

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963*

## Assignment Record

### Instructions:

Use the list below to keep track of your assignments. As you complete each assignment, check it off on the blank under the **Complete** column.

Assignment	Value	Page #	Complete
1. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 1	8	3	___
2. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 2	8	4	___
3. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 3	8	5	___
4. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 4	8	6	___
5. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 5	7	7	___
6. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 6	8	8	___
7. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 7	6	9	___
8. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 8	8	10	___
9. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 9	8	11	___
10. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 10	6	12	___
11. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 11	7	13	___
12. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 12	7	14	___
13. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 13	7	15	___
14. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 14	7	16	___
15. Comprehension Questions: Chapter 15	6	17	___
16. Reading Response: Visual Interpretation	10	18	___
17. Crossword and Word Search #1	20	19-20	___
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963*

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21. Reading Response: Character Webs	30	24-25	___
22. Reading Response: Visual Interpretation	10	26	___
23. Reading Response: Illustration	12	27	___
24. Reading Response: Motif	20	28-29	___
25. Reading Response: Plot/Rising Action	10	30	___
26. Reading Response: Visual Interpretation	10	31	___
27. Reading Response: Plot/Climax	10	32-33	___
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### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter One**

1. Why is the Watson family all huddled together on the chesterfield?
2. Who does Dad say was almost their daddy?
3. Whose warm house do they plan to go to for the night?
4. After Daddy gets the Brown Bomber started, what does he instruct Byron and Kenny to do?
5. While Byron is admiring himself in the rearview mirror, what happens?
6. Daddy laughs so hard at Byron's predicament, what does he say that no one can call him?
7. How does Mamma extract Byron from the mirror?
8. Kenny tells Joey that he has a nickname for Byron. What is it?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Two**

1. At Clarke Elementary, who is King of the kindergarten to fourth grade?
  
2. In which grade is Kenny?
  
3. What is Byron's status in the school?
  
4. Why does Mr. Alums have Kenny visit his fourth grade class?
  
5. When Kenny reads too quickly, what does Miss Henry do to slow him down?
  
6. Kenny has a problem in one eye. What is the medical term for this problem?
  
7. How does Kenny figure the new boy on the bus will save him?
  
8. How are the new boys dressed?

**Comprehension Questions: Chapter Three**

1. Mrs. Cordell seats the oldest new boy beside Kenny. What is his name?
2. Rufus hasn't brought any lunch to school. What does Kenny give him?
3. Rufus only eats half of the lunch that Kenny gives him. What does he do with the other half?
4. Why is Rufus so amazed when he sees the squirrel?
5. Kenny's playmate is LJ Jones. What is there about him that Kenny doesn't like?
6. Why do you suppose that LJ proposes the huge battle?
7. Rufus becomes disappointed and angry with Kenny. Why does he ignore Kenny?
8. Who is responsible for getting Kenny and Rufus together again?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Four**

1. Where was Mrs. Watson born?
2. During winter, how does Momma dress Joey and Kenny for school?
3. When Momma explains to Joey that the cold is dangerous and that people die in it all the time, what is Joey's question?
4. According to Byron, where do all the frozen people go?
5. How does Kenny share his gloves with Rufus?
6. Why do you suppose that Kenny and Rufus know for sure that Larry Dunn is wearing Kenny's gloves?
7. Who arrives to help Kenny?
8. Byron says that he is making a movie. What is the name of it?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Five**

1. Why is his mother reprimanding Byron?
2. How long before Byron is doing it again?
3. Why does Momma tell Joey to go to the kitchen to bring some matches?
4. Why does Joey deliberately keep putting herself between Momma and Byron?
5. Joey keeps blowing out the match. How many times in total does Momma try to burn Byron's fingers?
6. What lesson is Momma trying to teach?
7. When Momma finally gives up, who will have to deal with Byron?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Six**

1. Momma sends Byron and Kenny to the grocery store. What items does she want?
2. When Kenny orders the items from Mr. Mitchell, what does he discover?
3. How does Byron normally give the impression that he has carried the groceries all the way home?
4. What milk do the boys call welfare food?
5. A week later, behind Mitchell's store, what does Kenny discover?
6. How does Byron kill the mourning dove?
7. Why do you suppose Byron becomes sick and vomits?
8. What does Byron do with the dead bird?



### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Seven**

1. Why is Byron trying to sneak in the back door without being seen?
2. What color is Byron's hair now?
3. Why does Joetta want to take Byron to the bathroom before Daddy gets home?
4. After taking verbal abuse from Momma, Kenny and Joey, what happens when Daddy gets home?
5. After Daddy is finished with Byron, what chore does he give him?
6. When Kenny and Joey venture into the house again, with whom is Daddy talking on the phone?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Eight**

1. Kenny, Joey and Rufus help Daddy to clean and polish the car. What have they named it?
2. Daddy has another bag in the trunk. What is in it?
3. According to Kenny, why did Blackie growl at someone in his own family?
4. When Daddy comes home, he shuts off the TV. Why?
5. What has Daddy installed in the car?
6. A new system has been invented to overcome the vibration problem. What is it called?
7. Why do you suppose Momma and Daddy are making the trip to Alabama?
8. Riding the bus, how long would it take to get from Flint, Michigan to Alabama?

**Comprehension Questions: Chapter Nine**

1. To scare Byron, Kenny suggests that his dad need only drive to Ohio and drop him off. Why?
  
2. Why do Momma and Daddy want to leave Byron for a while with Grandma Sands?
  
3. Kenny has three questions for his dad. What is the third?
  
4. Mrs. Davidson bought a little angel for a gift for Joey. Why doesn't Joey like it?
  
5. Why do Momma and Daddy have Byron sleep with them?
  
6. How far will they drive the first day?
  
7. On their way to Alabama, how does Byron plan to treat his family?
  
8. Why does Kenny feel pretty good all the way to Birmingham?

### Comprehension Questions: Chapter Ten

1. On the subject of outhouses, what is Grandma Sands' opinion?
2. What does Kenny mean by *Joey's leaking head*?
3. When they arrive at Cincinnati, what decision does Daddy make?
4. When Daddy stops next time, where are they?
5. Kenny asks Byron to define *redneck*. What is his response?
6. When Daddy tells them to stick their hands out the window to feel the air, what does he say that it feels like?

**Comprehension Questions: Chapter Eleven**

1. When Kenny asks his dad *are we there yet?* his dad answers *et tu Brute*. What do you suppose this means?
2. The Ultra Glide experiences problems while Daddy is listening to the radio. What type of music is playing?
3. In Momma's real southern accent, what does she announce?
4. The first time that Kenny sees Grandma Sands, how does he describe her?
5. According to Kenny, how short is Grandma Sands?
6. Grandma says Byron can help with the things that someone else used to do. Who?
7. According to Byron, how old is Grandma?

## **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Twelve**

1. What does Mr. Robert call his dog?
2. Toddy is a special breed. What type is he?
3. How did Toddy almost drown?
4. How did Mr. Robert save Toddy?
5. During the first morning at Grandma Sands, what does Kenny have for breakfast?
6. For how long has Grandpa Sands been dead?
7. Why is Mr. Robert taking Daddy, Byron, Joey and Kenny to the lake?

### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Thirteen**

1. At Colliers' Landing, in what did little Jimmy Thomas get caught?
2. While Joey and Byron head for the swimming area, where does Kenny go?
3. Because Grandma Sands only told them about one drowning, why does Kenny think Mr. Collier put up a sign that states there have been six drowning deaths?
4. When Kenny decides to wade in the water, what is his second warning?
5. Why does Kenny reach and step into deeper water?
6. While Kenny is in trouble in the water, why does he wish for a genie?
7. How does Kenny finally get out of the lake?

### Comprehension Questions: Chapter Fourteen

1. How does Kenny know that it's Sunday?
2. What prevents Kenny from falling asleep under the tree?
3. Byron said that someone came by to report the cause of the noise. What was the noise?
4. When Kenny tries to pull out the shiny black shoe, who does he think is pulling it back?
5. Joey comes to sit by Kenny on his bed. Why does he think that the wool pooh has brought her home?
6. Why does Joey think Kenny is acting so weird?
7. Why doesn't Grandma Sands know where Daddy, Momma and Byron have gone?



### **Comprehension Questions: Chapter Fifteen**

1. Where is the *World-Famous Watson Pet Hospital* located?
2. Who reported seeing Kenny in the church after the explosion?
3. When had Kenny ever known Byron to be a snitch?
4. Why does Byron take Kenny to the bathroom to show him his face in the mirror?
5. Why does Kenny tell Byron that he is ashamed of himself?
6. How does Byron assure Kenny that he is going to be okay?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

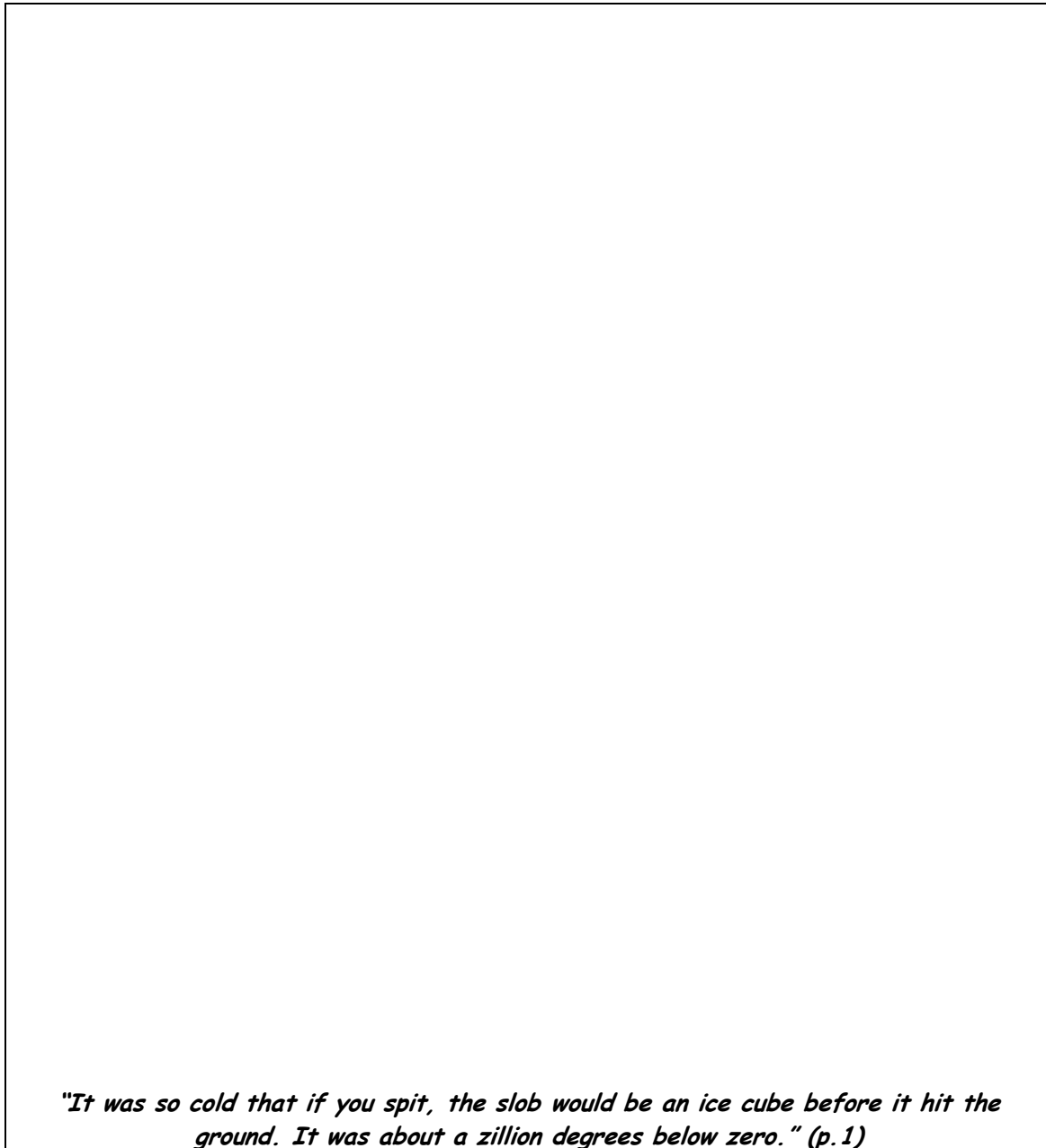
## Reading Response: Visual Interpretation

### Notes:

A **hyperbole** is an **exaggerated statement** that goes beyond what is true or normal.

### Instructions:

Illustrate the hyperbole written below.



*"It was so cold that if you spit, the slob would be an ice cube before it hit the ground. It was about a zillion degrees below zero." (p.1)*

**Vocabulary: Crossword Puzzle & Word Search #1****Instructions:**

Use the word list from the word search below as your word list for the crossword puzzle on the following page. All words are used once.

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N N U D Y R R A L Y A F Z E
O S T N E U Q N I L E D V C
I W K E T R P E Z O S I L I
T N E C C A N R E H T U O S
A O E U U O T C R C A L O I
T K T P B R E S A M L Z C U
I C J M Y Q T O O O A C I T
M D A T C L I E Q M I R Y Q
I H C D Y D E D G M R L S C
Y A K S A C M K K A U E V H
M N F R T H V T E L B J H F
M W R E B M O B N W O R B T
U G O I E O Y D N E B I A L
M G S L L P Q R Y F O L I G
V P T P E G Q L R X B S Z I

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Brownbomber

Burialatsea

By

Delinquent

Garbagetrucks

Hambone

Jackfrost

Joey

Kenny

Larry

LarryDunn

Ly

Momma

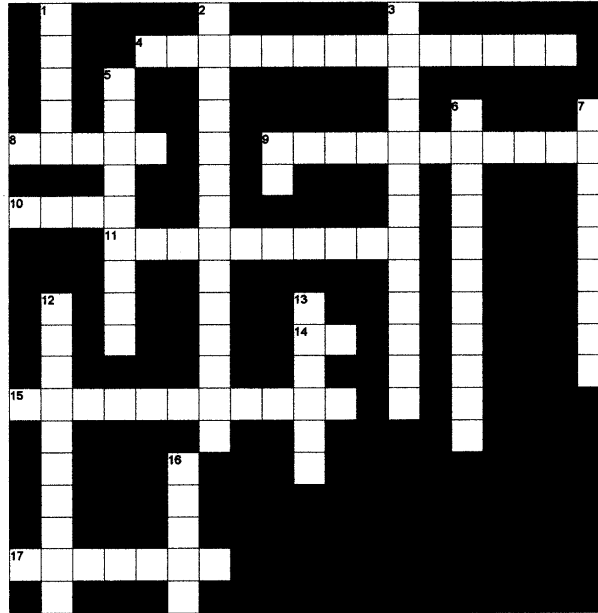
Mummyimitation

Pliers

Radioactive

Southernaccent

Thermostat

**Crossword Puzzle #1****ACROSS**

4. angry Momma  
 8. Maytag Washes  
 9. toilet paper parachutes flushed down the toilet  
 10. nickname  
 11. young person always in trouble  
 14. aquired many of Kenny's dinosaurs  
 15. 1948 Plymouth  
 17. a clown

**DOWN**

1. the only Watson not born in Flint  
 2. what other kids called the Watsons when Byron wasn't around  
 3. froze-up Southern folks  
 5. King of kindergarten to grade four  
 6. dangerous emmissions  
 7. leaves an icy trail behind him  
 9. Byron  
 12. a device used for temperature control  
 13. a small tool for bending or cutting wire or handling small objects  
 16. a very good reader

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response: Illustrated Time Line

### Instructions:

Illustrate in **chronological** order **four events** that take place in **chapters 1-7**.


### Reading Response: Timeline

**Instructions:**

Using the time line below, list the most important events of chapters 8-15.

Chapters 8-15

A vertical timeline for chapters 8-15. A central vertical line is flanked by horizontal tick marks. To the left of the line are six numbered boxes: #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10. To the right of the line are six empty rectangular boxes for writing notes, each aligned with a number.

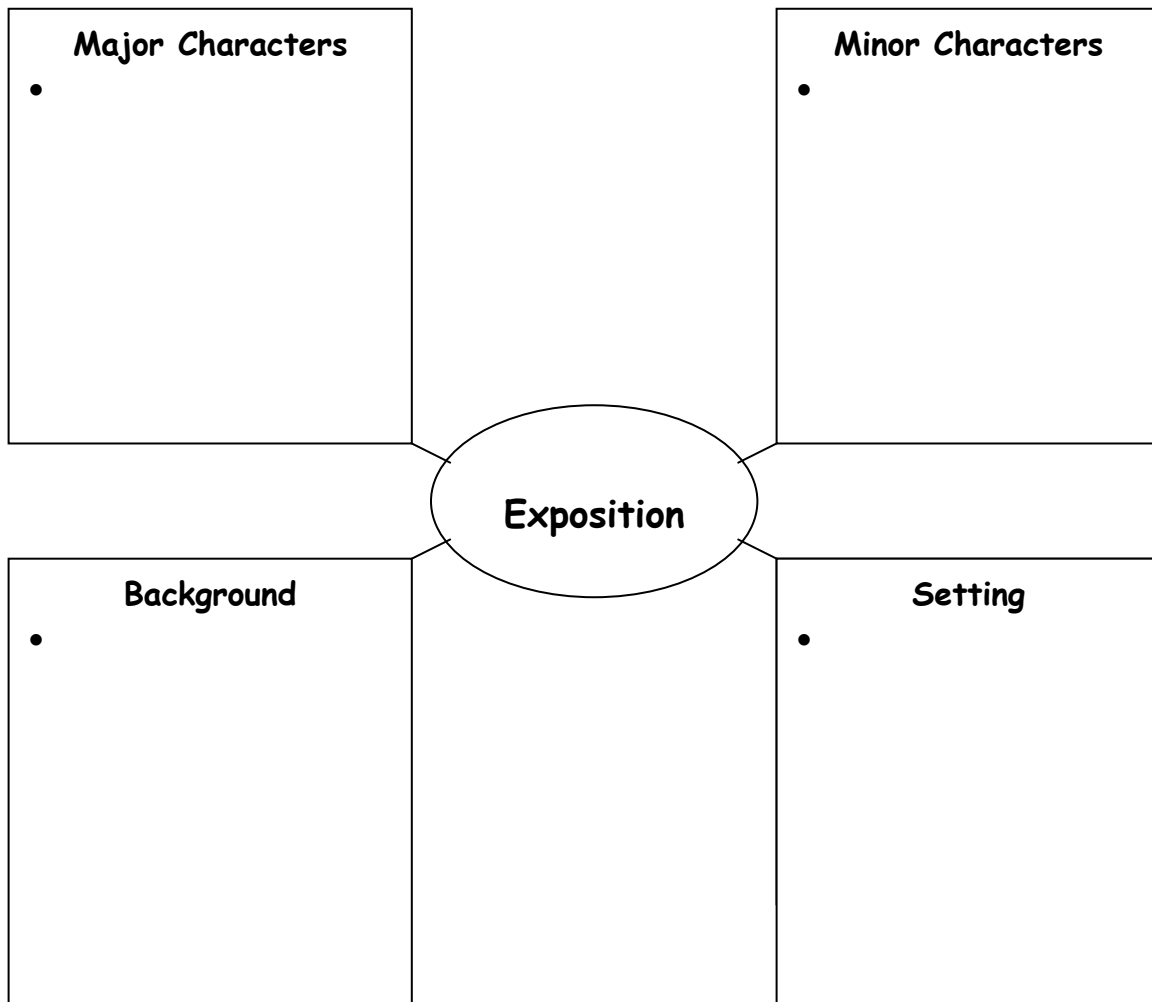
## Reading Response: Plot/Exposition

### Notes:

The **exposition** is the **beginning of a story** where we are introduced to the **main character(s)**, the **setting** and any **background information** that plays a role in the story. The **exposition** is important to our **understanding** of the **plot**.

### Instructions:

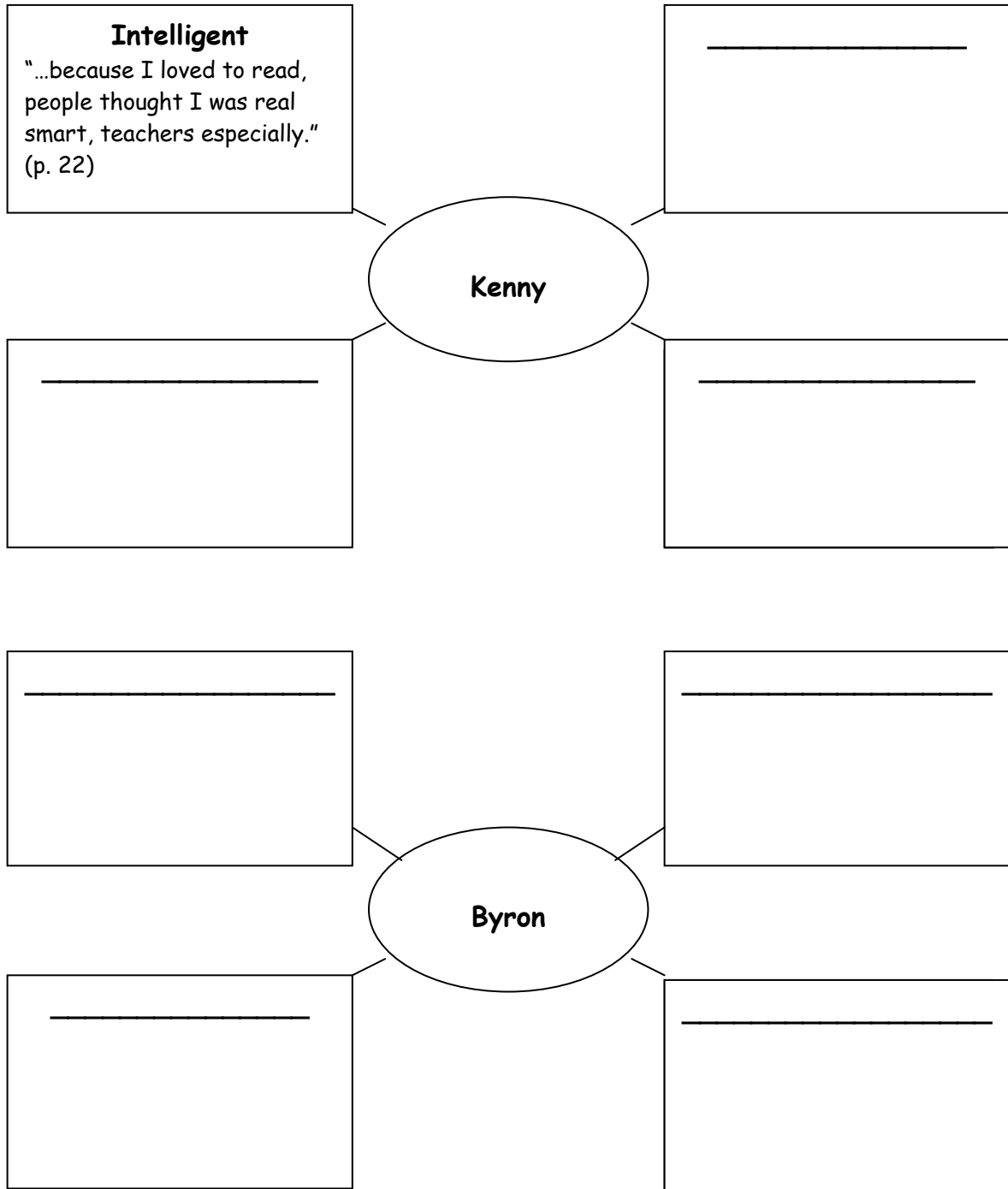
In bullet form, fill in the web below. List the **characters**, fill in any **necessary background** information and describe the **setting**.



### Reading Response: Character Webs

**Instructions:**

Using the **webs** provided below, insert one **adjective** and support each with a **direct quote** from the novel.

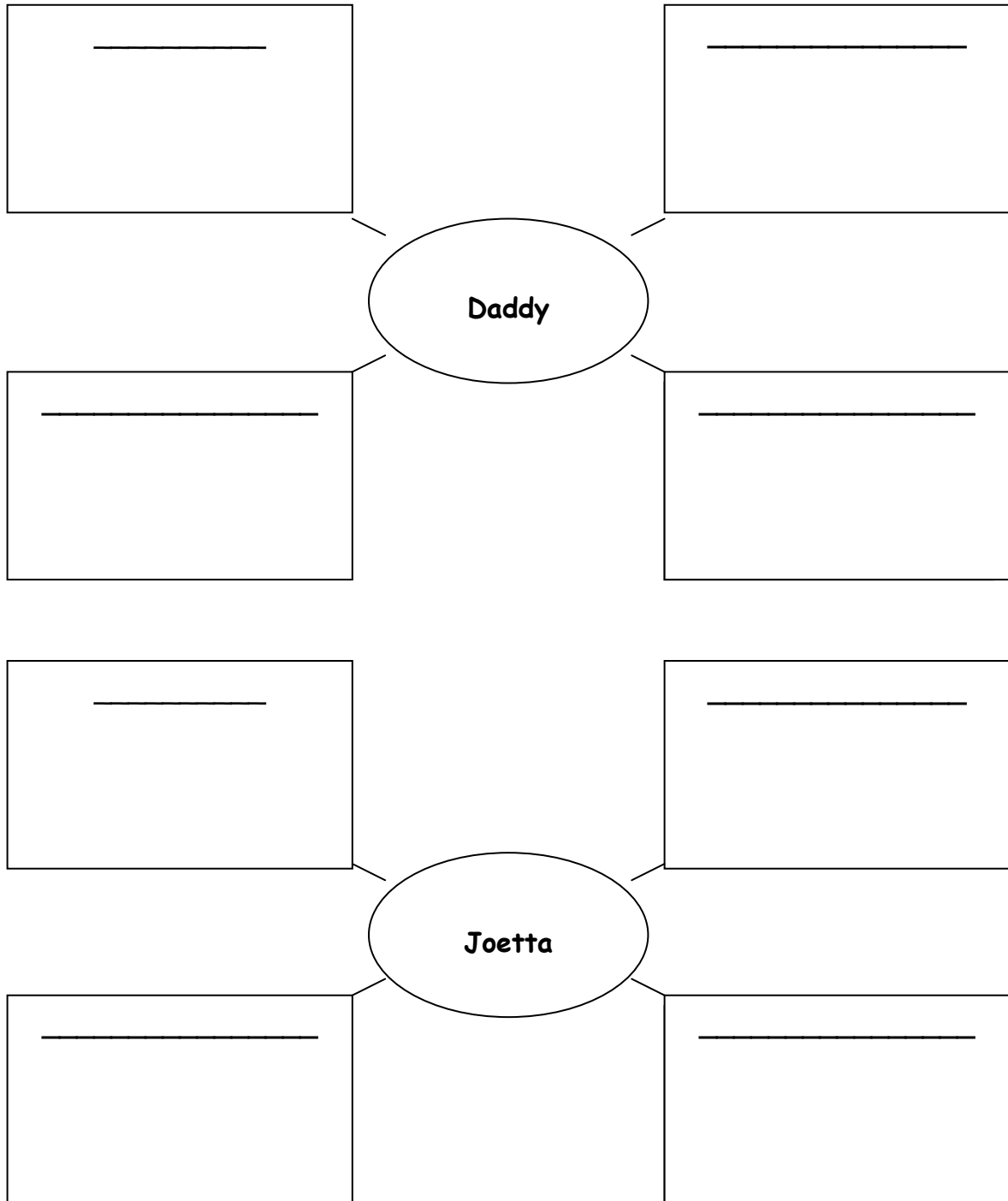




### Reading Response: Character Webs (Cont'd)

**Instructions:**

Using the **webs** provided below, insert one **adjective** and support each with a **direct quote** from the novel.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963*

## Reading Response: Visual Interpretation

### Notes:

A **simile** is a comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (like, as or than) is used.

### Instructions:

Interpret the simile below.

*"The new kid pointed at the squirrel like his finger was a gun..." (p. 35)*

### Reading Response: Illustration

**Instructions:**

In the boxes to the right of each word below, **illustrate** with great **detail** the **bold faced words**.

**"... little plastic dinosaurs..."** →

**"... toilet paper parachutes..."** →

**"... a little angel that was kind of chubby and had big wings and a halo made out of straw..."** →

## Reading Response: Motif

### Notes:

**Motif** is a term for an **idea** or **theme** in literature that is often **repeated**. In the novel, *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963*, one motif is **humor**.

The author, Christopher Paul Curtis, eases tension through humor and creates certain **feelings** in the minds of his **characters and his readers**.

### Instructions:

In the novel *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963*, find **two** instances where **humor eases tension** in the novel. Write your answer in the manner illustrated below. Include a **direct** quote from the novel. Your response should be **6-8 sentences** long.

### Example Response:

*Throughout the novel it becomes increasingly clear that the Watsons, like other African Americans, are victims of prejudice. And when Mr. Watson is teasing his wife about an old boyfriend, Hambone Henderson, we witness Mr. Watsons' fine art of making light of something as serious as the segregation of blacks and whites in Alabama.*

*'You know Birmingham is a good place, and I don't mean just the weather either. The life is slower, the people are friendlier-'*

*'Oh yeah,' Dad interrupted, 'They're a laugh a minute down there. Let's see, where was that 'Coloreds Only' bathroom downtown?'*

*'Daniel, you know what I mean, things aren't perfect but people are more honest about the way they feel...'*

*Mr. Watson has a great way of putting things into perspective, while Mrs. Watson is perhaps a little too forgiving at times. However, by the end of the novel I'm not so sure that is still the case.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**#1. Motif: humor**

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**#2. Motif: humor**

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**Reading Response: Plot/Rising Action****Notes:**

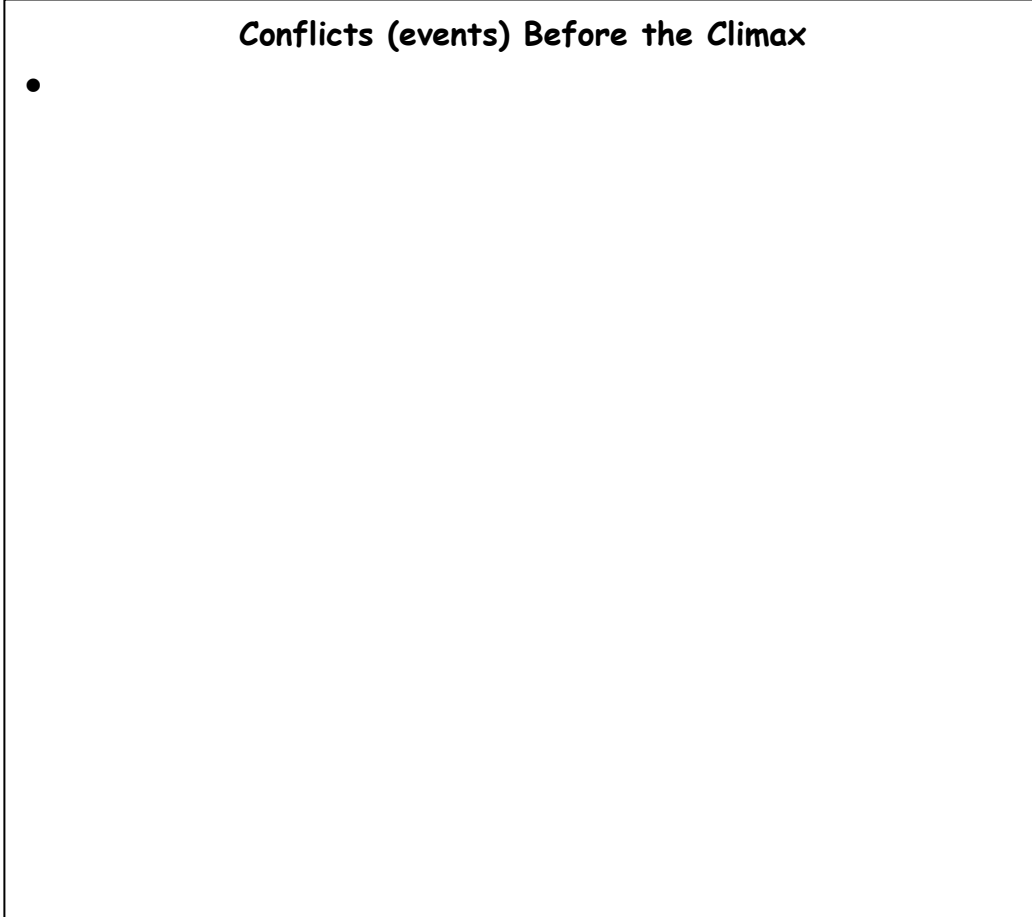
**Action** builds the **plot** in a story. The **action** in a story is built through **conflict**, both **external** and **internal**. Therefore, to describe the **action** in a story it is **necessary** to **describe the conflict**.

**Instructions:**

The **rising action** includes the **conflict** that occurs **before the climax**. Describe the **rising action** in *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963* by outlining both the **external** and **internal conflict** in **bullet form**.

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**Conflicts (events) Before the Climax**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_


## Reading Response: Visual Interpretation

### Notes:

A **simile** is a comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (like, as or than) is used.

### Instructions:

Interpret the simile below.



**Reading Response: Plot/Climax****Notes:**

The **climax** in a story is the **turning point**, where the **rising action** builds to a **peak** and the **main character** comes **face to face** with the **major conflict**.

**Instructions:**

Identify the **climax** in *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963* and support your opinion with a direct quote from the novel. Your answer should be 4-6 sentences in length. Use the lines on the following page to write your answer.

**Example Response:**

*In the novel Ten Steps to Eden, the protagonist Mike Barkley has finally caught up with Brett Collins and is confronted with a difficult decision. Brett has told Mike that he won't be arrested and sent to jail. He's threatening to jump off a fifteenth floor window ledge if Brett doesn't leave and forget that he ever found him. "I'd rather die, Mike, than go back to prison." Mike lunges and grabs one of Brett's hands causing Brett to dangle from the window ledge. Clearly, this moment marks a turning point in the story when Mike has to decide how committed he is to helping Brett.*





### Reading Response: Plot/Falling Action

**Instructions:**

The **falling action** includes the **conflict** that occurs **after the climax**. Describe the **falling action** in *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963* by outlining both the **external** and **internal** conflict.

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**Conflicts (events) after the Climax**

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## Reading Response: Conflict

### Notes:

A **problem** or **complication** exists in every story that creates **conflict**. This conflict can be **external** or **internal**.

One type of **external** conflict arises when a main character is in conflict with another **character (person vs. person)**. Another type of external conflict arises when a main character is **in conflict with nature (person vs. nature)**. **Person vs. society** is where a character has a problem with some **element of society** such as school, laws or some other **accepted way of doing things**. At other times a character may be doing battle with **uncontrollable problems**. If the problem appears to be an **unbelievable coincidence, fate** can be considered the **cause** of conflict.

A character may be experiencing **internal** conflict (**person vs. self**) and seems to be **torn in two different directions**. It is possible for a main character to be experiencing **more than one type** of conflict. By the end of a story, the character facing a conflict **succeeds or fails** in achieving his/her **goal**, or **solving** his/her problem.

The way a conflict is solved is called the **resolution**. Every **conflict** has a **resolution**. **Conflict and resolution** are part of a story's **plot** or **main action**.

**Tension** is a product of conflict. A good story needs **conflict and tension**. A good writer is able to keep the tension in a story "**as taut as a bow string**."

### Example Response:

In the novel *Ten Steps to Eden*, identify the conflict, quote directly from its text and provide further support for your quote. Use the example that follows as your guide.

Note, in the first sentence, the novel's **title and author** is stated. The second **sentence introduces the quote**. The third sentence **states the quote**. The **fourth and fifth sentences explain the type of conflict** the quote illustrates and provides **further support** for the quote.

*I am presently reading Adam Andeve's novel, Ten Steps to Eden. On page 30, the protagonist/detective Mike Barkley, is torn between arresting his best friend Brett Collins for murder, or destroying the incriminating evidence against Collins. **"Tyrone Beers got what he deserved. Why should I arrest Brett for seeing justice done?"** Mike Barkley is clearly in conflict with himself. **Person vs. self** is evidenced here when Mike is confronted with what he sees, as a moral dilemma.*

**Instructions:**

In the novel *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963*, identify **one example of conflict**, quote directly from its text and provide further support for your quote. Use the example from the previous page as your guide.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_


## Reading Response: Visual Interpretation

### Notes:

A **simile** is a comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (like, as or than) is used.

### Instructions:

Interpret the simile below.



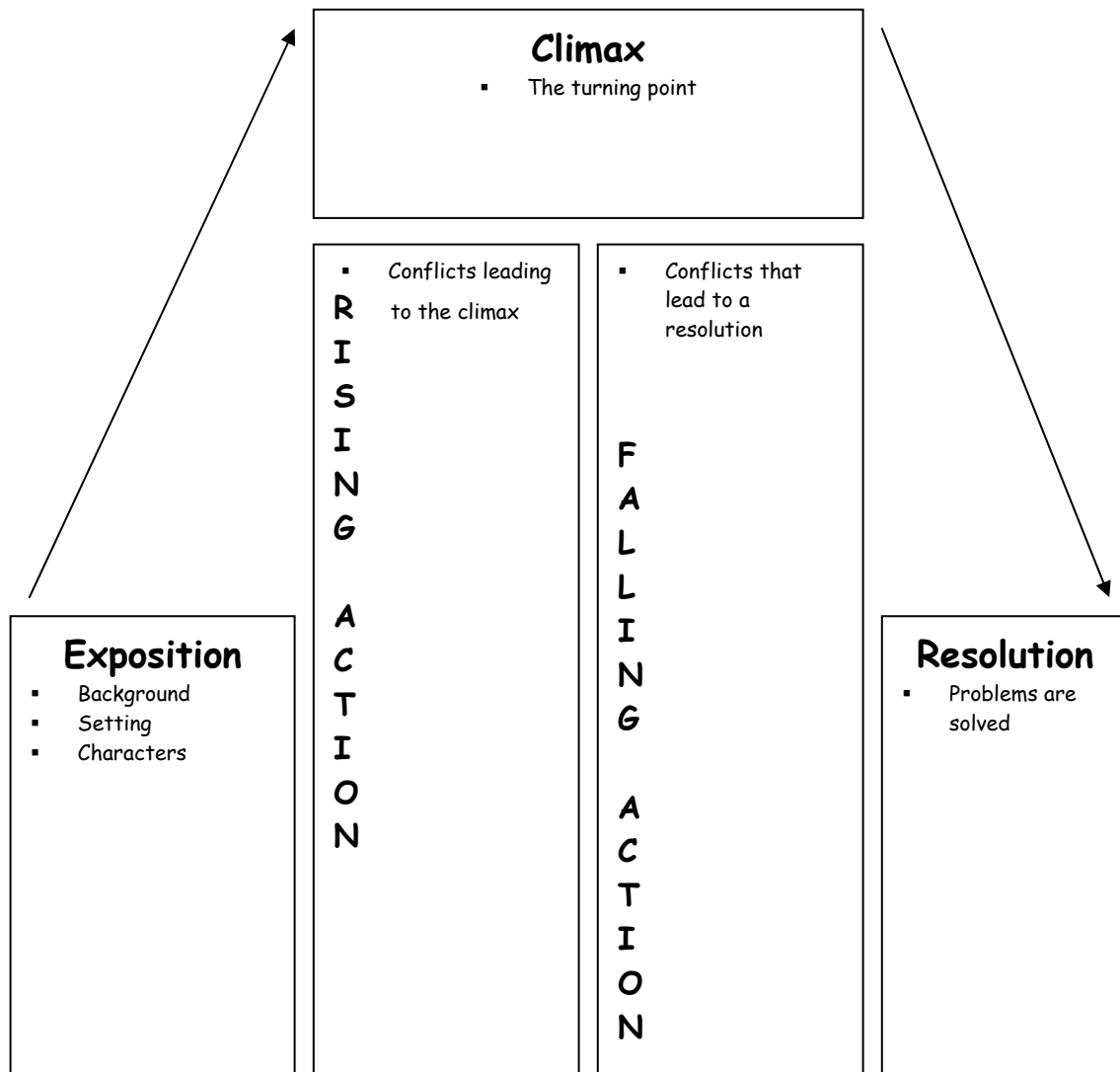
## Reading Response: Plot Summary

### Notes:

The **plot** is the **action** of the story. During the **rising action** of the story various **problems** arise that lead up to the **climax**. The **highest point** in the action of the story is the **climax**. After the climax the action **subsides** (falls) and leads to a **resolution**.

### Instructions:

Fill in the **boxes** to **explain** the **plot** in the novel *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963*. Choose your words carefully and write in **bullet form**.



**Vocabulary: Crossword Puzzle & Word Search #2****Instructions:**

Use the word list from the word search below as your word list for the crossword puzzle on the following page. All words are used once.

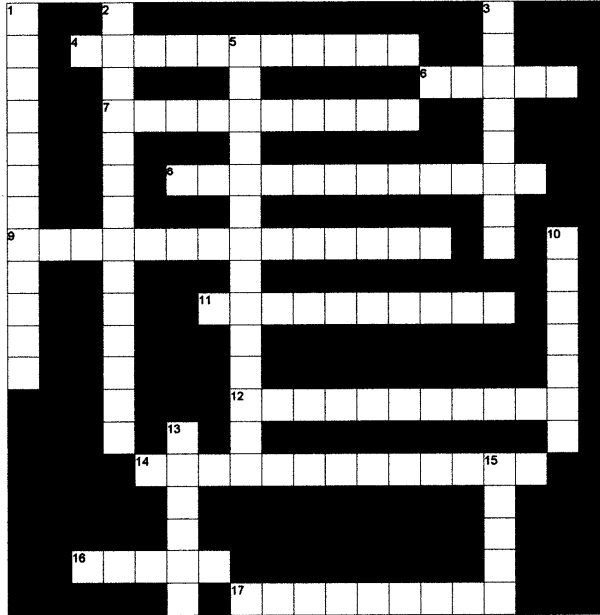
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B Y S T T Q U X R P O T D V E
R E B M O B N W O R B C I C R
D U H I G H - F I D E L I T Y
A G P I G E O N Q A W B I P C
N O S D N A S A M D N A R G Z
I L N N Y D D O T T K P C Y S
E A O O U L T R A - G L I D E
L T E R A T S H T A E D Z I I
W A P Y S ' L L E H C T I M K
A C R B V N U V P C D K W H O
T S E N I O R I T Y O V A M O
S R E H S U R C - B M U R C C
O A H Q Z M F T G T R F C Q Q
N E Y C V A W O O L P O O H F
D S F G A R I V T D U Z Y H M

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**Behindthecouch****Brownbomber****Byron****Cookies****Crumb-crushers****Danielwatson****Deathstare****GrandmaSands****High-fidelity****Mitchell's****Peons****Pigeon****SearsCatalogue****Seniority****Toddy****Ultra-glide****Woolpooh**

### Crossword Puzzle #2



- | ACROSS                                 |   | DOWN  |
|--|---|---|
| 4. turd on wheels                      | 16. Daddy Cool  | 1. looks like all the juice has been sucked out |
| 6. The Magnificent Seven               | 17. a privileged status owing to the length of continuous service | 2. the Watson children                          |
| 7. welfare list                        |   | 3. Collier's Landing                            |
| 8. Big Daddy of love                   |   | 5. World Famous Watson Pet Hospital             |
| 9. outhouse toilet paper               |   | 10. Swedish Cremes                              |
| 11. Byron's mean look                  |   | 13. killed by a Swedish Creme                   |
| 12. drive around record player         |   | 15. coon dog                                    |
| 14. an excellent reproduction of sound |   |   |



## Reading Response: Satire

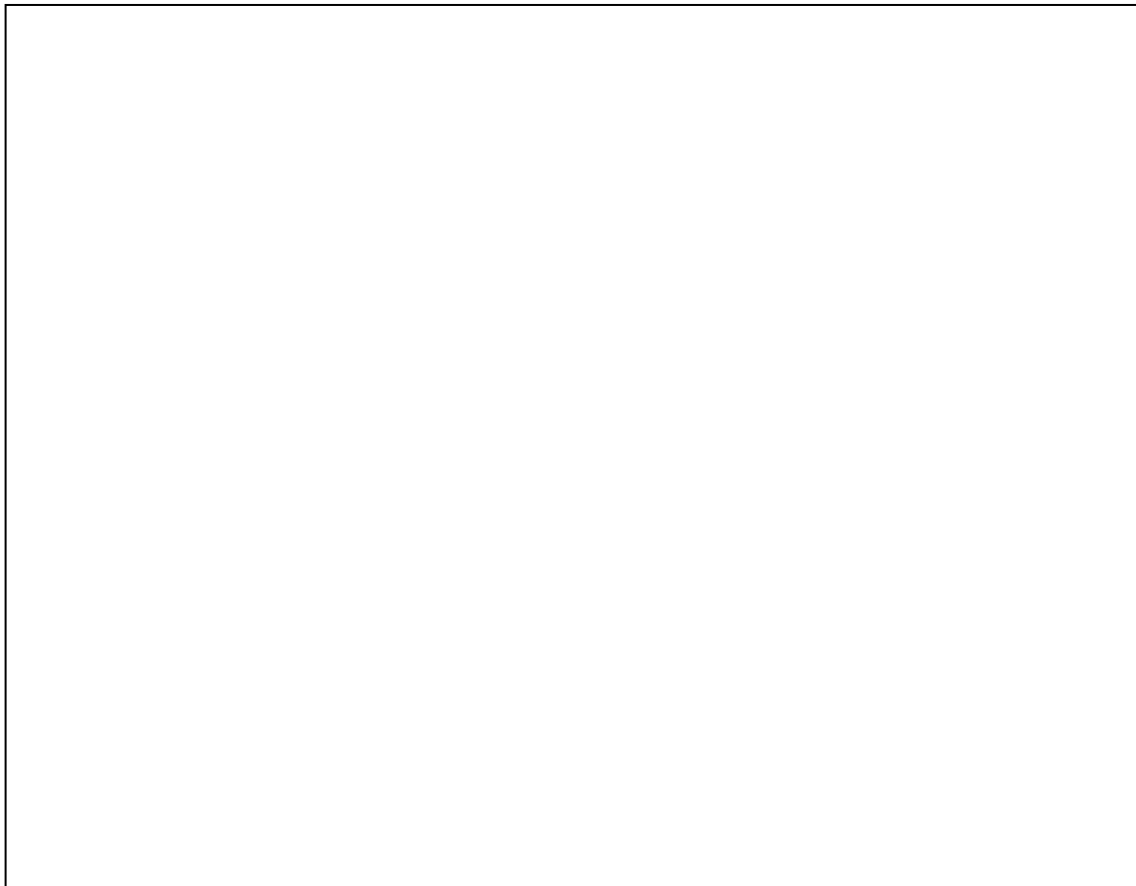
### Notes:

**Satire** is writing that ridicules or makes fun of people's **mistakes** and **weaknesses**. Often the intent is to correct or change the subject of the satiric attack. A **satiric essay** uses **exaggeration**, **distortion** and **irony** to comment on a subject.

### Instructions:

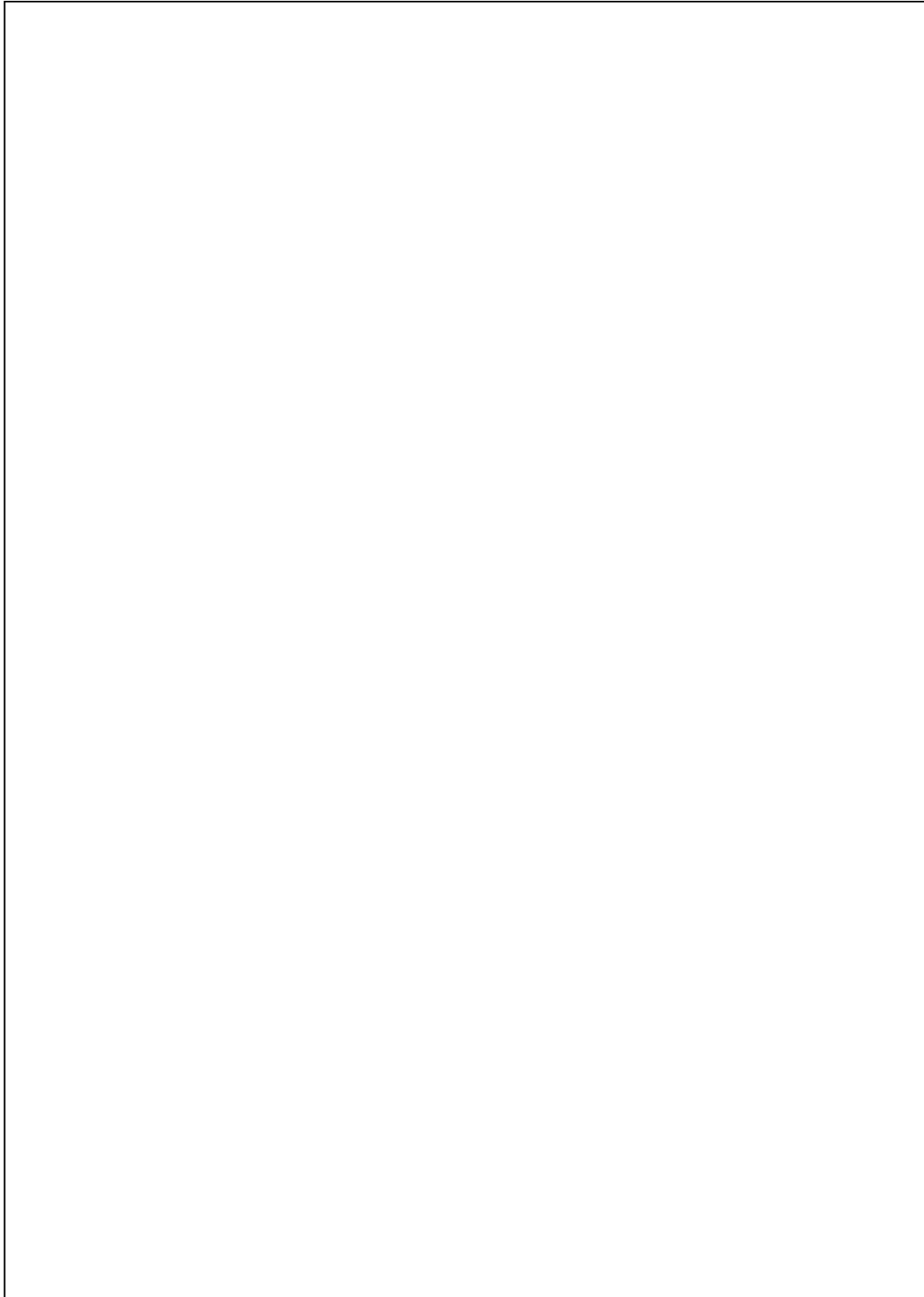
As a **satirist**, create a **satire** in the form of a **cartoon**, based on one chapter from *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963*. Make fun of how the characters **look, what they say and what they do**. Your cartoon should have **1-4 frames**, with each frame including a **balloon with dialogue**. It should **depict** one particular scene from the chapter you have chosen to satirize.

Divide the page below into 1-4 frames and use it as a rough copy only.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Satire: Good Copy**



## Reading Response: Letter to the Author

### Notes:

In a letter to the **author**, individuals can share their **feelings and thoughts** about an author's book. Perhaps, individuals can make **connections** between their own lives and the **lives of the characters** in the book?

### Instructions:

Write a letter to **the author**, explaining how you have come to read this book. Communicate why certain events in the **plot, or the characters, setting etc.**, are appealing to you. As well, mention anything you may find **confusing, or unbelievable** and **include a quote** from the book to support your statements. Finally, thank Mr. Curtis for helping to teach you something that you **didn't know before** reading his book. Use the format below to write your letter.

Heading		(Address)
		(Date)
Inside Address		(Author's complete name and address)
Salutation		(begins with <b>Dear</b> and ends with a <b>colon</b> )
Close		
Signature		



## Reading Response: Point of View

### Notes:

**First-Person Point of View:** One of the characters is telling the story.

**Third-Person Point of View:** One character from outside the story is telling it. There are three **Third-Person Points of View**:

- **Unlimited Omniscient-** narrator can read the minds of the characters
- **Limited Omniscient-**narrator can read the mind of one character
- **Camera View (objective view):** the narrator records the action from a neutral point-of-view; the narrator can write about what the characters are doing, but not what they're thinking

### Instructions:

Fill in the chart below.

<i>The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963</i>		
What is the narrator's point of view?	Who is telling the story?	What do we know about the character(s)?
		thoughts - feelings - observations

**Reading Response: Foreshadowing****Notes:**

**Foreshadowing** entices readers to turn the page and keep reading. Authors **drop hints** so readers can **predict** what will happen next.

**Instructions:**

Fill in the chart below. Find **clues** in the novel that may predict what will happen next.

Foreshadowing	
Clues From the Story	What happened next?

## Reading Response: Mood

### Notes:

**Mood** is created through the choice of **words and letter sounds**, and through the **repetition of words, phrases and sentences**.

### Example:

In the following passage from Theodore Taylor's novel, *The Cay*, a lost and lonely mood is created through the author's **choice of words** and the **description of the setting**:

*"I looked all around us. There was nothing but blue sea with occasional patches of orange-brown seaweed. No sight of the Hato, or other rafts or boats. Just the sea and a few boats that wheeled over it. That lonely sea, and the sharp pains in my head, and the knowledge that I was here alone with a black man instead of my mother made me break into tears."* (P. 32)

Mood	
Word Sounds	<p><i>wheeled</i> <i>break</i></p>
Words	<p><i>lonely</i> <i>alone</i> <i>tears</i> <i>nothing</i></p>
Phrases	<p><i>"nothing but blue sea"</i> <i>"no sight of the Hato"</i> <i>"just the sea</i> <i>"knowledge that I was here alone"</i> <i>"break into tears"</i> <i>"occasional patches"</i></p>
Sentences	<p><i>"Just the sea and a few boats that wheeled over it."</i> <i>"That lonely sea, and the sharp pains in my head, and the knowledge that I was here alone with a black man instead of my mother made me break into tears."</i></p>

**Reading Response: Mood (Cont'd)****Instructions:**

Referring to the example on the previous page, locate a paragraph in *The Watson's Go to Birmingham-1963* that illustrates the mood the author is attempting to create. **Quote the paragraph** on the lines provided, and then fill in the chart.

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		Mood	
Word Sounds		Words	
Phrases		Sentences	



## Reading Response: Resolution (Denouement)

### Notes:

A **problem** or **complication** exists in every story that creates **conflict**. This conflict can be **external** or **internal**.

One type of **external** conflict arises when a main character is in conflict with another **character (person vs. person)**. Another type of external conflict arises when a main character is in **conflict with nature (person vs. nature)**. **Person vs. society** is where a character has a problem with some **element of society** such as school, laws or some other **accepted way of doing things**. At other times a character may be doing battle with **uncontrollable problems**. If the problem appears to be an **unbelievable coincidence, fate** can be considered the **cause** of conflict.

A character may be experiencing **internal** conflict (**person vs. self**) and seems to be **torn in two different directions**. It is possible for a main character to be experiencing **more than one type** of conflict. By the end of a story, the character facing a conflict **succeeds or fails** in achieving his/her **goal**, or **solving** his/her problem.

The way a conflict is solved is called the **resolution**. The **denouement**, or **resolution**, is the portion of the play or story where the major problem is solved. It comes after the climax and falling action and is intended to bring the story to a satisfactory end. Every conflict has a resolution. **Conflict** and **resolution** are part of a story's plot or main action.

### Instructions:

To determine whether or not the **denouement is satisfactory**, explain the **complications** (conflict) in the story and determine whether each is **resolved**. Provide **direct quotes** from the story to identify each conflict. (6-10 sentences in all)

**Example Response- Kenny vs. Byron:**

*At the beginning of the novel it's clear that Byron takes issue with almost everything and everyone, including Kenny. And one cold Saturday morning after their father directs Kenny and Byron outside to scrape the Brown Bomber's windows, inevitably, Byron decides that Kenny can do Byron's work for him.*

*'I'm not going to do your part, Byron, you'd better do it and I'm not playing either.'*

*'Shut up, punk...'*

*I didn't hear any sound coming from the other side of the car so I yelled out, I'm serious, Byron, I'm not doing that side too, and I'm only going to do half the windshield, I don't care what you do to me...'*

*'Shut your stupid mouth, I got something more important to do right now.'*

*The conflict carries on, and on, and... until the end of the novel when everyone grows up ... fast. Perhaps too fast.*

**Byron vs. the Watson family:**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Explain another conflict in the story.**

\_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Essay

### Notes (Part A):

An **essay** is a short prose **composition** that usually deals with one topic in a **limited and personal** manner. An essay could be an **editorial, letter, speech, lecture, sermon**, or even **hidden** as part of a **play or novel**.

Note the **last sentence** of the **first paragraph** contains your **thesis statement**. This sentence is perhaps the most important sentence of your essay. Your **thesis statement** might also be referred to as your **point of view**, or **argument**. Your thesis is your attitude towards a particular topic. Write your thesis statement as **clearly and forcefully** as possible.

### 5 Paragraph Essay

#### Paragraph 1

General Statement  
General Statement  
General Statement  
General Statement  
Thesis Statement

Introduction

#### Paragraph 2

Topic Sentence  
Example  
Support  
Support  
Concluding Sentence

#### Paragraph 3

Topic Sentence  
Example  
Support  
Support  
Concluding Sentence

Body

#### Paragraph 4

Topic Sentence  
Example  
Support  
Support  
Concluding Sentence

#### Paragraph 5

Concluding Sentence  
Concluding Sentence  
Final Concluding Sentence

Conclusion

**Notes (Part B):**

Using the format on the previous page, refer to the following information where each heading is concerned on your rough copy:

- *General Statement*- A *general statement* is a simple **objective** statement about your topic.
- *Topic Sentence*- The *topic sentence* should **introduce** the paragraph. It contains the main idea of the paragraph.
- *Example*- An *example* refers to a quote from the source you are using to write your essay. It could be a novel, textbook, internet, etc. You need to use **quotation marks** around the quote although italics is sometimes acceptable.
- *Support*- *Support* refers to a sentence that clarifies the quote you are using. It **explains** the quote.
- *Concluding Sentence*- The *concluding sentence* is your **final** word on the topic (the topic of that particular paragraph).

**Example:**

The paragraph below may serve as an example of a paragraph that contains a *topic sentence*, *example*, *support* and *concluding sentence*. Know too, there could be more than one *support* sentence.

*In the first chapter, Ponyboy notes that Greasers and Socs are easily identified by their lifestyles and by the clothes they wear. "We're poorer than the Socs and the middle class. I reckon we're wilder too...I only mean ... we wear our hair long and dress in blue jeans and t-shirts, or leave our shirttails out and wear leather jackets and tennis shoes or boots." Ponyboy goes on to say that neither Socs nor Greasers are better than anyone else; it's just the way things are. Greasers identify with one style of dressing and Socs with another. It seems to me that Greasers and Socs have a lot more in common than they think.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:**

Choose **one** of the following essay topics:

1. Time behind the couch is just what Kenny needed.
2. Mr. Watson treated the subject of racial segregation too lightly.
3. Mr. Watson used humor to teach the subject of racial segregation to his children.
- 4.
- 5.

Use the sheet provided for your rough copy and then write **a good copy**. Make sure to write in paragraph form. The rough copy must accompany the good.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Rough Copy: 5 Paragraph Essay**

### **Paragraph 1**

*General Statement*

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*General Statement*

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*General Statement*

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*General Statement*

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*Thesis Statement*

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### **Paragraph 2**

*Topic Sentence*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Example

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Support

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Support

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Concluding Sentence

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**Paragraph 3**

Topic Sentence

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Example

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Support

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Support

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Concluding Sentence

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**Paragraph 4**

Topic Sentence

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Example

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Support

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Support

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Concluding Sentence

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Paragraph 5**

Concluding Sentence

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Concluding Sentence

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Final Concluding Sentence

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## Reading Response: A Dialogue with Kenny

### Notes:

When writing dialogue be aware of several considerations:

- a. Start a new paragraph every time someone new speaks.

**Kenny asked, "You think I'm crazy?"  
"Sometimes," Byron replied.**

- b. Often, source phrases are understood.

**"That doesn't surprise me."**

- c. Single quotation marks are used to indicate a quote within a quote. (If using a word processor, sometimes a different font is used to indicate the quote within a quote.)

**"The word 'crazy' shouldn't be confused with 'hungry'," Kenny said.**

- d. The question mark may come outside of the quotation marks when the whole thing is a question, but the quote alone is a statement.

**"Did you say 'I'm hungry'?" Byron asked?**

- e. When quoting a famous person, use a colon instead of a comma after a source phrase.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson said: "Thought is the blossom;  
Language the bud; action the fruit behind it."**





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Novel Distribution Record: *The Watson's Go To Birmingham***

**Student**

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8. \_\_\_\_\_
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29. \_\_\_\_\_
30. \_\_\_\_\_
31. \_\_\_\_\_
32. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers to Comprehension Questions****Chapter One**

1. Because it is very cold and they are trying to warm each other
2. Hambone Henderson
3. Aunt Cidney
4. Clear the windows of ice and snow
5. Got his mouth frozen to the mirror
6. Hot Lips
7. One hand on his chin and one on his forehead and quickly snatches his head away
8. The Lipless Wonder

**Chapter Two**

1. Larry Dunn
2. Fourth
3. He is a god
4. To demonstrate Kenny's good reading
5. She hands him the book upside down
6. Lazy eye
7. Kenny thinks that the new boy will be picked on instead of himself
8. Very raggedy

**Chapter Three**

1. Rufus Fry
2. Half his apple and half his second sandwich
3. He gives it to his younger brother, Cody
4. Because it is fat and does not hide from people
5. LJ keeps stealing his dinosaurs
6. So that he can steal a large number of Kenny's dinosaurs at one time
7. Because Kenny laughed once at a cruel joke that the other kids played on Rufus
8. Kenny's mom

**Chapter Four**

1. Birmingham, Alabama
2. Too warm --- layers and layers of clothing
3. "Why don't we see any frozen people when we go to school"?
4. They are picked up by the fake garbage truck
5. He gives Rufus one glove
6. The black coloring is coming off the brown gloves
7. Byron
8. The Great Carp Escape

**Chapter Five**

1. For lighting matches

2. Less than a week
3. Momma intends to burn Byron to teach him a lesson
4. To protect Byron
5. Five times
6. It is too dangerous to play with fire
7. Daddy

### **Chapter Six**

1. Some milk, a loaf of bread and a small tin of tomato paste
2. He doesn't need money. All that he has to do is sign his name
3. He takes them from Kenny at the doorstep and carries them into the house
4. Powdered milk
5. Byron, eating store bought cookies
6. He hit it with a cookie and knocked it to the ground
7. Maybe the sight of the dead bird along with the green apples and the cookies
8. He buries it where it died

### **Chapter Seven**

1. He has had his hair died and straightened
2. Reddish brown
3. To wash the color out of his hair
4. He shaves Byron's head
5. Clean the bathroom
6. Grandma Sands in Alabama

### **Chapter Eight**

1. The Brown Bomber
2. A green pine tree to hang on the rear view mirror
3. Because Byron tried to brush his teeth
4. He wants everyone to come outside to see what he has bought for the Brown Bomber
5. A record player
6. The Vibro-Dynamic-Lateral-Anti-Inertial-Dampening system
7. To leave Byron with Grandma Sands for a while as punishment for all the things that he has been doing wrong
8. Three days

### **Chapter Nine**

1. Because Kenny will miss Byron
2. So that Byron can get an idea of the kind of place the world can be
3. "Is it too late to get 'Yakety-Yak'?"
4. The angel is white
5. Joey told them that he was going to run away so that he would not have to go with them next morning
6. Cincinnati
7. He won't say a word for three days



8. Because he bugged Byron more than Byron bugged him

### **Chapter Ten**

1. A house is a lot nicer place if the facilities are outside
2. Joey drools when she sleeps
3. "I'll just stretch and get some gas and go a little further"
4. In the appellation mountains
5. A hillbilly
6. "Like God's beard and we're tickling him"

### **Chapter Eleven**

1. "You too Kenny"?
2. Country and Western
3. Squares
4. 'A teeny-weeny old, old woman that looked just like Momma would if someone shrank her down about five sizes and sucked all the juice out of her'
5. She doesn't even have to look down to see him
6. Mr. Robert
7. Old as dirt

### **Chapter Twelve**

1. Toddy
2. A coon dog
3. A raccoon held him under water
4. Mouth to nose resuscitation
5. Cereal, bread and bacon
6. Almost twenty years
7. To show them the best fishing spots

### **Chapter Thirteen**

1. A whirlpool
2. Collier's Landing
3. Because he didn't want to share his lake with anyone
4. The knots wouldn't come out of his shoes
5. To catch a turtle
6. To set him down the shore beside his shoes
7. Byron dragged him out

### **Chapter Fourteen**

1. He heard Joetta getting ready for Sunday school
2. A thunderous noise
3. Somebody dropped a bomb on Joey's church
4. The Wool Pooh
5. So that she can say "goodbye" to every one before she is gone forever
6. She thinks that he is teasing her

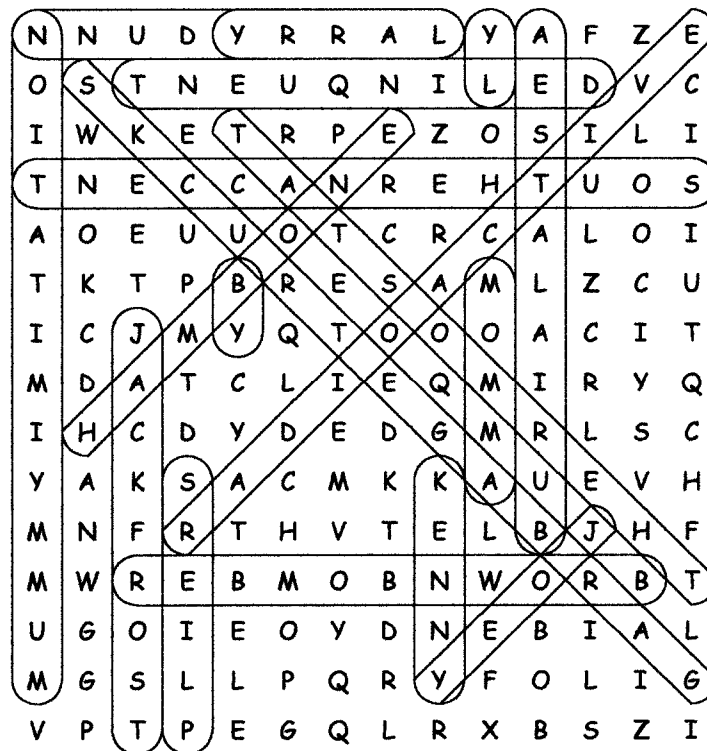
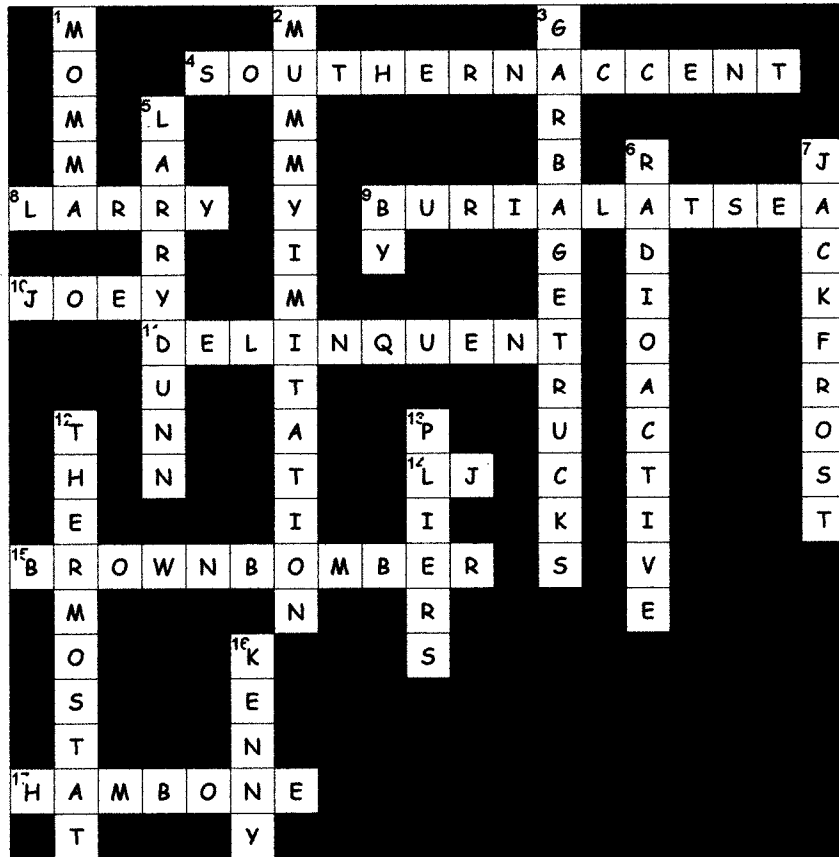
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

7. She slept through all the noise

### **Chapter Fifteen**

1. Behind the couch
2. Mr. Robert's friend
3. Never
4. To show him a whisker that is coming on his chin
5. Because he thinks that he left Joey at the church
6. "You getting the word from the top wolf hisself"

# The Watsons...Birmingham #1



## The Watsons...Birmingham #2

