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Literature

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agriculture	feast
arid	kiln
compete	pottery
craft	rural

Fill in the blanks.

1. Hi! My name's Sam and I live on a farm in a _____ (*area where there are farms, not cities*) area in Ohio.
2. Every year, a county fair is held where the farmers _____ (*try to win*) for ribbons and prizes.
3. Since people for miles around make their living in _____ (*farming*), a lot of the contests center around plants and animals.
4. Each year we give prizes for the fattest pumpkins, the longest zucchini, and the woolliest lambs; then we all sit down to the most delicious _____ (*joyous meal*).
5. Not all the land around here is rich. Some of it is dry and _____ (*desert-like*).
6. The people who live on that kind of land compete in the _____ (*skilled work*) contests.
7. They bring the most beautiful, painted _____ (*earthenware dishes*) that they have made from the claylike earth near their homes.
8. My favorite display is the one where some of these craftsmen make their bowls and cups right before your eyes and put them in a small portable _____ (*oven for baking pottery*) to bake while you wait!

Name _____

Word Families

All the members of your family are related. They are not exactly alike, but they are connected in many ways. Many live in the same house and perhaps even look alike. Words have “families,” too. Here’s an example: winter, snow, ice, and cold are all related. Apple, orange, banana, and grape are related, too!

Circle the word that is related to the vocabulary word.

1. **agriculture**

piano

farming

tornado

physician

2. **arid**

thunderstorm

river

desert

rainbow

3. **compete**

race

write

mix

finish

4. **craft**

thinking

woodworking

searching

sailing

5. **feast**

fields

dough

sand

food

6. **kiln**

fold

pound

bake

cut

7. **pottery**

clay

glass

wood

iron

8. **rural**

city

country

ocean

jungle

All About a Craft

C R A F T I N G

When making an object requires special skill, it is called a **craft**. Tassai was good at making jars, which is the craft of pottery making. Everyone has worked at some craft, even if they didn't know it! Have you ever made a lanyard? Have you used modeling clay or even play-dough? Then you have worked at a craft. Some other crafts would be embroidery or needlepoint, woodworking, making a model car or airplane, or even decorating a cake. Choose a craft that you enjoy or know something about, and write a paragraph about it. Describe what skill the craft requires; for example, must you be good at drawing? Must you know how to use certain tools? Then tell what materials you need for it, and what the finished product looks like.

Narrative Elements

Narrative Elements

Every story has a **plot**, **characters**, a **setting**, and a **main idea**. Even a one-paragraph story, like the one below, can have all those **narrative elements**. Read the paragraph and answer the questions.

The Gold-Diggers

Outside the cave, a storm was brewing. Jake and Tim sat at the entrance, staring gloomily at the dark clouds.

“If this storm is as strong as it looks to be,” said Jake, “we’ll never be able t’ git that gold at the bottom of the creek,” he said.

“Hold on,” said Tim. “We didn’t come all the way from Kansas to California t’ go home empty-handed. That there storm’ll blow itself out, and then we’ll go find that gold.”

“Yer right,” said Jake. “Gold-digging, like everythin’ else in life, takes patience.”

Circle the correct answer.

- Outside the cave, a storm was brewing.* This tells us about the
a. plot. b. characters. c. setting. d. main idea.

- Jake and Tim sat at the entrance.* This introduces us to the
a. plot. b. characters. c. setting. d. main idea.

- ... then we’ll go find that gold.* This tells us about the
a. plot. b. characters. c. setting. d. main idea.

- Gold-digging, like everythin’ else in life, takes patience.* This must be the
a. plot. b. characters. c. setting. d. main idea.

Recognize the Four Elements of a Story

Every story has four elements: plot, characters, setting, and theme, or main idea. As you can see, each jar is labeled with one of those elements. Follow the instructions given at the top of each jar.

Plot

The plot has several steps to it. Start or complete the phrase that describes each step in the plot.

1. Tassai was secretly _____.
2. The Governor of the Pueblo invited _____.
3. _____ planned to enter her jar into the competition at the feast.
4. Tassai realized she had left her jar at home, so she _____.
5. _____ followed her home.
6. While Tassai was inside, the little girl suddenly saw _____.
7. When Tassai saw the snake, she _____.
8. By doing this, Tassai had _____.
9. When the Governor heard about this, he _____.

Name _____

Plot | Characters | Setting | Theme

Characters

List the four characters in the story.

1. The Governor
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Setting

List the four settings in the story.

1. The fields at the foot of the mesa where Tassai worked
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Theme

Deeds can be very beautiful too.

Decorate the jar that contains the theme, the main idea of the story.

The main idea is found near the end of the story when the Governor says that prizes were to be given for the most beautiful things brought to the feast. But, he says, deeds can be very beautiful, too. He then gives Tassai a prize for her beautiful deed.