

Name _____

gleaming

decade

tinkering

engineering

scouted

squirmed

directing

technology

Use a word from the box to answer each question. Then use the word in a sentence.

1. What did the boy do when he twisted his body to avoid being tagged?

2. What word describes what a light is doing when it is shining? _____

3. What profession uses scientific knowledge for practical use? _____

4. What did the eagle do when it flew in search of food? _____

5. What is another word for a *period of ten years*? _____

6. What is the coach doing when he is giving instructions to the team?

7. What is another word for *puttering*? _____

8. What word means *the use of science for practical purposes*? _____

Name _____

Read the selection. Complete the point of view graphic organizer.

Details



Point of View

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Name _____

Read the passage. Use the make predictions strategy to help you make predictions about what will happen next.

Leonardo's Mechanical Knight

12 Leonardo scrambled out of bed early one clear spring day in 1464.
28 He was excited to get out to the barn where he was working on a new invention.

29 For months he had begged and pleaded with his father to get him a
43 suit of armor. On April 15—Leonardo's twelfth birthday—he got his
55 wish! He had set the armor up in the barn that day. The barn quickly
70 filled with Leonardo's notes and equipment as he worked and toiled
81 on his new invention: a mechanical knight.

88 High atop a rickety ladder, Leonardo was deep in concentration.
98 All his focus was on fixing the mechanical knight's arm, but it wasn't
111 easy work. No matter what he did, the knight's arm refused to lift!
124 Leonardo frowned and scowled at it.

130 "Leonardo!" yelled a voice. He jumped in surprise and shock as the
142 ladder teetered and shook under his feet.

149 "Oh no!" he exclaimed, losing his balance. He tumbled off the
160 ladder and into a pile of hay. The mechanical knight's arm lay broken
173 on the ground.

176 His good friend Albiera peered down at him. "Leonardo, are you
187 all right?"

189 "I'm fine," he said. He wasn't hurt, just upset that his mechanical
201 knight was broken.

204 Albiera glanced at the knight with the missing arm, the stacks of
216 notebooks, and the piles of papers. "What on earth are you doing in
229 here?" she asked.

232 "I was working on a new invention, but it's not going so well."

Name _____

Albiera knew the best way to cheer Leonardo up was to get him talking about his favorite subject: science. She picked up the mechanical knight's arm from the ground. "This looks interesting. Will you tell me about it?"

Sure enough, Leonardo's face lit up in a smile.

"This is my new invention. It's a mechanical knight," he said. "Watch what it can do!"

He cranked a handle behind the mechanical knight and stepped back to watch. Suddenly, the mechanical knight began to move on its own! It turned its head from side to side. It opened and closed its mouth. The attached arm clicked and ticked as it rose above the mechanical knight's head.



Albiera clapped her hands. "Bravo! That's amazing!"

"It's a simple system of pulleys and levers," he said in a humble voice.

"Don't be so modest. I've never seen anything like it before!"

"It's not finished yet. When it's completed, my mechanical knight will sit up, and maybe even walk, just as a human does."

"That would be quite a feat! But I don't understand what you can do with a mechanical knight. Why do we need machines like this at all?" asked Albiera.

Leonardo's face brightened with excitement. "There are so many reasons! Just think about it. A mechanical person will go where we can't go. A machine could explore the bottom of the sea or even the stars! There's so much we could learn from machines."

Albiera laughed. "You have such crazy ideas, Leonardo!"

"You never know," he said. "One day there might be a machine that helps people fly!"

Name _____

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. What pronouns are used in the first two paragraphs? Which character do these pronouns refer to?

2. What kind of narrator tells the story? Is the narrator part of the story?

3. In paragraph 7, how is Leonardo feeling? In paragraph 10, what does Albiera do to make Leonardo feel better?

4. What is the narrator’s point of view about machines? Cite evidence from the text.

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 _____

Starting Work on the Brooklyn Bridge

I met the head of my work crew, Mr. Calloway. He told me about the caissons on the bridge's foundations, where I'll be working.

"The caissons are locked chambers at the bottom of the river, where workers dig down to the bedrock so the foundations can be placed. The pay's good because it's so dangerous down there," Mr. Calloway said.

"Dangerous? Because of flooding?" I asked.

"No, because the caissons are filled with high-pressure air to keep water from filling the work area," Mr. Calloway replied. "Some guys work down in the caissons too long and come to the surface too fast. The change in pressure gives them terrible pains, called caisson disease. It has killed two workers since 1870," Mr. Calloway explained.

Answer the questions about the text.

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

2. During which historical event does the story take place?

3. What literary element is included in this piece of historical fiction?

4. What does the literary element add to your understanding of the text?

Name _____

Read each passage. Underline the synonym that helps you figure out the meaning of each word in bold. Then write the definition of the word in bold on the line.

1. For months he had begged and **pleaded** with his father to get him a suit of armor.

2. The barn quickly filled with Leonardo's notes and equipment as he worked and **toiled** on his new invention: a mechanical knight.

3. High atop a rickety ladder, Leonardo was deep in **concentration**. All his focus was on fixing the mechanical knight's arm, but it wasn't easy work.

4. No matter what he did, the knight's arm refused to lift! Leonardo frowned and **scowled** at it.

5. "It's a simple system of pulleys and levers," he said in a **humble** voice. "Don't be so modest. I've never seen anything like it before!"

Words with /ü/, /ū/, and /û//Consonant + le Syllables

Name _____

A. Read the words in the box below. Sort the words based on their vowel sounds.

bruised huge should issue crook stoop

Vowel sound in <i>spoon</i>	Vowel sound in <i>cube</i>	Vowel sound in <i>book</i>
1. _____	3. _____	5. _____
2. _____	4. _____	6. _____

B. Divide each word into its syllables with a slanted line (/). Then write the consonant + le syllable on the line. Remember that an le syllable may also be spelled with a consonant + al, el, il, or ol.

1. tonsil _____
2. formal _____
3. tumble _____
4. bridle _____
5. symbol _____
6. channel _____

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 how well the author used historical events and realistic characters in the story.

Topic sentence	→	In “Leonardo’s Mechanical Knight,” I think the author did a good job of using people and events from the past to make the characters and the events of the story realistic.
Evidence	→	The story is set in 1464. The main character is called Leonardo, and he is working on building a mechanical knight. The author based him on a famous inventor who lived in the fifteenth century named Leonardo da Vinci. Leonardo really did invent a mechanical knight. I thought the dialogue between Leonardo and his friend was realistic.
Concluding statement	→	I think the author did a good job of making the character of Leonardo come alive by including realistic dialogue.

Write a paragraph about the text you have chosen. Cite evidence from the text to show how well the author used realistic characters and historical events. Remember to support your opinion with reasons and details and to use pronoun-verb agreement correctly.

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 adding setting details to develop the plot.

Draft Model

I woke up and went downstairs for breakfast. My brother and I went swimming in the lake. Then we went to help our dad with the horses in the barn. After that, we all went inside to do household chores.

1. What details could be added to show when and where the story takes place?
2. What setting details could describe the lake?
3. How could you better describe the barn?
4. How could setting details be strengthened to help drive the plot of the story?

B. Now revise the draft by adding details about the setting to help develop the story's plot.
