

Name: _____ Date: _____

Scavenger Hunt: Pronouns

Directions: Review the tips for using pronouns. Then complete the scavenger hunt below. You'll be hunting through the March 2018 issue of *Scope*.

Tips for Using Pronouns

1. Use pronouns as substitutes for nouns.

For instance, if you're telling a story about your dog Max, the story will begin to sound repetitive if you keep repeating "Max" over and over again:

Max loves squeaky toys. Max takes a squeaky octopus with Max to bed every night.

Instead, you could use the pronouns *he* and *him* to refer to Max:

Max loves squeaky toys. He takes a squeaky octopus to bed with him every night.

2. Make sure your reader isn't left wondering to whom or what your pronoun refers.

In the following sentence, the pronoun *they* is vague—you can't tell if it refers to the salad and the fries or just the fries:

I ordered a salad and french fries, and they were delicious.

Here's a way to make the sentence clear:

I ordered a salad and french fries, and the fries were delicious.

3. Make sure a pronoun agrees with the noun it is replacing in number, gender, and person (first-person, second-person, or third-person).

Obviously, you wouldn't say this to describe a bunch of pencils:

If you are finished using those pencils, please put it back in the box.

You would say this:

If you are finished using those pencils, please put them back in the box.

1. Go to page 9 in "Blood, Smoke, and Freedom." In the first paragraph of the section "Cover of Darkness," what pronoun is used and to whom or what does it refer?

2. Now look at the third paragraph of the section "Cover of Darkness." To whom do the pronouns *they* and *their* refer?

3. Go to page 14 in "Swarms of Terror."
Read the first paragraph on that page.

What would happen if "Laura's father"
were changed to "her father"?

4. Still on page 14, go to the third column
and read the paragraph that begins "The
whirs and clicks and buzzes . . ."

What would happen if "Grasshoppers
buzzed in Laura's ears" were changed to
"Grasshoppers buzzed in her ears"?

5. Write a paragraph about the most interesting thing you learned from the March 2018 issue of
Scope. Your paragraph should include at least four pronouns.
