

O. Henry's
The Gift of the
Magi

and other stories

Student Learning Materials

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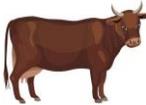
HEARTS AND CROSSES

PRE-READING ACTIVITY 1: VOCABULARY ABOUT LIFE ON A RANCH

The story “Hearts and Crosses” is about a young couple, Webb and Santa. They manage a ranch in the state of Texas. A *ranch* is a farm where livestock are raised, such as cattle, sheep, and horses. This vocabulary activity will help you learn about life on a ranch.

Directions:

1. The left column contains words about life on a ranch. Each word comes with a picture to illustrate what it is.
2. Match the words in the left column with their definitions in the right column.
3. For each definition, fill in the blank with the number of the word it refers to. An example is given below.

Words	Definitions
1. Cowboy 	____ A state located in south-central United States
2. Cattle 	____ The main house on a ranch where the owner lives
3. Iron tool (branding iron) 	____ A man who rides a horse and whose job it is to take care of the cattle and horses
4. Ranch house 	____ A device that when heated burns a mark into the skin of the cow to show who owns it
5. Texas 	<u>6</u> ____ A person who is in charge of a group of cowboys
6. Foreman 	____ Cows, bulls and steers that are kept on a ranch for milk and meat

PRE-READING ACTIVITY 2: FOCUS ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE FEATURES

In the story “Hearts and Crosses,” many verbs are in the simple past tense. In this activity, you will practice using this tense.

PART 1: FIND THE VERBS AND GUESS THE TENSE

Directions:

1. Read the following paragraph and underline the verbs that are in the simple past tense.

Webb Yeager moved his wide hat back on his head. He put his fingers in his yellow hair and moved it about. It now looked wilder than before. But this did not help him to think better. And therefore he also got another drink.

PART 2: RULES FOR ENGLISH VERBS IN SIMPLE PAST TENSE

Directions:

1. The simple past tense is used to talk about something that started and ended at a specified time in the past. Sentences in the simple past tense typically use past time phrases, such as *yesterday*, *last year*, *a few years ago*, *in 1997*, and *the day before*.
2. Study the following information about how to create the simple past tense and see some examples from the story. Find more examples in the story and write them down.

Regular verbs in the simple past add *-ed* to their base form. However, some verbs add only *-d* or change the ending a little.

General rules for regular verbs

If a verb ends in...	To make the simple past:	Examples
The letter e	Add <i>-d</i>	live → lived die → died
A consonant + y	Change y to i before adding <i>-ed</i>	try → tried cry → cried
One vowel + one consonant (but not w or y)	Double the consonant, then add <i>-ed</i>	jam → jammed commit → committed
Anything else (including w)	Add <i>-ed</i>	boil → boiled start → started finish → finished show → showed

Examples of sentences from the story containing regular verbs:

- Webb Yeager **moved** his wide hat back on his head.
- When the old man **died**, they **started** to call Santa the ‘cattle queen.’
- ...and someone **cried** out in the voice of woman and queen together: “Webb, oh, Webb!”

Irregular verbs do not follow the same rules as regular verbs. They have different forms in the simple past tense. They do not end with *-ed*. On the next page are some examples of irregular verbs in the simple past tense:

Verb		Simple past form
go		went
get		got
leave		left
send		sent
put		put
have		had
come		came

Sentences with irregular verbs from the story:

- He **put** his fingers in his yellow hair and moved it about.
- Then he **sent** me as far away from the ranch house as he could.
- The two friends **got** on their horses and **left** the little town.
- _____.
- _____.
- _____.
- _____.
- _____.
- _____.
- _____.

PART 3: FILL IN THE BLANKS

Part 2 explained how the simple past tense is formed and used examples from the story “Hearts and Crosses.” In **Part 3**, practice using some verbs from the story in the simple past.

Directions:

Fill in the blanks in each sentence. Using the verbs in parentheses (), fill in the blanks using the simple past tense form. The first sentence was done as an example.

1. In the middle of the night Santa went quietly out of the ranch house.
(go)
2. Later she _____ out with some strange iron tool in one hand. In the other hand she _____ something that held a small fire.
(come) (carry)
3. He _____ the same question he had asked almost a year ago.
(ask)
4. He _____ cowboys with him to help with the English cattle.
(have)
5. The horseman _____ the house.
(enter)
6. And now Santa _____ that white animal as cowboys catch cattle.
(catch)
7. The two men _____ to separate.
(prepare)
8. One day, a man named Bartholomew _____ at the Nopalito ranch house.
(stop)



WHILE-READING ACTIVITY 1: RELATIONSHIP NETWORK

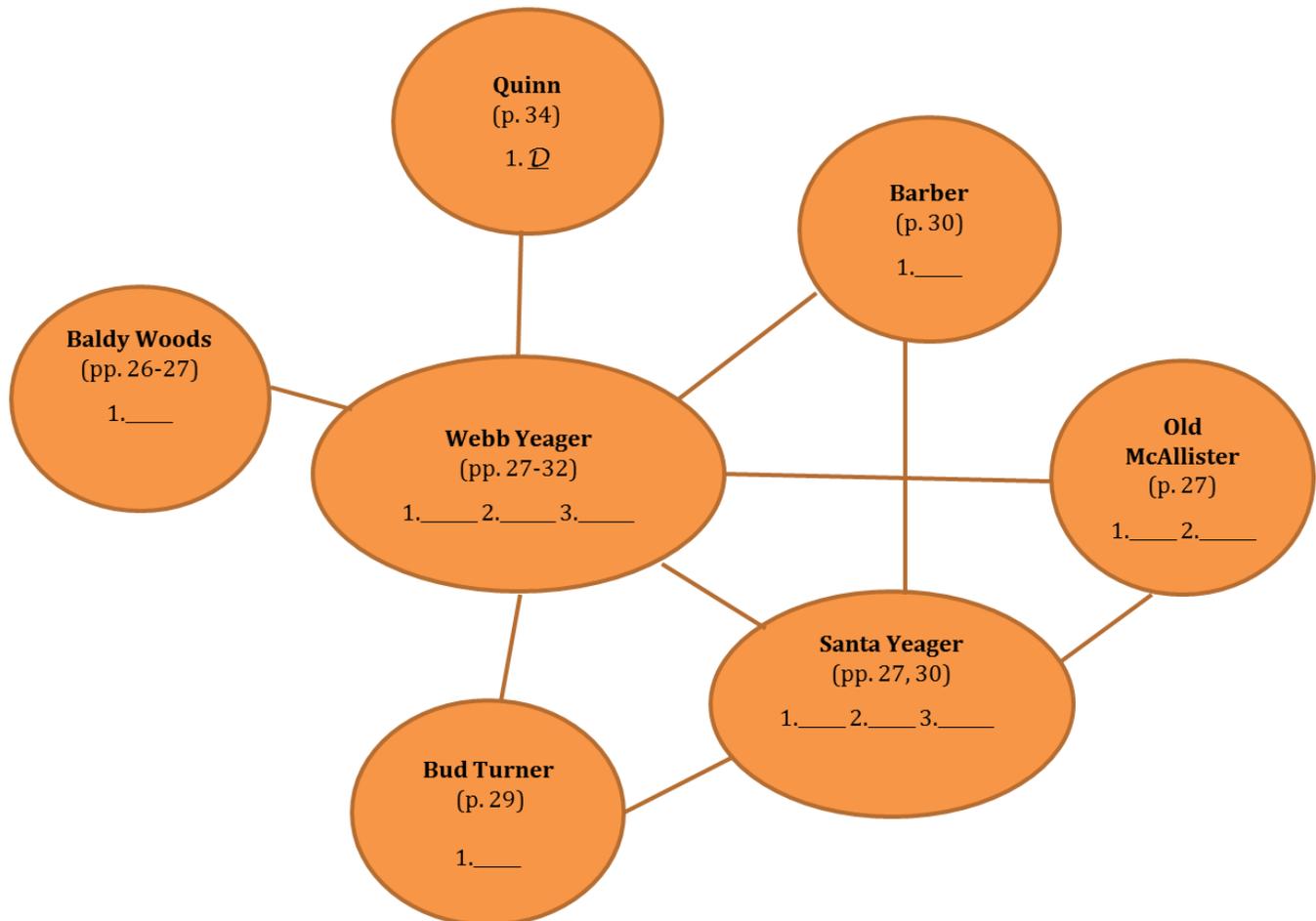
There are several characters in the story “Hearts and Crosses.” Each character has a specific role that connects him or her to the other characters. Some characters have several roles. This activity examines these roles.

Directions:

Match the roles with the characters in each circle of the Relationship Network on the next page. Fill in the numbered blank in each circle of the Relationship Network with a letter from the Role Description chart above. Some characters have more than one role in the story, as indicated by the number of blanks in the circles. Refer to the pages in parentheses to help to remember the roles of less important characters in the story. The role of Quinn is provided as an example.

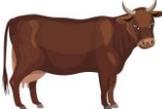
Letter	Role in the Story
A	Daughter of Old McAllister
B	Foreman of the Seco Ranch
C	A cowboy who works for Santa and Webb at the Nopalito Ranch
D	Owner of the Seco Ranch
E	Nopalito Ranch's long-time business customer
F	Webb's old friend who used to work at the Nopalito Ranch
G	Father of Santa
H	Former owner of the Nopalito Ranch
I	The best foreman in the West
J	The "queen" of the Nopalito Ranch
K	Husband of Santa
L	Wife of Webb

RELATIONSHIP NETWORK



ANSWER KEY | HEARTS AND CROSSES

PRE-READING ACTIVITY 1: VOCABULARY ABOUT LIFE ON A RANCH

Words	Definitions
1. Cowboy 	<u>5</u> A state located in south-central United States
2. Cattle 	<u>4</u> The main house on a ranch where the owner lives
3. Iron tool (branding iron) 	<u>1</u> A man who rides a horse and whose job it is to take care of the cattle and horses
4. Ranch house 	<u>3</u> A device that when heated burns a mark into the skin of the cow to show who owns it
5. Texas 	<u>6</u> A person who is in charge of a group of cowboys
6. Foreman 	<u>2</u> Cows, bulls and steers that are kept on a ranch for milk and meat

PRE-READING ACTIVITY 2: FOCUS ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE FEATURES

PART 1: FIND THE VERBS AND GUESS THE TENSE

All the underlined verbs are in the simple past tense.

Webb Yeager moved his wide hat back on his head. He put his fingers in his yellow hair and moved it about. It now looked wilder than before. But this did not help him to think better. And therefore he also got another drink.

Part 3: Fill in the blanks

1. In the middle of the night Santa went quietly out of the ranch house.
2. Later she came out with some strange iron tool in one hand. In the other hand she carried something that held a small fire.
3. He asked the same question he had asked almost a year ago.
4. He had cowboys with him to help with the English cattle.
5. The horseman entered the house.
6. And now Santa caught that white animal as cowboys catch cattle.
7. The two men prepared to separate.
8. One day, a man named Bartholomew stopped at the Nopalito ranch house.

WHILE-READING ACTIVITY 1: RELATIONSHIP NETWORK

