe what the slide is like?
4. What details could you add to make the ride on the slide seem interesting?

B. Now revise the draft by adding details to create a strong opening.
