

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is Special?

Directions: Fill in the chart below with information from the story "The Day It Rained Cats" and the essay "The Chance to Learn From My Dad." We've filled in some boxes for you. Use your answers to help you respond to the writing prompt on page 27.

What is special about learning from a parent or grandparent?	How this idea applies to the story (If the idea does not apply, write "N/A.")	How this idea applies to the essay (If the idea does not apply, write "N/A.")
You get to spend time together.	In the story, practicing levving is at first a chore for Sheera, but it eventually becomes a way for her and her grandmother to spend quality time with each other.	Damio writes about missing the opportunity to "sit close" to her father while he taught her guitar.
You get to know your parent/ grandparent better.		

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You get to spend time together.	In the story, practicing levving is at first a chore for Sheera, but it eventually becomes a way for her and her grandmother to spend quality time with each other.	Damio writes about missing the opportunity to "sit close" to her father while he taught her guitar.
You get to know your parent/ grandparent better.		Damio feels she missed out on the opportunity to learn about her father's incredible life.
You could learn something extraordinary.		
You carry on a legacy.	By learning to lev—a skill that was a large part of Sheera's grandmother's life—Sheera is able to carry on a piece of her grandmother after her grandmother passes away.	

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Close-Reading Questions

"The Chance to Learn From My Dad"

1. What is the tone of Christy Damio's essay? Explain. (tone)
2. Damio refers to her "missed opportunity." In your own words, explain what opportunity Damio believes she missed. (key ideas)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

"The Day It Rained Cats" and "The Chance to Learn From My Dad"

1. How does Linda Sue Park establish Grandma's character? What makes Grandma memorable?
2. Is the ability to lev worth the sacrifices that Sheera makes? Why or why not?
3. Damio writes that if she could go back, she would have "taken Sheera's path." What does Damio mean?

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Literary Elements and Devices

Identifying the basic elements of a literary work can help you understand it better.
Use this activity to help you understand "The Day It Rained Cats."
See *Scope's* "Glossary of Literary Terms" for definitions of the words that appear in bold.

Section 1: Characters

1. For the characters of Sheera, Grandma, and one other character of your choice: (1) decide whether the character is **major** or **minor**; (2) briefly describe the character, including his or her appearance, personality, and background; and (3) decide whether the character is **static** or **dynamic** and explain why.

A. is a ☐ **major** ☐ **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

She is a ☐ **static** ☐ **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because _____

B. is a ☐ **major** ☐ **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

She is a ☐ **static** ☐ **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because _____

C. is a ☐ **major** ☐ **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He/She is a ☐ **static** ☐ **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because _____

2. Describe Sheera and Grandma's relationship. How does it change over the course of the story? Support your answer with details from the text.

Section 2: Genre and Setting

3. A fantasy is a story that includes elements that are not realistic but instead are magical or supernatural. Explain why "The Day It Rained Cats" is fantasy.

4. What elements of the story *are* realistic?

5. The time and place in which this story takes place are never mentioned, but you can infer the setting. Tell approximately when and where this story is set and which details in the text helped you figure it out.

Section 3: Figurative Language

6. A **metaphor** compares two unlike things to illuminate a particular quality or aspect of one of those things. Find a metaphor in the story. What two things does it compare? What does the metaphor add to the scene?

Section 4: Structure

7. The story begins with the day Sheera's grandma accidentally levs the neighbors' cats. When does this event happen in time compared with the next event described in the story? How do you know?

Section 5: Conflict

8. A. What is the main **conflict** the **protagonist** faces? Explain it briefly.

B. Is this conflict **internal** or **external**? _____

9. How is the main conflict resolved?

Section 6: Theme

10. One theme of this story is that greatness is achieved through hard work and sacrifice. Explain how this theme develops over the course of the story, using details from the text to support your answer.

SKILL: Vocabulary Acquisition, page 1 of 4

DIY Vocabulary

Welcome to do-it-yourself vocabulary! We're leaving it to you to teach yourself the meanings of new words you encounter in a *Scope* article or story.

Directions: First, in the space provided, write the name of the article or story you are working on. Then find three to seven words in that article or story that are new to you, or whose meanings you are not sure about. Write each word in one of the gray tabs, followed by the page number where it appears. Then write what you think the word means, based on context clues. After that, look up the word in a dictionary and write down its dictionary definition. Finally, use the word in a sentence.

Article or Story:

	page:
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What I think the word means, based on context clues:

Dictionary definition:

Example sentence:

	page:
--	-------

What I think the word means, based on context clues:

Dictionary definition:

Example sentence:

	page:
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What I think the word means based, on context clues:

Dictionary definition:

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	page:
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Dictionary definition:

Example sentence:

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“The Day It Rained Cats” Quiz

Directions: Read “The Day It Rained Cats” by Linda Sue Park. Then answer the questions below.

1. Which best describes the structure of the story?

- Ⓐ The entire story is chronological.
- Ⓑ The story starts with a flashback, then returns to the present.
- Ⓒ After the opening incident, the story goes back in time and then continues chronologically until it returns to where it started.
- Ⓓ After the opening incident, the story goes back in time and then continues chronologically to and then past the opening incident.

2. Which statement best describes the narrator?

- Ⓐ Sheera is 13, describing events that happened when she was 11.
- Ⓑ Sheera is 11, describing events that happened when she was 9.
- Ⓒ Sheera is 11, describing events as they happen.
- Ⓓ Sheera is an adult, describing events that happened when she was 11.

3. On page 25, Sheera’s mom says, “Slippery slope.” Context clues reveal that a slippery slope is

- Ⓐ an extremely difficult decision.
- Ⓑ a task that seems impossible to complete.
- Ⓒ a lie that gets out of control.
- Ⓓ a process that is hard to stop once it has begun and leads to things getting worse.

4. Which is a context clue for the meaning of “slippery slope”?

- Ⓐ “‘Tomorrow’s Saturday,’ I said. ‘I can do a double session.’” (p. 24)
- Ⓑ “Grandma took a sip of water, staring at me over the rim of the glass.” (p. 24)
- Ⓒ “‘Yeah,’ Kai agreed. ‘You think you’re just going to miss one day, but then—’” (p. 25)
- Ⓓ “Tears stung my eyes as I slammed the car door.” (p. 25)

5. Sheera must decide whether to skip a night of training to attend the IronWeaver event. What does this scene contribute to the story?

- Ⓐ It explains why Sheera regrets learning to lev.
- Ⓑ It shows Sheera struggling with the sacrifices necessary to become a levver.
- Ⓒ It foreshadows Sheera saving Liam.
- Ⓓ It introduces a conflict between Sheera and Kai.

6. How does saving Liam affect Sheera?

- Ⓐ It inspires her to work harder at her training.
- Ⓑ It shows her what she’s capable of and gives her a boost forward in her training.
- Ⓒ Thinking about what could have happened upsets her and sets her back in her training.
- Ⓓ The incident does not affect Sheera.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. Would Sheera most likely describe her experience of learning to lev as positive, negative, or some combination of positive and negative? Support your answer with details from the text.

8. On page 27, Sheera says that her levving sessions with her grandma started to feel less like training and more like a partnership. Explain what you think Sheera means.

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“The Day It Rained Cats” Quiz

Directions: Read “The Day It Rained Cats” by Linda Sue Park. Then answer the questions below.

1. The story begins with Grandma levving the neighbor’s cats. When in *time* did this happen?
 - Ⓐ a week before Sheera started learning to lev
 - Ⓑ two years after Sheera started learning to lev
 - Ⓒ almost a year before Sheera started learning to lev
 - Ⓓ almost a year after Sheera started learning to lev
2. Which statement best describes the narrator?
 - Ⓐ Sheera is 13, describing events that happened when she was 11.
 - Ⓑ Sheera is 11, describing events that happened when she was 9.
 - Ⓒ Sheera is 11, describing events as they happen.
 - Ⓓ Sheera is an adult, describing events that happened when she was 11.
3. What do Sheera’s parents and brother think might happen if Sheera skips her training to go to the IronWeaver book signing?
 - Ⓐ The next day, she will no longer be able to lev.
 - Ⓑ She will be too tired to train the next day.
 - Ⓒ She will be disappointed by how little time she gets to spend with Kestrel Lee.
 - Ⓓ She will be tempted to skip training again and again until she quits training altogether.
4. Which line from the text best supports the answer to question 3?
 - Ⓐ “‘Tomorrow’s Saturday,’ I said. ‘I can do a double session.’” (p. 24)
 - Ⓑ “Grandma took a sip of water, staring at me over the rim of the glass.” (p. 24)
 - Ⓒ “‘Yeah,’ Kai agreed. ‘You think you’re just going to miss one day, but then—’” (p. 25)
 - Ⓓ “Tears stung my eyes as I slammed the car door.” (p. 25)
5. What causes Grandma to lose her ability to lev?
 - Ⓐ She transfers her abilities to Sheera.
 - Ⓑ Losing the ability to lev is just something that can happen when people get older.
 - Ⓒ She is so focused on Sheera that she forgets to practice.
 - Ⓓ Losing the ability to lev is a side effect of pneumonia.
6. Sheera would most likely describe her training as
 - Ⓐ fun and exciting.
 - Ⓑ challenging and frustrating at times but worth it in the end.
 - Ⓒ challenging and horrible at all times and not worth it in the end.
 - Ⓓ boring but easy.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. Explain your answer to question 6. Use text evidence to support your conclusion.
8. On page 27, Sheera says about her grandma, “I guess you could say that while I was learning to lev, she was learning not to.” What does Sheera mean?

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

Levving Contest

According to the stories you just read, what can be special about learning a skill from a parent or grandparent? Answer this question in a short essay. Five winners will get a copy of *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ a clearly stated central idea
- ⇒ use of supporting text evidence
- ⇒ good organization and transitions
- ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name: _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this form with your written entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
or mail them to: Levving Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY June 15, 2016!