

PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Standards-Based Assignment Packet

Subject/Grade: ELA 9

ENGLISH 9

Correct the Text:

1. Before computers, people would type letters and other documents on Typewriters. The first

patent for a typewriter was granted on January 7, 1714 but it is years before the first typewriter was invented. In 1808, Pellegrino turri build the first typewriter for his friend, countess Carolina Fantoni da Fivizzano. He also invented carbon paper, which was used for the machines ink. Not much is known about the first typewriter but people can still read letters that the Countess typed on that typing mashine.

2. In January 1929, Dorothy Eustis established The Seeing Eye, the first American training school for dogs' and there blind owner's. An experienced breeder, Eustis had already trained german shepherds to serve army and police units across Europe. Soon Dorothy started a school in Germany that trained dogs to assist blind veterans she new they could be used to aid others too. The schools first canine helper was appropriately name buddy!

EXHIBIT 4.1. Four Words Sheet

*Choose 4 words
to define*

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Word and Definition in English

Definition in Primary Language

Picture

Sentence

Word and Definition in English

Definition in Primary Language

Picture

Sentence

Word and Definition in English

Definition in Primary Language

Picture

Sentence

Word and Definition in English

Definition in Primary Language

Picture

Sentence

Since Hanna Moved Away

By Judith Viorst

Read the poem and then answer the questions.

The tires on my bike are flat.
The sky is grouchy gray.
At least it sure feels like that
Since Hanna moved away.
Chocolate ice cream tastes like prunes.
December's come to stay.
They've taken back the Mays and Junes
Since Hanna moved away.
Flowers smell like halibut.
Velvet feels like hay.
Every handsome dog's a mutt
Since Hanna moved away.
Nothing's fun to laugh about.
Nothing's fun to play.
They call me, but I won't come out
Since Hanna moved away.

1. What is the theme of this poem? _____

2. What are some of the words that the author used to help you understand the feeling of the poem? _____

3. Write a summary of the poem: _____

Writing from Experience

Many writers use their own life experience as the basis for their writing. Fill in the outline below with examples from your own life. Try to be as detailed as possible—your answers will be the framework for your essay.

Teachers Who Have Influenced Me:

1. Name: _____

Personality Traits: _____

2. Name: _____

Personality Traits: _____

3. Name: _____

Personality Traits: _____

Personal Notes: _____

Classes I've Taken:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Personal Notes: _____

Books I've Read in My Class:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Personal Notes: _____

School Trips I've Taken:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Personal Notes: _____

Extracurricular School Activities I've Been Involved In:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Personal Notes: _____

*Creativity
is drawn
from
experience*

- Mark Twain based the town of St. Petersburg in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* on his boyhood home of Hannibal, Missouri. Many of the characters and events in the books are based on real-life experiences.

- In *The Call of the Wild*, Jack London vividly depicts harsh environmental conditions in order to portray man's never-ending struggle with nature.

- John Steinbeck used fiction as a means of portraying the social injustices of his time, especially in his novels *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*.

- Zora Neale Hurston set her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in Eatonville, Florida, the town where she grew up.

- Elie Wiesel based *Night* on his experiences in a concentration camp during World War II.

Essay Contest!

Your chance to WIN a \$500 U.S. savings bond and a classroom makeover for your teacher!

Enter Online! Visit www.expomarkers.com for essay topic, entry form, and official rules.

Name: _____

Explaining Oxymorons

Identify and explain each oxymoron in the sentences below.

- 1) My younger brother took the larger half of the blueberry muffin.

- 2) The teacher asked the class to keep the noise down to a dull roar.

- 3) When Elizabeth mentioned her election idea to the committee, it went over like a lead balloon.

- 4) It was a minor miracle that no one was hurt when the car ran off the country road.

- 5) James became a one-man band to raise money for the school project.

- 6) He is always able to give an unbiased opinion when he is asked politely.

- 7) The toy company faced a friendly takeover by the bicycle manufacturer.

- 8) She asked in a loud whisper if anyone wanted to leave the movie with her.

Correcting Dangling Modifiers

Sometimes in a sentence ~~it is difficult to tell what a~~ modifying word or phrase ~~is describing~~. ~~The modifying~~ word or phrase is called a ~~dangling modifier~~.

Example: Working hard all afternoon in the kitchen, the cake I baked tasted terrible.

Working hard all afternoon in the kitchen is a modifying phrase. It is difficult, however, to understand who or what worked hard: *the cake* or *I*. Obviously the cake can't work hard, so the phrase must be modifying *I*. This confusion is the basis of a dangling modifier.

Correcting a dangling modifier often requires more than just moving words around. Usually the correction requires adding a word or phrase or rewording the sentence.

I worked hard all afternoon in the kitchen, and the cake I baked tasted terrible.

OR

Even after working hard all afternoon in the kitchen, I baked a terrible tasting cake.

Rewrite each of the following sentences correcting the dangling modifier.

1. After centuries of lying on the ocean floor, the treasure hunters found the Spanish galleon.

2. Watching carefully for hours, the flock of butterflies never arrived.

3. Thirsty, the glass of water was swallowed in one gulp.

4. Driving down the street, the park came into view.

5. Resolving to study more, the textbooks seemed more interesting.

Spot It! Which Are Grammatically Correct?

Circle the number of each sentence that is grammatically correct.

1. You can either stay and help or leave.
2. The doctor gave me pills and they helped.
3. We went to the mountains, on our vacation.
4. A group of her friends is planning a surprise party for Karen.
5. I don't want no more soup.
6. The stray cat was adopted by some kind people.
7. Which was the way we wanted it to be.
8. The teacher told Anna to open the window by the door.
9. Tom asked, "are you sure you want to go that way?"
10. She was elected Class President.

Mark Twain and the Homesick Connecticut Yankee

Name: _____

Mark Twain published *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* in 1889. It's the story of Hank Morgan, a 19th century Connecticut man, who suffers a blow to the head and is transported back centuries to the time of King Arthur. Once there he has many adventures while he struggles to apply 19th century American ideas to medieval England.

In the passage below, Hank has been named Arthur's chief minister. A chromo is a chromolithograph, or a type of color printing of a picture.

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court Chapter VII

I was given the choicest suite of apartments in the castle, after the king's. They were aglow with loud-colored silken hangings, but the stone floors had nothing but rushes on them for a carpet, and they were misfit rushes at that, being not all of one breed. As for conveniences, properly speaking, there weren't any. I mean little conveniences; it is the little conveniences that make the real comfort of life. The big oaken chairs, graced with rude carvings, were well enough, but that was the stopping place. There was no soap, no matches, no looking-glass—except a metal one, about as powerful as a pail of water. And not a chromo. I had been used to chromos for years, and I saw now that without my suspecting it a passion for art had got worked into the fabric of my being, and was become a part of me.

It made me homesick to look around over this proud and gaudy but heartless barrenness and remember that in our house in East Hartford, all unpretending as it was, you couldn't go into a room but you would find an insurance-chromo, or at least a three-color God-Bless-Our-Home over the door; and in the parlor we had nine. But here, even in my grand room of state, there wasn't anything in the nature of a picture except a thing the size of a bedquilt, which was either woven or knitted (it had darned places in it), and nothing in it was the right color or the right shape; and as for proportions, even Raphael himself couldn't have botched them more formidably, after all his practice on those nightmares they call his "celebrated Hampton Court cartoons." Raphael was a bird. We had several of his chromos; one was his "Miraculous Draught of Fishes," where he puts in a miracle of his own—puts three men into a canoe which wouldn't have held a dog without upsetting. I always admired to study R.'s art, it was so fresh and unconventional.



Miraculous Draught of Fishes by Raphael, 1515

Questions: _____

1. What are "misfit rushes"?
2. Explain the simile "as powerful as a pail of water."
3. What does Hank find wrong with Raphael's "Miraculous Draught of Fishes"?
4. What does "upsetting" mean in the passage?
5. Hank seems to miss the "chromos" most of all. If you were transported back to King Arthur's day, what would you miss most?

Name: _____

Writing Introductions: Thesis Sentence

A thesis sentence is the main topic sentence of an essay or other written piece. It states the main opinion and often forecasts the principle sections of the piece. It is usually placed at the end of the introduction.

Example:

Topic: Should students be allowed to eat during class?

Possible thesis sentence: Students should not eat during class as students would not be paying attention while they eat, they may leave trash in the classroom, and other students might be distracted while their neighbor eats.

Write a thesis sentence for each topic below.

1. Discuss who was the greater president of the United States: George Washington or Abraham Lincoln.
2. What was the greatest challenge in your life?
3. What are the most important character traits for a good brother?
4. Explain your favorite character in literature.
5. Should motorcycles be outlawed on public streets?

Name: _____

Poe and The Fall of the House of Usher

"The Fall of the House of Usher" is a short story written by Edgar Allan Poe in 1839. Poe is considered a master of Gothic fiction, which centers on dark and terrifying stories. Poe focuses on psychological terror, as his characters often show madness.

Below is a passage from the opening of "The Fall of the House of Usher." The narrator has just arrived at the home of his childhood friend, Roderick Usher. It is a description of the Usher's house. A tarn is a mountain lake.

Shaking off from my spirit what must have been a dream, I scanned more narrowly the real aspect of the building. Its principal feature seemed to be that of an excessive antiquity. The discoloration of ages had been great. Minute fungi overspread the whole exterior, hanging in a fine tangled web-work from the eaves. Yet all this was apart from any extraordinary dilapidation. No portion of the masonry had fallen; and there appeared to be a wild inconsistency between its still perfect adaptation of parts, and the crumbling condition of the individual stones. In this there was much that reminded me of the specious totality of old wood-work which has rotted for long years in some neglected vault, with no disturbance from the breath of the external air. Beyond this indication of extensive decay, however, the fabric gave little token of instability. Perhaps the eye of a scrutinizing observer might have discovered a barely perceptible fissure, which, extending from the roof of the building in front, made its way down the wall in a zigzag direction, until it became lost in the sullen waters of the tarn.

Part I

Using the context of each word or a dictionary, write what you think the underlined word means.

1. Yet all this was apart from any extraordinary dilapidation

2. ...there appeared to be a wild inconsistency between its still perfect adaptation of parts, and the crumbling condition of the individual stones

3. reminded me of the specious totality of old wood-work

4. Perhaps the eye of a scrutinizing observer

5. discovered a barely perceptible fissure

Part II

1. Write an example of personification in the passage.

2. Write a metaphor from the passage.

3. Write an alliteration from the passage.

Name: _____

Circle It! Correct Punctuation

Circle the number of the sentences that have correct punctuation.

1. Julie was first and Paul was second.
2. Her mother asked, "Would you like to come with us"?
3. In the early afternoon, Lilly returned from the store.
4. It was thoughtful of him to remember my birthday.
5. The flag is red white and blue.
6. John exclaimed, "The house next door is on fire!"
7. I can't go with you, because I am grounded.
8. It was too late to go for a walk; it was already dark outside.
9. The woman drove her car down the street, towards the school.
10. She knocked and knocked on the door, yet no one answered.



Charles Dickens Visits America

In 1842 Charles Dickens was probably the most famous English language author in the world. He was received around the world as a major celebrity, often mobbed by fans. It was in that year that Dickens visited the United States. He wrote and published his thoughts about his visit in a book *American Notes for General Circulation*. Below is a passage about his visit to Washington, D.C.

Chapter VIII

Washington. The Legislature. And The President's House

The President's mansion is more like an English club-house, both within and without, than any other kind of establishment with which I can compare it. The ornamental ground about it has been laid out in garden walks; they are pretty, and agreeable to the eye; though they have that uncomfortable air of having been made yesterday, which is far from favourable to the display of such beauties.

My first visit to this house was on the morning after my arrival, when I was carried thither by an official gentleman, who was so kind as to charge himself with my presentation to the President.

We entered a large hall, and having twice or thrice rung a bell which nobody answered, walked without further ceremony through the rooms on the ground floor, as diverse other gentlemen (mostly with their hats on, and their hands in their pockets) were doing very leisurely. Some of these had ladies with them, to whom they were showing the premises; others were lounging on the chairs and sofas; others, in a perfect state of exhaustion from listlessness, were yawning drearily. The greater portion of this assemblage were rather asserting their supremacy than doing anything else, as they had no particular business there, that anybody knew of. A few were closely eyeing the movables, as if to make quite sure that the President (who was far from popular) had not made away with any of the furniture, or sold the fixtures for his private benefit.

After glancing at these loungers; who were scattered over a pretty drawing-room, opening upon a terrace which commanded a beautiful prospect of the river and the adjacent country; and who were sauntering, too, about a larger state-room called the Eastern Drawing-room; we went up-stairs into another chamber, where were certain visitors, waiting for audiences.



1. Dickens talks about the gardens having the "uncomfortable air of having been made yesterday." Explain how the garden might be a metaphor for the United States.
2. Write a short paragraph comparing the White House that Dickens describes and the White House of today. What is something that happened then that would not happen now. Why?

Name: _____

Spot It: Unnecessary Words

Circle the number of the sentences that contain unnecessary words.

1. The building project would be costly.
2. Jane's day was kind of like a train wreck.
3. The teacher was very pleased with the students in her class.
4. He never knew who told the family's secret.
5. The city council had no future plans to expand that street.
6. My brother and sister often argue.
7. He hugged his mother for no particular reason.
8. The stoplight actually turned green when we approached the intersection.
9. They enjoyed a long discussion about the new rules.
10. Her grandmother's visit was an unexpected surprise.