

Name: _____

1) Highlight words in this story that help you visualize.

Excerpt of The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo

That morning, after he discovered the tiger, Rob went and stood under the Kentucky Star Motel sign and waited for the school bus just like it was any other day. The Kentucky Star sign was composed of a yellow neon star that rose and fell over a piece of blue neon in the shape of the state of Kentucky. Rob liked the sign; he harbored a dim but abiding notion that it would bring him good luck.

Finding the tiger had been luck, he knew that. He had been out in the woods behind the Kentucky Star Motel, way out in the woods, not really looking for anything, just wandering, hoping that maybe he would get lost or get eaten by a bear and not have to go to school ever again. That's when he saw the old Beauchamp gas station building, all boarded up and tumbling down; next to it, there was a cage, and inside the cage, unbelievably, there was a tiger - a real-life, very large tiger pacing back and forth. He was orange and gold and so bright, it was like staring at the sun itself, angry and trapped in a cage.

It was early morning and it looked like it might rain; it had been raining every day for almost two weeks. The sky was gray and the air was thick and still. Fog was hugging the ground. To Rob, it seemed as if the tiger was some magic trick, rising out of the mist. He was so astounded at his discovery, so amazed, that he stood and stared. But only for a minute; he was afraid to look at the tiger for too long, afraid that the tiger would disappear. He stared, and then he turned and ran back into the woods, toward the Kentucky Star. And the whole way home, while his brain doubted what he had seen, his heart beat out the truth to him. Ti-ger. Ti-ger. Ti-ger.

1) What was the main idea of the story? Circle the best answer.

- a) Rob is hiding in the woods so the school bus driver will not see him.
- b) Rob saw a magician in the woods doing magic tricks with a tiger.
- c) Rob is excited that he discovers a real tiger in the woods.
- d) Rob is playing while waiting for the bus, and pretending he saw a tiger in the woods.

2) When you read the story, what pictures did you visualize? Write two 7up sentences to explain your pictures.

3) How can visualizing help you understand and remember what you read? Write one 7up sentence.

4) Summarize the story in four 7up sentences.

The following questions relate to the book *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

5) What is the correct way to use the word *sorrow*?

- a) We had a long, sorrow trip from Watley to Naomi, Florida.
- b) The dog was sorrow and smelly.
- c) The boy felt sorrow when his dog passed away.
- d) The party had sorrow and pickles to eat.

6) Use the word *judge* in a 7up sentence. (As a verb, or “action” word)

7) Name a synonym for the word *trustworthy*. _____

8) What is a friend? List at least three words that would describe a good friend.

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That was what Rob thought about as he stood beneath the Kentucky Star sign and waited for the bus. The tiger. He did not think about the rash on his legs, the itchy red blisters that snaked their way into his shoes. His father said that it would be less likely to itch if he didn't think about it.

And he did not think about his mother. He hadn't thought about her since the morning of the funeral, the morning he couldn't stop crying the great heaving sobs that made his chest and stomach hurt. His father, watching him, standing beside him, had started to cry, too.

They were both dressed up in suits that day; his father's suit was too small. And when he slapped Rob to make him stop crying, he ripped a hole underneath the arm of his jacket.

"There ain't no point in crying," his father had said afterward. "Crying ain't going to bring her back."

It had been six months since that day, six months since he and his father had moved from Jacksonville to Lister, and Rob had not cried since, not once.

The final thing he did not think about that morning was getting onto the bus. He specifically did not think about Norton and Billy Threemonger waiting for him like chained and starved guard dogs, eager to attack.

Rob had a way of not-thinking about things. He imagined himself as a suitcase that was too full, like the one that he had packed when they left Jacksonville after the funeral. He made all his feelings go inside the suitcase; he stuffed them in tight and then sat on the suitcase and locked it shut. That was the way he not-thought about things. Sometimes it was hard to keep the suitcase shut. But now he had something to put on top of it. The tiger.

So as he waited for the bus under the Kentucky Star sign, and as the first drops of rain fell from the sullen sky, Rob imagined the tiger on top of his suitcase, blinking his golden eyes, sitting proud and strong, unaffected by all the not-thoughts inside straining to come out.

1) What was the main idea of the story? Circle the best answer.

- a) Rob skips school and finds a caged tiger in an old abandoned building in the woods.
- b) Rob pretends to find a tiger in the woods to scare Norton and Billy Threemonger.
- c) Rob finds a tiger in the woods. He uses the thought of it to block out his worries and sad feelings.
- d) Rob is telling his father a story to pass time, as they move from Jacksonville to Lister.

2) Look back at the words you highlighted in the story that helped you visualize. What pictures were in your mind as you read? Write two 7up sentences to explain your pictures.

3) How can visualizing help you understand and remember what you read? Write one 7up sentence.

4) Summarize the story in four 7up sentences.

The following questions relate to the novel *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

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Descriptive Words

- 4 = Student highlights several words that would help create mind images.
- 2 = Student highlights some words; some are descriptive, some not.
- 0 = Student does not highlight descriptive words in the story.

Main Idea (Question 1)

- 2 = Student answers question correctly.
- 0 = Student does not answer question, or answers incorrectly.

Visualizing (Questions 2-3)

- 4 = Student answers questions thoughtfully, with 7up sentences. Student conveys understanding of visualization and the importance of the strategy.
- 2 = Student attempts to answer questions. Student shows some understanding of visualization and the importance of this strategy.
- 0 = Student does not participate or shows no understanding of visualization.

Summarizing (Question 4)

- 4 = Student accurately and thoughtfully summarizes short story in 7up sentences.
- 2 = Student attempts to summarize short story, but lacks one or more important details.
- 0 = Student does not attempt to summarize the story, or shows no understanding of summarizing.

Vocabulary (Questions 5-7)

- 4 = Student clearly demonstrates understanding of all words and usage.
- 2 = Student demonstrates some understanding of some or all words.
- 0 = Students demonstrates no understanding of words, or does not attempt to participate.

Theme of Unit (Question 8)

- 2 = Student lists three or more descriptive words to describe a good friend.
- 1 = Student lists 1-3 words to describe a good friend
- 0 = Student does not attempt to list descriptive words, or words are unrelated.