

## GRAMMAR OVERREACTS

### AFFECT VS. EFFECT

1. affected
2. effect
3. affect
4. affect
5. affected
6. effect
7. effect
8. "Brain freeze" can be an effect of eating ice cream too fast.
9. Eating just before going to bed affects my sleep.
10. The rain had almost no effect on traffic.

## THE ORPHAN TRAIN

### "THE ORPHAN TRAIN" QUIZ

1. C      5. B
2. B      6. B
3. D      7. B
4. D      8. C
9. Answers will vary but should be similar to the following: By comparing the selection process to "picking out cattle," the editor meant that some families looked at the children as though they were livestock, checking their health and gauging their heartiness (such as when a farmer sticks his hand in Lee's mouth to feel his teeth), hoping to pick a child who would be helpful to the family and without concern for the child's happiness or well-being. The editor was suggesting that some people looked at the children as property, not as human beings. This comparison is a negative characterization of the selection process.
10. Answers will vary but should be similar to the following: Both Lee and Michaela experienced a lack of affection at the orphanages where they lived. For both, there was never enough food. Also, both orphanages were violent places where the children did not always feel safe.

### "THE ORPHAN TRAIN"

#### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

1. Many people viewed poor children, especially orphans or street children, as "dangerous pests" or "future criminals." Brace, however, wanted to help them. He believed these children could lead happy lives if they were removed from cities and brought up in the countryside.
2. Pros include: Many children ended up in good homes with loving parents; children moved from dirty, overcrowded

cities to the open lands of the West; children received food and clothing on the trains. Cons include: Some children were taken in to serve as "free labor"; some children were abused; sometimes there wasn't enough oversight by the agents from the Children's Aid Society; children were often separated from their parents and/or siblings; the selection process was traumatic—one editor compared it to "picking out cattle." Opinions will vary.

3. He lost his connection to his father and his former life in New York. He gained a

### TWO STORIES

Lee Nailling	Michaela DePrince
1918–2001	today
New York, NY	Sierra Leone, West Africa
Lee came from one of many poor families in New York City. His mother was dead and his father was either unable or unwilling to care for him.	During the civil war in Sierra Leone, Michaela's father was shot, and her mother died of starvation.
Miserable; it was crowded; there was never enough to eat; fights broke out every day.	Miserable; she received shelter but no love; the workers at the orphanage despised her, giving her the least amount of food and clothing; she and the other children lived in constant fear, surrounded by violence.
being reunited with his father	becoming like the beautiful, smiling ballerina on the magazine cover that she found
Ben and Ollie Nailling, a kind couple	Elaine and Charles DePrince, a kind couple
Texas	New Jersey
Good; the Naillings treated him like a son; they took good care of him; they made sure he was able to spend time with his brothers. He was happy.	Good; the DePrinces helped Michaela become healthy; they enrolled her in ballet classes; they helped her recover from her terrible experiences.
He went to college, served in WWII, got married, and became a father, a grandfather, and a great-grandfather.	She is dancing with a famous ballet company in New York City and has starred in a documentary, performed on <i>Dancing With the Stars</i> , and appeared in <i>Teen Vogue</i> .
He never reunited with his father.	She became the ballerina she dreamed of becoming.
"When I got off that train in Texas, I was a bitterly unhappy little boy. The good Lord saw to it that I ended up with the Naillings. That was where I belonged."	"My life is proof that no matter what situation you're in, as long as you have a supportive family, you can achieve anything."

loving family, a good home, enough food to eat, and an education. He changed from a bitter boy to a happy boy.

4. She has inner strength, determination, and resilience. She is also a dreamer; she pursued her dream of dancing.
5. Answers will vary, but students might say that they both survived ordeals and thrived once placed with loving families.

**READ, THINK, EXPLAIN:  
NONFICTION ELEMENTS**

1. "The Orphan Train"
2. Answers will vary. Here is an example answer: page 6; It shows three young boys sleeping at the foot of a staircase. One of the smaller boys is clinging to the older boy's leg, and the other small boy is curled up next to an overturned barrel. Dirt and garbage are strewn on the ground around them. They do not appear to be at home but in some sort of public place. The photographer was probably trying to make me feel sad and worried for these boys. The fact that the boys are sleeping makes them seem vulnerable and innocent, and the situation they are in appears uncomfortable, unsafe, and lonely.
3. How the lives of the two young people in the articles are similar and different.
4. "Michaela, Triumphant"
5. She is smiling. The editors were trying to communicate that Michaela is happy, confident, successful, etc.
6. A. Problem and Solution  
B. The first two paragraphs of the section explain that in the mid-1800s, thousands of children lived on the streets and in orphanages in New York and other Eastern cities, and what life was like for these children. The next three paragraphs explain how Charles Loring Brace tried to solve this problem: by creating the orphan-train program.
7. From 1854 until 1929, abandoned children from New York and other Eastern cities were put aboard "orphan trains" that carried them across the country to be taken in by families in the West. Some children were adopted by kind people and did indeed begin new and better lives, but other children did not fare so well. The article focuses on the experiences of an orphan-train rider named Lee Nailling, who was 8 years

old when his father put him and two of his younger brothers aboard an orphan train.

8. Possible answers include: One newspaper editor compared the process of families selecting orphans from the train to picking out cattle (p.8); "Many of these journeys ended happily" (p.8); some families took in children because they wanted free labor for their farm or a servant for their house (p.8); "Some kids were physically abused. Others ran away." (p.8); "Certainly, many went on to lead happy lives. Others suffered cruelly." (p.8); Lee considered himself lucky (p.8).
9. Answers will vary, but should be similar to the following: With the help of her adoptive parents, Michaela DePrince recovered from her terrible early experiences to become happy and successful.
10. Both Lee and Michaela were orphans and had extremely difficult early childhoods. Lee spent two years in what writer Kim Hill describes as a "crowded" and "horrifying" New York City orphanage, while Michaela lived in an orphanage in Sierra Leone where she was despised by the staff, and where she and the other children "lived in fear" and were "surrounded by violence." Both Lee and Michaela were adopted by kind, loving couples and went on to lead happy lives. Lee later said that he considered himself lucky, and that with his adoptive family was where he belonged. Michaela said, "My life is proof that no matter what situation you're in, as long as you have a supportive family, you can achieve anything."
11. Answers will vary.
12. Answers will vary.

**"THE ORPHAN TRAIN"  
VOCABULARY PRACTICE**

- |           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 1. please | 7. f                   |
| 2. adult  | 8. d                   |
| 3. repel  | 9. b                   |
| 4. e      | 10. c                  |
| 5. g      | 11. Answers will vary. |
| 6. a      | 12. Answers will vary. |

**PAIRED TEXTS**  
**"Does Fame Drive You Nuts?"**  
**and "Nobody"**

**WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S  
POINT OF VIEW?**

Answers will vary.

**Section 1**

1. O'Neill devotes much more of his essay to describing the negative aspects of being a celebrity than he does to describing the positive aspects. In the opening paragraph, O'Neill notes that Justin Bieber is rich and famous and that he gets to drive fancy cars, live in a mansion, and hang out with famous friends—but the rest of the essay is dedicated to describing the stresses of being a celebrity and the possible effects of those stresses.
2. Students may mention celebrities' high salaries, that they have fun and interesting jobs, that it can be fun to be recognized for your accomplishments, that celebrities have the power to influence the public on social or political issues, that they can afford cool stuff, that they don't have to worry about money, that they enjoy a lifestyle that most of us could only dream of, etc.
3. It's an opinion. Whether it's "understandable" that celebrities feel anxious is just one person's point of view; someone else might say that celebrities should learn to cope with all the attention they get, because it's part of their job.
4. A. *Silly* is not a very critical word, so O'Neill's choice of *silly* makes his tone supportive, sympathetic, etc., as opposed to judgmental or critical. The sentence would have been more critical of celebrities if he'd chosen a word like *foolish*, *stupid*, *regrettable*, *offensive*, etc.  
B. Putting *story* in quotation marks makes O'Neill sound sarcastic, like he means that the articles he's referring to aren't really stories, aren't worthy of the attention they're being given. The quotation marks tell the reader that O'Neill disapproves of or dismisses this sort material.
5. Possible answers include: (1) O'Neill writes that celebrities are "suffering from fame." By using the word *suffering*, O'Neill shows us that he has sympathy for

celebrities, which in turn suggests that he thinks it's difficult and unpleasant to be famous. (2) O'Neill writes, "Plus, every tiny mistake makes headlines." By saying "every tiny mistake," he implies that insignificant mistakes—mistakes that any normal person might make—are presented to the public for ridicule. His word choice elicits sympathy for celebrities. (3) O'Neill states that fame can be especially hard on young stars because they often support their families, and losing a gig can mean losing money for their families. He does not acknowledge that without fame, these young stars probably wouldn't have any money to give their families.

### Section 2

1. By a "nobody," she means someone who is not famous, known to the public, etc. By a "somebody," she means someone who is famous.
2. The exclamation point suggests that she is proud of being "nobody"; she does not mutter or quietly state that she is nobody, but declares it.
3. It means gloomy, dull, boring, dismal, etc.
4. She is saying that "somebodies" spend all their time promoting themselves to those who foolishly admire them: She says that to be a "somebody" is to be like a frog that croaks its name all day to "an admiring bog." The bog represents the public, who admire the celebrity for nothing more spectacular than the way it croaks its name over and over.
5. She seems more critical than sympathetic. By comparing celebrities to a frog that croaks its name, she seems to suggest that celebrities are foolish and self-important.

### PAIRED-TEXTS QUIZ

1. B      5. C
2. C      6. C
3. B      7. D
4. D      8. D
9. Answers will vary. Some students may say that even though being a celebrity can be stressful, it is worth it to have the wealth and excitement that come with fame. The fancy cars, huge mansions, famous friends, and exotic vacations would surely make up for the lack of privacy. Other students may say that the constant pressures of fame sound too intense and would likely lead

to a life of isolation and even misery. These students might point to some of the erratic behavior that stars have engaged in over the years, and the public scrutiny that may have driven them to act this way.

10. Answers will vary. Students may suggest that a celebrity who is suffering from fame should seek out nonfamous people to spend time with. O'Neill explains that many stars find that hanging out with people who knew them before they were famous is what keeps them sane. Similarly, the speaker of Dickinson's poem "Nobody" is happy to be "nobody" and would rather be with another "nobody" than with a "somebody." Both the article and the poem indicate that time spent outside the sphere of celebrity can be more appealing than the pressures of a celebrity lifestyle.

### "DOES FAME DRIVE YOU NUTS?" CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

1. Positive: money, fancy cars, big houses, famous friends. Negative: constant paparazzi attention, no privacy, pressure, public mocking. The author argues that fame can drive a person crazy. Sure there are perks, but the intense scrutiny and loss of privacy are quite stressful and can lead to feelings of isolation. It seems the author would not likely seek fame for himself.
2. It is in our nature to be fascinated by those who are higher up in the social hierarchy. Reading about celebrities gives us an opportunity to imagine ourselves as them. Also, feelings of envy may contribute to our desire to see celebs in an unflattering light. We are tantalized by celebrities' wealth and success but also take twisted pleasure in seeing them fail.
3. Stars know that everything they do or say can (and often will) be documented and spread around the globe in a matter of minutes via the Internet. Long-range camera lenses used by paparazzi and the fact that many people have camera phones ensure that celebrities have little or no privacy, no matter where they are.
4. The speaker of the poem seems content

to be nobody. While most people are wishing for more fame, Dickinson shows why being a somebody is unappealing. Being somebody is "dreary." She likens being a public figure to being a frog croaking all day long. The adoring public is compared to an "admiring bog."

5. Some students may say no, that's the price celebrities pay for fame. Others may say yes, nobody should have to endure the prying eyes of the whole world.

### ANALYZING "NOBODY"

1. D      6. D
2. A      7. C
3. C      8. A
4. B      9. B
5. D      10. A
11. Answers will vary, but it seems that Dickinson is saying that it is more desirable to be unknown than to be famous. She states in the first line of the poem that she is "nobody," and in line 5 she writes that it would be "dreary to be somebody," that is, to be a well-known or public figure. She suggests that "somebodies" are self-important self-promoters, comparing a "somebody" to a croaking frog that tells its name to an "admiring bog" all day. She seems to judge society harshly for overvaluing celebrity, suggesting that "nobodies" (those who are not well-known) are not just ignored by the public but actively scorned: In lines 3-4, she urges a fellow nobody, "Don't tell! They'd banish us, you know." In addition, when Dickinson compares celebrities to frogs croaking to "an admiring bog," she is comparing the celebrity-loving public to a bog—not a very complimentary comparison. She suggests that the public's admiration is just as meaningless as the frog's croaking.

## FRANKENSTEIN

### WHO'S THE MONSTER?

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

#### Victor Frankenstein:

Victor has the hubris to think he can

make a new species. He flees into the night when he sees that his creature is ugly instead of beautiful, abandoning his creation and neglecting responsibility for him. If he had taken care of the creature, he might not have killed William; he breaks his promise to the creature that he would make a female companion, enraging the creature and motivating him to kill Henry and Elizabeth.

#### **Society:**

The creature claims, "I was kind and good; only misery made me a fiend." He then explains how being rejected by society (and his creator) caused him to be so lonely that he turned murderous. Felix, Agatha, and William all ran from him, calling him a monster. Mr. De Lacey tells him, "Most people are friendly—unless they are blinded by prejudice." Everyone who saw the creature was blinded by prejudice against his hideous appearance. Calling him a monster made him a monster.

#### **The Creature Himself:**

The creature confesses to killing William out of anger. He threatens revenge against Victor and then kills Henry and Elizabeth. Although he had reasons to be angry, he alone committed the murders. In the end he admits, "It is true that I am a wretch."

#### **FRANKENSTEIN QUIZ**

1. C      5. D
2. B      6. C
3. D      7. C
4. B      8. A
9. Answers will vary but should be similar to the following: Mr. De Lacey is the only character who is nice to the creature. Because Mr. De Lacey is blind, he is not able to see the creature's hideous form. Everyone who sees the creature is instantly repulsed and horrified by him. This suggests that it is human nature to make judgments based on appearance. Mary Shelley may be implying that people are shallow and callous—that we assume the worst of others and don't give them the chance to show us their goodness.
10. Answers will vary. Students who argue that the horrible acts could have been prevented may say that the creature became evil only because he was abandoned and rejected. In Scene 4,

the creature says, "I was kind and good; only misery made me a fiend." If Victor had nurtured him, the creature would have had no reason to lash out and commit murder. Students who feel the creature was destined to be a monstrous killer may say that because the creature was made from parts of corpses, it was unlikely that he could have been good and kind. It was an experiment gone wrong, and once the creature came to life there was nothing Victor could have done to stop him. The creature was 8 feet tall and smart enough to get away with his crimes. In the case of Victor's little brother, the creature was smart enough—and cruel enough—to frame the innocent nanny for his crime.

#### **FRANKENSTEIN**

##### **CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS**

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

1. His goal is to conquer death and aging, and create a beautiful new species. He succeeds in bringing a creature to life but fails to make the creature beautiful. He also fails to nurture his creation.
2. The creature means that he became hateful and murderous because everyone, including his creator, treated him with loathing—that having no human connection or affection turned him into a monster. Opinions will vary.
3. People immediately judge the creature by his hideous appearance. The play says that being treated like a monster can turn you into a monster.
4. The creature believes that only someone like himself will accept him and keep him from loneliness. Opinions will vary.
5. Students may say no, Elizabeth, Henry, and William were innocent victims, revenge promotes a cycle of violence, and murder is never justifiable. Others may say yes, Victor failed to nurture human values in the creature, so he deserved to be the victim of the creature's inhuman acts.

##### **BACK TO BASICS: LITERARY ELEMENTS AND DEVICES**

Answers will vary.

##### **Characters**

1. A. Victor; major. He is an eager and bold scientist who assembles a creature

from body parts and brings it to life. Victor is a dynamic character. At first, he is confident and excited about his creature. When the creature comes to life, Victor rejects him and refuses to accept any responsibility for him. As the play progresses, Victor realizes that he is responsible for what the creature has become and is full of regret.

B. The creature; major. He is a giant man, created from corpse parts by Victor Frankenstein. He commits several murders and is tortured by feelings of rejection and loneliness. He is a dynamic character because he goes from a state of innocence to hate, anger, and murder, and finally to deep regret for his actions.

C. Agatha; minor. She is Mr. De Lacey's daughter. She is a static character because she does not undergo any significant change. (*Students could describe another character here.*)

2. Mr. De Lacey is a blind old man and the only character in the play who is kind to the creature. He says, "Most people are friendly—unless they are blinded by prejudice." The author uses Mr. De Lacey to make the point that people unfairly judge others by their appearance.
3. The author creates sympathy for the creature by showing the reader that the creature was not born evil, but rather, that he turned into a monster as a reaction to the rejection he faced. By allowing the creature to tell his own story in Scene 5, the author helps the reader understand the creature's experiences and emotions. In that scene, the creature explains that he tried to make friends with humans, only to discover that they all found him hideous. The author makes the creature's struggle with his own conscience clear in the last scene, when the creature says, "I hated him, but not as much as I hate myself. All I ever wanted was love—but it is true that I am a wretch."
4. Answers may include any of the following: In Scene 2, Victor brings the creature to life, saying, "A new species will bless ME as its creator!" This shows that Victor is a brilliant scientist but also narcissistic. Victor is disgusted by the creature because he is not beautiful; he storms off and is relieved to find

the creature gone when he returns. This shows Victor's shallowness and his capacity for coldness. In Scene 4, Victor calls the creature "vile," and instead of nurturing him, wants to kill him. This shows Victor's lack of responsibility. In Scene 6, Victor agrees to create a companion for the creature, which indicates that he does have some compassion for him.

### Setting

5. The play takes place mostly in Germany and Switzerland, with additional scenes off the coast of Spain and in Scotland. The beginning and end take place on a ship in the Arctic Ocean.
6. seven
7. Scenes 1 and 9 take place on Captain Walton's ship, which is hundreds of miles away from land. Scenes 4 and 6 take place in the mountains outside Geneva. Scene 7 is in a remote cottage in Scotland. The setting of Scene 8 is an island off the coast of Spain.

### Imagery

8. Answers may include the following: In Scene 2, the raging storm is described mostly through its sounds: "rain lashes against the window," "wind rattles the windows," "a clap of thunder shakes the room." This imagery creates a sense of fright and doom. Scenes 1 and 9 describe the remoteness of the Arctic Ocean: "the nearest land is hundreds of miles away," "the sled disappears over the horizon," "carried away by the waves and lost in the darkness of the sea." The author may be trying to establish a sense of futility here, a sense that the damage has been done and both Victor and the creature are without hope. Scene 5 contains descriptions of sight and smell: The De Lacey's cottage seems cozy and welcoming as Mr. De Lacey smells delicious fish and invites the creature to sit by the fire. The image of the creature peering in through the cottage window helps the reader understand how strongly the creature aches for companionship and acceptance, and symbolizes his position on the outside of the human world.

### Tone and Mood

9. Possible answers include sinister, compassionate, serious, moralizing, cautionary, etc. While the creature's murders are clearly terrible, the author

makes him a sympathetic character: She allows the creature to tell his own story and makes it clear that it was Victor's and society's rejection that drove the creature to his heinous acts. In this way, the author seems to be judging not just the character of Victor, but society in general. Through the character of Mr. De Lacey, in particular, the author makes the point that people unfairly judge others based on appearance. The author also uses this story to caution the reader against irresponsible science; through this story of an experiment gone horribly wrong, she suggests that just because we can do something doesn't mean we should.

10. Possible answers include ominous, suspenseful, frightening, horrifying, intense, despairing, etc. The author establishes an ominous mood from the beginning when Victor refers to the "terrible evil I have unleashed on the world," letting the reader know that the story to come is dark and horrifying. The mood becomes more tense and frightening as the storm rages outside the laboratory. The suspense continues as Victor discovers that William has been murdered. In Scene 4, the creature directly confronts Victor, saying, "You, who should have nurtured me, called me hideous and abandoned me," further increasing the intensity. The mood lightens briefly in Scene 5 when the creature meets Mr. De Lacey and the reader thinks he may have found a friend at last. When the creature exclaims in Scene 7, "I will have my revenge," the mood becomes ominous and dark again and remains so until the end of the play. The lonely, isolated locations in which much of the play is set also contribute to a mood of despair.

### Plot

11. The flashback begins in Scene 2 and ends in Scene 8. It focuses on Victor's experiences.
12. Scene 5 is the flashback within the extended flashback. It focuses on the creature's experiences.
13. 3, 5, 2, 1, 4
14. The climax is Elizabeth's murder at the end of Scene 8. Up to this moment, the tension has been building. The creature had threatened Victor that he, the creature, would get his revenge,

and it is with the murder that he gets it. The murder, when the person that Victor loves most is taken from him, is the moment of the greatest drama. It's also the last thing that happens before the action returns to the present, where Victor is dying and asking the captain to destroy the creature.

15. Students may say that the primary external conflict is between Victor and his creature: man vs. man (or monster). The creature wants Victor's love and approval, while Victor despises the creature and wants him to go away forever or die. Or, students may name the conflict between the creature and society as the primary external conflict in the story.
16. Victor and the creature experience internal conflicts. Victor is repulsed by the creature and wants nothing to do with him, but Victor also knows that as the creature's creator, he is ultimately responsible for the creature's actions. The creature yearns for acceptance, but he becomes enraged and violent when people reject him. Unloved by even his creator, the creature cannot escape his misery. As the creature explains in Scene 9, "All I ever wanted was love—but it is true that I am a wretch."

### FRANKENSTEIN VOCABULARY PRACTICE

- |      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 1. S | 7. ghastly             |
| 2. S | 8. calm                |
| 3. A | 9. resolved            |
| 4. S | 10. friend             |
| 5. S | 11. Answers will vary. |
| 6. A | 12. Answers will vary. |

### THE LAZY EDITOR Why Is That Guy in the Trash?

### MASTER YOUR MODIFIERS

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

1. In algebra class, Sarah told me about her vacation.
2. Frankie spent all his money at the pizza place; therefore, his wallet was empty.
3. At the mall, we saw a movie about alien monkeys.
4. The tap dancers rehearsed wearing the top hats that they got yesterday.
5. A fan of anything chocolate, Marissa

reached eagerly for the cupcake.

6. I read in the newspaper that a famous Dutch painting was stolen.
7. Karina put her white shirt, which was stained with spaghetti sauce, in the laundry basket.
8. Mr. Kaplan carried Rachel's birthday cake, which was topped with 12 blazing candles, into the dining room.

### VARY YOUR SENTENCES

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

When we went to the beach last weekend, we brought a lot of stuff: beach chairs, towels, snacks, beach balls, and Frisbees. My mom said that it's important to protect our skin, as she put sunscreen all over us. It was the kind that doesn't blend into your skin, so it stayed white. We all felt like dorks, but we had a lot of fun anyway.

### COMMA SENSE

1. Pasco, our tour guide, helped the group identify the plants in the rainforest.
2. After I spend a week in England, I am going to travel to Scotland for two weeks.
3. I could hardly wait to get to the park, which is about an hour away, and start riding roller coasters!
4. Before hiking the trail, I needed to get the proper shoes, an appropriate hat, and a cold bottle of water.
5. (top)
6. (bottom)
7. (bottom)
8. (bottom)

Answers will vary for questions 9-12.

### VARY YOUR VOCABULARY

Answers will vary, but should be similar to: Greg had strolled past the old abandoned house many times, but he had never been brave enough to venture in. Today, he summoned his courage and strode up the rickety front steps. He had barely put his hand on the door when it swung open. Greg tiptoed in. It was very dark, and everything was covered in a thick layer of dust—so thick that Greg left footprints in it as he crept around. He decided to venture up the stairs. About halfway up, he thought he heard someone trudging behind him. He spun around. No one was there. Greg decided it was time to go. He ran down the stairs, out the front door, and all the way home.

### THE WORKSHEET ON REDUNDANCY WORKSHEET

Answers will vary.

1. Shayur's alarm was set for 7 a.m.
2. The burglar returned to the scene of the crime.
3. At the end of the concert, the crowd gave the musicians a standing ovation.
4. We all need to cooperate, or we will never make any progress.
5. For most people, riding in a hot-air balloon is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
6. The troops advanced toward the village.
7. Have you ever spilled cranberry juice on a white carpet?
8. Many celebrities attended the Grammy Awards.
9. Mrs. O'Connor asked Tanya to circulate the sign-up sheet to all of the students in the classroom.

### FOLLOWING BOO

#### "FOLLOWING BOO" QUIZ

1. C      5. A
2. B      6. D
3. C      7. B
4. C      8. B
9. Answers will vary but should be similar to the following: Before he died, Grandpa told Nate, "I've had a long life, a life filled with love and family. What more could I ask for?" Nate realizes that Grandpa had a full and satisfying life because he was surrounded by loved ones, and that he was not afraid of death. With this realization, Nate decides that Boo would be happier living the rest of his life surrounded by people who love him rather than living in the forest—forever, but all alone.
10. Answers will vary. Tennyson suggests that the joy and fulfillment that come from loving someone is worth the pain and suffering that come with losing that person. These feelings—the bad and the good—are part of the human experience and should not be denied. Nate would likely agree with Tennyson; though Nate was devastated by the death of his grandpa, he would rather have known and loved his grandpa than to never have been close to him. Also, Nate understands that his grandpa

died feeling grateful for all the love he experienced during his life—which he never would have had if he hadn't taken a chance on losing that love.

### "FOLLOWING BOO"

#### CRITICAL-THINKING QUESTIONS

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

1. Nate is upset and angry. He doesn't want to face his grandpa's death. When Nate thinks about his grandpa being dead, his "throat tighten[s]." When Maggie says she is naming the dog after their grandpa, Nate feels like a thunderstorm is brewing in his stomach, and he runs off to be alone. Nate avoids his mother when she tries to talk to him about his feelings. He says he knows what his mother wants to say to him: "Being mad at the world won't bring him back. You have to talk about it sometime." Later, Nate lies and says that they can't take Boo home. He says this because he can't bear the thought of Boo ever dying—the same way he can't bear the thought of his grandpa's death.
2. The mood is creepy, mysterious, and otherworldly. The campground is deserted and not marked on the map. Thick fog floats from the forest into the campground. Dense vines in the forest make it difficult to see. The resort is old and crumbling, and the stream is described as a "magical oasis."
3. Nate notices that after he and Boo go into the stream, the cuts on his feet have healed and Boo's limp is gone. Also, Dr. Brewster reveals that Boo's dog tags are 50 years old.
4. By the end, Nate has accepted his grandpa's death. He realizes that his grandpa got what he wanted from life, which was to be surrounded by family. Remembering his grandfather's dying words and seeing that Boo would rather come home with Nate's family than live forever in the forest alone helps Nate reach this realization.
5. Answers will vary but might be similar to "Stop looking for the Fountain of Youth, and appreciate what you have in your life."

**BACK TO BASICS: LITERARY  
ELEMENTS AND DEVICES**

Answers will vary.

**Characters**

1. A. Nate; major. He is a boy, approximately 12 years old, whose grandfather recently died. He is a dynamic character because at the beginning of the story he is angry and does not accept his grandfather's death, but by the end of the story he has come to terms with it and learned something about what's most important in life.  
B. Boo; minor. (Students may also say that Boo is a major character.) Boo is a mixed-breed dog that emerges from the forest bordering the campground where Nate and his family are staying. Boo is 50 years old, thanks to the nearby Fountain of Youth, from which he has been drinking. He is friendly and craves companionship. He is a static character because he does not undergo a significant internal change.  
C. Nate's mom; minor. She is the mother of Nate and Nate's younger sister; she recently lost her father. She is caring and tries to get Nate to open up to her about his feelings about his grandfather's death. She is a static character because she does not undergo any significant change. (*Students could describe another character here.*)
2. What Grandpa Lou said to Nate shortly before he passed away leads to Nate's change of heart about keeping Boo—to Nate's realization that life is only worth living if it is full of love, and to his eventual acceptance of death as a part of life.
3. The purpose of the veterinarian is to reveal that Boo was born in 1947.
4. Answers may include any of the following: In the opening paragraph, Nate says that he doesn't see how the vacation will make things right, which shows that he is upset and suggests an unwillingness to deal with his feelings or move forward in his grieving process. When Maggie says she is naming the dog Boo, Nate feels "like a thunderstorm was brewing" in his stomach and he runs off to be by himself; this shows that he is emotional about his grandfather's death and indicates that he is trying to escape his feelings about and/or the reality of his grandfather's death. When

Nate declines to go to the amusement park, it shows, again, that he is not making progress in recovering from his grief. Nate's refusal to talk to his mom also demonstrates that he is unwilling or unable to deal with his feelings, and that he keeps things bottled up inside. When Nate lies and tells his family that they have to let Boo go, it shows that Nate does not accept death as a part of life. Finally, when Nate changes his mind and decides to take Boo home after all, it shows that Nate has learned something about the relative values of a life full of love versus an everlasting—but lonely—life, and that he has begun to accept his grandfather's death.

5. Answers may include any of the following: On the first page, she squeezes Nate's shoulder, indicating that she is affectionate and caring. That she stays behind at the campground and encourages Nate to talk about his feelings reveals that she is compassionate and caring; that she doesn't force Nate to talk and doesn't lecture him shows that she is patient and understanding. Along with Nate's dad, she agrees to adopt Boo, which suggests that she has a big heart and likes to help others.

**Setting**

6. The story takes place in the present, at a campground in St. Augustine, Florida.
7. St. Augustine is the supposed location of the Fountain of Youth. Boo has been drinking from the fountain for some 50 years, and will go on drinking from it—and living—if he remains in St. Augustine, but will age normally and eventually die if he goes home with Nate's family. Nate, who is the only one in the story who is aware of this situation, must make a decision about whether to adopt Boo, and it is through this decision-making process that he comes to terms with the death of his grandfather.

**Point of View**

8. first-person; Nate tells the story from his point of view, using the pronoun *I*. The reader learns what other characters say and do only when they are observed by Nate. In other words, all the action is filtered through Nate. Also, Nate directly tells the reader some of his thoughts and feelings, like when he

says, "My family is okay, but after two weeks, being stuck in a rented RV with my parents and little sister was getting old," and when he says, "Somehow, going to the amusement park seemed like the wrong thing to do." Another example of Nate revealing his feelings to the reader is when he says that he pressed his face into Boo's fur and "felt a knot in me loosen."

**Tone and Mood**

9. Possible answers include serious, sympathetic, concerned, gentle, fanciful, imaginative, patient, tender, encouraging, etc. The author presents Nate as struggling and imperfect (he avoids dealing with his feelings; he, perhaps unreasonably, refuses to accept death as a part of life; he misguidedly values eternal life over quality of life), but as a nice kid who grows and changes over the course of the story. Nate's family members, and in particular his mom, express concern for and patience with Nate; this suggests that the author, too, feels concern for and patience with Nate. When the author has Nate describe his feelings, she has him talk about his love for his grandfather and his sadness over his grandfather's death, which again indicates that the author feels sympathetic toward Nate. The writer makes it clear over the course of the story that Nate has something to learn, but she does not seem critical of him. In the end, she has him learn an important lesson. There is also a fanciful aspect of the tone because of the subject matter: a dog that stays young by drinking from the Fountain of Youth.
10. Possible answers include mysterious, magical, haunting, sad, upset, conflicted, tender, emotional, reflective, etc. The scenes when Boo first emerges from the forest and when Nate follows Boo into the forest are the most mysterious and tense, largely because of the setting: It's dark, there is thick fog, vines "claw" at Nate, the ground is wet and spongy, and there are spiderwebs that stick to Nate's face. When Nate realizes that the stream has healed his feet, the mood becomes even more mysterious. Once Nate realizes that Boo has been drinking from the Fountain of Youth, the mood becomes less mysterious and more conflicted

as Nate considers whether to adopt Boo or send him back into the forest. The mood is emotional throughout the story, although it changes from Nate feeling upset and angry (he says he feels like a thunderstorm is brewing in his stomach when Maggie mentions their grandfather's name) to Nate being comforted by his grandfather's dying words. At the very end of the story, when Nate decides to adopt Boo, there is a mood of optimism and acceptance.

## Plot

Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

1. Nate is upset over the recent death of his

grandfather. While Nate is on vacation in Florida, a dog wanders out of the forest surrounding the campground where Nate's family is staying.

2. Nate realizes that the dog, Boo, is 50 years old—still alive because he has been drinking from the Fountain of Youth.
3. Though his family has decided to adopt Boo, Nate sends Boo out into the forest so that he can continue to drink from the Fountain of Youth and live forever.
4. Nate remembers his grandfather's dying words. He realizes that Boo will be happier growing old with a loving family than living forever by himself.
5. Nate finds Boo and says, "Let's go home."

## YOU WRITE IT

## QUOTATION PUNCTUATION

1. "My mom's favorite movie is *The Princess Bride*. Actually, I like it a lot too," said Ariella.
2. "Could you please tell me where Third Street is?" asked Ed. "I'm trying to find the Magnolia Bakery."
3. "The only way to get there," explained the policewoman, "is to go down Fairfax and then turn left."
4. "When are you going to show me your art project? I'm really looking forward to seeing it!" Mom said.
5. Jake shouted, "Whoa! That was awesome! He almost broke the bat with that home run."
6. "If you don't have anything nice to say," said Mrs. Lewis, "then it's best not to say anything at all."
7. "Wait until you hear this!" Dani exclaimed. "Hailey just ran by and said, 'Free ice cream in the cafeteria until 3:00.' Then she disappeared around the corner."
8. Lily chattered, "It's freezing in here. Can someone turn the heat on?"

## WHOLE ISSUE

## CROSSWORD

