

<i>aloof</i>	<i>clouted</i>	<i>gleaned</i>	<i>profusion</i>	<i>writhes</i>
<i>barren</i>	<i>derelict</i>	<i>pathos</i>	<i>seasoned</i>	
<i>brutal</i>	<i>epic</i>	<i>pestilence</i>	<i>staggering</i>	

1. You could tell that Edward would not have been the sort of person you would want to spend time with. It is clear to me from reading his published diaries, and the information I have _____ (*gathered*) from biographies, that Edward had a short temper. He was constantly screaming at his students and _____ (*hitting*) them. Don't you think that he was _____ (*cruel; harsh; cold-blooded*)?
2. George always claimed that Martha, his sister, was very kind but definitely _____ (*reserved*). But who could blame her? They had grown up as orphans, raised by an uncle who lived in the Australian Outback. They had no neighbors and no other children with whom they could play. The Outback, as you may know, is a strange place. The desert is near and _____ (*desolate*), as you might expect. It is a place where you can feel very lonely. The one time Henry and I visited, I was filled with _____ (*feelings of pity*) for the children.
3. The story was a(n) _____ (*heroic*) tale of a woman pioneer who had crossed the country and experienced great hardship. When she arrived at the home of her sister and brother-in-law, she found only a few starving animals and a(n) _____ (*abandoned*) shack. She drove the old wagon twenty miles back to town, where she learned that every member of the family had died during the _____ (*plague*). She had come too late to help!
4. A person who is in great pain may _____ (*twist*) in agony. When a person hasn't had enough to eat or is feverish, they may walk unsteadily, or _____ (*reel from side to side; walk with a faltering step; sway*). Obviously, it takes a(n) _____ (*experienced*) doctor or physician's assistant to recognize and treat the symptoms of illness.
5. After the heavy rain, the _____ (*abundance*) of flowers was glorious!

Name _____

Learning the Words

Child Pioneer has thirteen listed vocabulary words. Will you remember what they mean? Will you remember how to spell them? Some of these words are very difficult to get a sense of.

From the list below, pick six words. For each of your words,

1. give the part of speech (noun, verb, adjective) *as the word is used in your textbook*;
2. give the definition from your dictionary—for that part of speech; and
3. use the word in a sentence. Have your dictionary open when you begin the exercise.

aloof	brutal	derelict	gleaned	pestilence	seasoned	writhes
barren	clouted	epic	pathos	profusion	staggering	

1. Word _____ Part of speech _____
 Definition _____
 Sentence _____

2. Word _____ Part of speech _____
 Definition _____
 Sentence _____

3. Word _____ Part of speech _____
 Definition _____
 Sentence _____

4. Word _____ Part of speech _____
 Definition _____
 Sentence _____

5. Word _____ Part of speech _____
 Definition _____
 Sentence _____

6. Word _____ Part of speech _____
 Definition _____
 Sentence _____

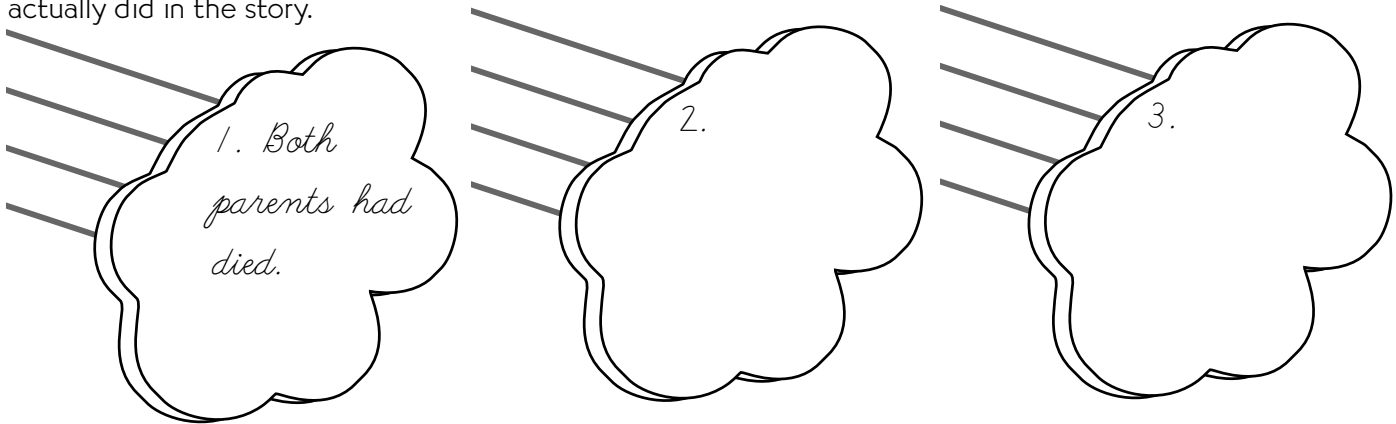
MORE ABOUT THE STORY

Writing Activity

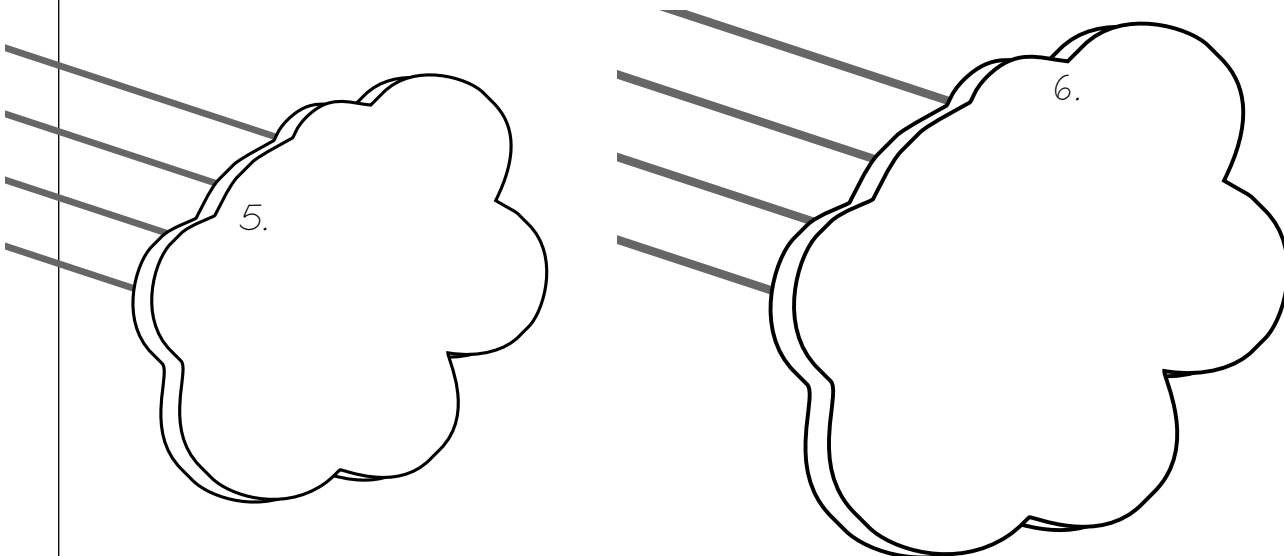
Pick one of the events or episodes in *Child Pioneer*, and write a journal entry of several paragraphs for John, Francis, or the eight-year-old sister. Remember to use the first-person voice ("I"). Give your entry a date, and if you can, a location.

Young John Sager is one of those rare human beings who are so determined, so clear-minded about their goal, that nothing short of death can stop them. Throughout the story, one valid reason after another to abandon the journey presents itself to John. Yet, he never wavers in his determination to reach the Columbia Valley.

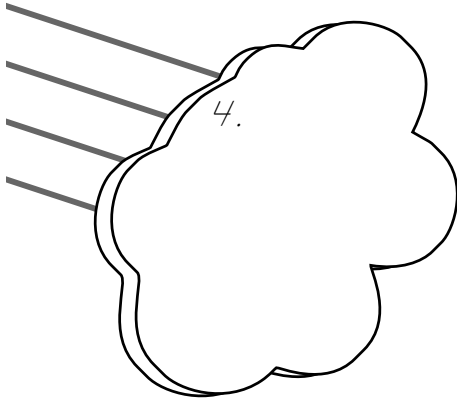
In the diagram on these two pages, we have likened John Sager's spirit to a straight arrow. We have likened all the reasons to turn back to gusts of wind, trying to blow the arrow off course. On the gusts of wind write the reason John might have turned back. In the arrow you will find what he actually did in the story.



1. The Sager orphans stay with the caravan until it reaches Fort Hall.	2. John decided to go on to the Columbia River.	3. John and the children cross the Snake River Valley.	4. John leaves Fort Boise, taking the baby with him.	5. The children cross the Blue Mountain with no guides.	
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Name _____



6. The children begin the last lap of their journey.

7. The baby is revived.

8. John and all his siblings make a home for the Sager family.

