

YOUR NAME: _____

Welcome Incoming Sixth Grade Students!

In order for you to properly prepare for upcoming Literacy instruction you *must* complete the activities contained in this packet. Reading Comprehension Activities are based off of two required novels:

Hatchet, written by Gary Paulsen

Walk Two Moons, written by Sharon Creech

You will be expected to turn in this packet in the second week of school! Make sure to read each novel carefully, and put great effort into each activity. This packet will be graded and contribute towards your first marking period grade!

Pablo Casals Middle School Welcomes You!!!

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VOCABULARY STUDY FOR HATCHET

Complete the following tables using the novel Hatchet.

Chapter, Page Word	Quote from Text	Definition
Chapter 2, Page 14 Turbulence		
Chapter 3, Page 26 Altitude		
Chapter 4, Page 36 Horde		
Chapter 5, Page 44 Murky		
Chapter 6, Page 58 Pulverize		
Chapter 7, Page 67 Jolt		
Chapter 8, Page 86 Imbed		

Chapter 9, Page 90 Reposition		
Chapter 10, Page 97 Intervals		
Chapter 11, Page 107 Gnarled		
Chapter 12, Page 115 Persistent		
Chapter 15, Page 142 Stabilize		
Chapter 16, Page 159 Intact		
Chapter 18, Page 174 Frenzied		
Chapter 19, Page 185 Butane		

READING COMPREHENSION OF HATCHET



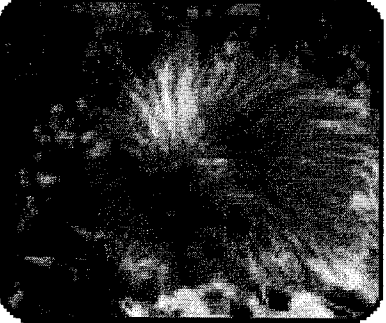
Part 1:

How does Paulsen's word choice make the reader feel about the Brian's experience as he flies the plane, crash lands in the lake, and come to on the banks of the lake? Cite examples from *Hatchet* to support your answer. Use the chart below to organize your thoughts before writing your response.

Passage from the Text	Meaning

Part 2:

The illustrations in the chart below are clues to some of the problems that Brian faced in Chapters 7-8. Fill in the chart to explain the problem. Beside each problem, write how Brian reacted to the situation or solved the problem.

Picture	Problem	Solution
 Berries		
 Wild Bear		
 Porcupine		

Part 3:

Read the following excerpt from Chapter 10 of Hatchet.

“He smiled. City boy, he thought. Oh, you city boy with your city ways—he made a mirror in his mind, a mirror of himself, and saw how he must look. City boy with your city ways sitting in the sand trying to read the tracks and not knowing, not understanding.”

When Brian studies the turtle tracks he compares his life in the city to his life now in the wilderness. Compare Brian’s “two worlds.” How is the setting important in this story? Use details and information from the story to support your answer.

City Life:

Wilderness:

Part 4:

Compare Brian to how he was at the beginning of Hatchet to how he has grown and matured at this stage in the story. Use examples the book as evidence to support your answer. After listing three traits for each time period on the chart. Determine the biggest change. Write a paragraph to describe their biggest change below the chart using the details from the chart.

Brian in the Beginning:	Brian in the End:
Character Trait: Evidence:	Character Trait: Evidence:
Character Trait: Evidence:	Character Trait: Evidence:
Character Trait: Evidence:	Character Trait: Evidence:

Characterization Paragraph:

READING INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Part 1:

Directions: Reading a text closely is important for making sure you understand what you read! When you read the following article, make sure to:

- 1) Circle all unknown words – then find their meaning from the dictionary
- 2) Underline important information
- 3) Answer all questions in **COMPLETE** sentences. Use **DETAILS** from the article to answer the questions

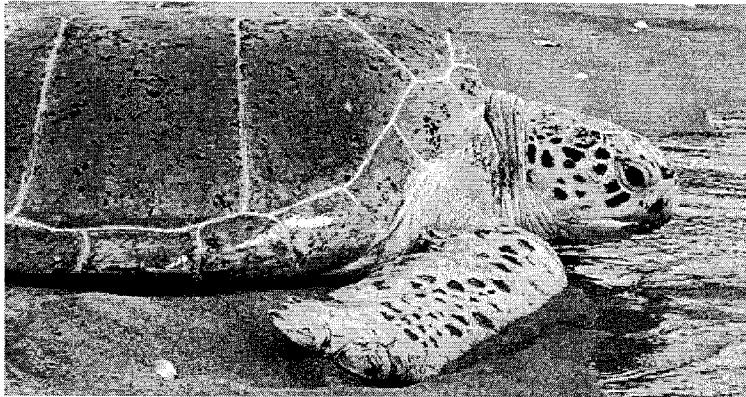
SCIENCE – TIME FOR KIDS

A Tough Turtle

A green sea turtle is nursed back to health and released into the ocean.

AUGUST 05, 2011

By Liz Sawyer



MANUEL RUEDA—REUTERS

Andre, a green sea turtle who was badly injured last year, is back at sea.

After a year of medical operations and rehab, animal doctors released a green sea turtle who had been badly injured back into the wild on Wednesday. They hope that the 177-pound turtle, named Andre, will now find a mate and help his endangered species survive.

- 1) *Who is Andre? Why is his survival important?*

"He has overcome obstacles, predators, food scarcities, cold winters—any number of things that may have ended his life—and he has survived," said Dr. Nancy Mettee. She is a veterinarian at Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach, Florida, who helped take care of Andre. "He's really a miracle turtle."

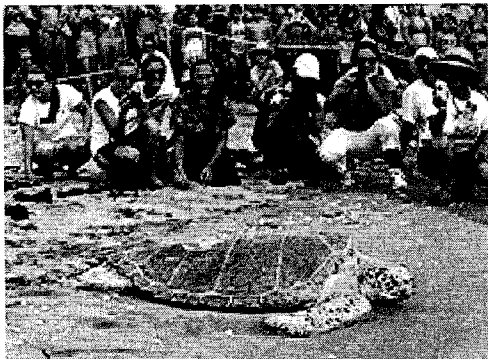
2) *Why is Andre a miracle turtle?*

Struggling to Survive

In June 2010, beachgoers found Andre split open and stranded on a sandbar. He had giant holes in his shell, caused by two different boat strikes. More than three pounds of sand were inside the turtle, along with a few crabs. He had a serious infection and a damaged lung. Andre was pulled to shore on a boogie board and his yearlong fight to survive began.

3) *What had happened to Andre when beachgoers found him?*

In order to close the large holes in his shell, orthodontist Dr. Alberto Vargas used braces similar to those used on humans. Then, doctors had to help Andre regrow some of his tissue to fill in the holes. The procedures used to heal Andre are believed to be animal firsts.



LANNIS WATERS—THE PALM BEACH POST/ZUMAPRESS.COM

A large crowd cheers as Andre, the recently healed green sea turtle, is released back into the ocean.

Andre's successful recovery has inspired people all over the world. Many watched his slow recovery on a 'round-the-clock webcam, and more than 200 people sent money to become the turtle's "honorary parents". Children sent him dozens of letters, affectionately addressed to "Andre the Turtle."

4) *"Many watched his slow recovery on a 'round-the-clock webcam, and more than 200 people sent money to become the turtle's "honorary parents"'. What is an honorary parent?"*

5) *Why do you think so many people became Andre's honorary parents? What is so inspiring about him?"*

A large crowd cheered as Andre was driven to the beach and placed on the sand, where he slowly shuffled his way into the Atlantic Ocean. Andre is thought to be around 25 years old, leaving him plenty of time to reproduce and perhaps keep the endangered species from dying out.

While Andre's fans were happy to see the turtle healthy and back in his own environment, some of his caretakers had a hard time saying goodbye. "It's just an inspiration," said 17-year-old volunteer Kelly Griffith, wiping away tears. "Every turtle is special, but he captures hearts."

6) *Why do you think the volunteers had a hard time saying goodbye to Andre? Use at least two details from the text.*

Part 2:

Directions: Reading a text closely is important for making sure you understand what you read! When you read the following article, make sure to:

- 1) Circle all unknown words – then find their meaning from the dictionary
- 2) Underline important information
- 3) Answer all questions in **COMPLETE** sentences. Use **DETAILS** from the article to answer the questions

WORLD – TIME FOR KIDS

A Miracle at the Mine

Rescue teams bring trapped miners to freedom in Chile

OCTOBER 13, 2010

By Andrea Delbanco



Tears of relief and shouts of joy rang out last week (**note: article was written in October 2010*) at the San Jose mine in northern Chile as 33 miners were lifted to freedom, one by one. The men, ranging from 19 to 63 years old, have been buried alive since a cave in the copper and gold mine they were working collapsed on August 5. It is the longest time anyone has ever survived being trapped underground.

- 1) *Why were there tears of relief at the San Jose mine?*

Buried Alive

After the collapse, the men found an emergency shelter off one of the mine's tunnels. The temperature in the dark shelter was around 90°F. For more than two weeks, the miners' water came from the radiator tanks on their work vehicles. They shared a supply of food that was meant to last for only 48 hours.

The miners were totally isolated until rescue teams made contact with the men on August 22. They sent a note to the surface explaining their situation. Rescuers drilled small holes to reach the cavern and sent down supply tubes containing food, water, clothes, medicine, fresh air and other supplies. They also received letters from their families, a television set and games.

2) *How did the miners stay alive?*

A Complicated Rescue

Additional collapses slowed down rescue efforts. Finally, a tunnel was built that could fit a 13-foot rescue capsule, called the Phoenix. The escape hole measures 28 inches across, a tight fit for the twisting 20-minute, 2,041-foot ride. The first miner reached the surface just after midnight on Wednesday. The rescue mission was faster than expected, and all 33 men had been brought to safety by late the same day.

3) *How were the miners finally rescued? What can we assume about the rescue team, since the rescue mission was faster than expected? Use at least two details from the article.*

The miners were met by family members who were waiting at Camp Hope, a settlement of tents near the mine. Chile's president, Sebastián Piñera, cheered at the scene and hugged the miners. "We made a promise never to surrender, and we kept it," he said. After an immediate medical exam, the men were air-lifted to the nearest hospital for 48 hours of observation.

4) *Why did Chile's president make a promise to never surrender? How might this have kept the miners' families hopeful? Use at least two details from the article.*

READING COMPREHENSION OF WALK TWO MOONS

Answer the following questions as you read the novel *Walk Two Moons*. Write in complete sentences. Use details from the text to support your answers.

1. Why doesn't Sal like her new home in Euclid, Ohio? How is it different from her former home in Kentucky?

2. If you had a friend who was experiencing family problems like Sal and Phoebe, how would you try to help? What kind of advice would you give your friend?

3. The title of the book comes from one of the mysterious messages Phoebe finds: "Never judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins." In your own words, what does this message mean? Who in the story learns this lesson?

4. Imagine the Winterbottom family, including Mike, five years after the book has ended. How has the family changed? Has Phoebe learned to accept Mike? Is the Winterbottom's marriage different? Is Mrs. Winterbottom much happier now?

5. As the story progresses, we gradually learn about Sal's mother's story. Putting all the pieces of the story together, explain why Sugar Hiddle left her family. What thoughts and feelings do you think she was experiencing at the time she left?

POETRY INTERPRETATION

The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls

The tide rises, the tide falls,
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;
Along the sea-sands damp and brown
The traveller hastens toward the town,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

Darkness settles on roofs and walls,
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,
Efface the footprints in the sands,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls
Stamp and neigh as the hostler calls;
The day returns, but nevermore
returns the traveller to the shore,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807 - 1882)

Poetry Comprehension Questions:

1. What phrases repeat in the poem? Why do you think the writer chose to do this?

2. Where does the traveller come from, and where does he seem to go?

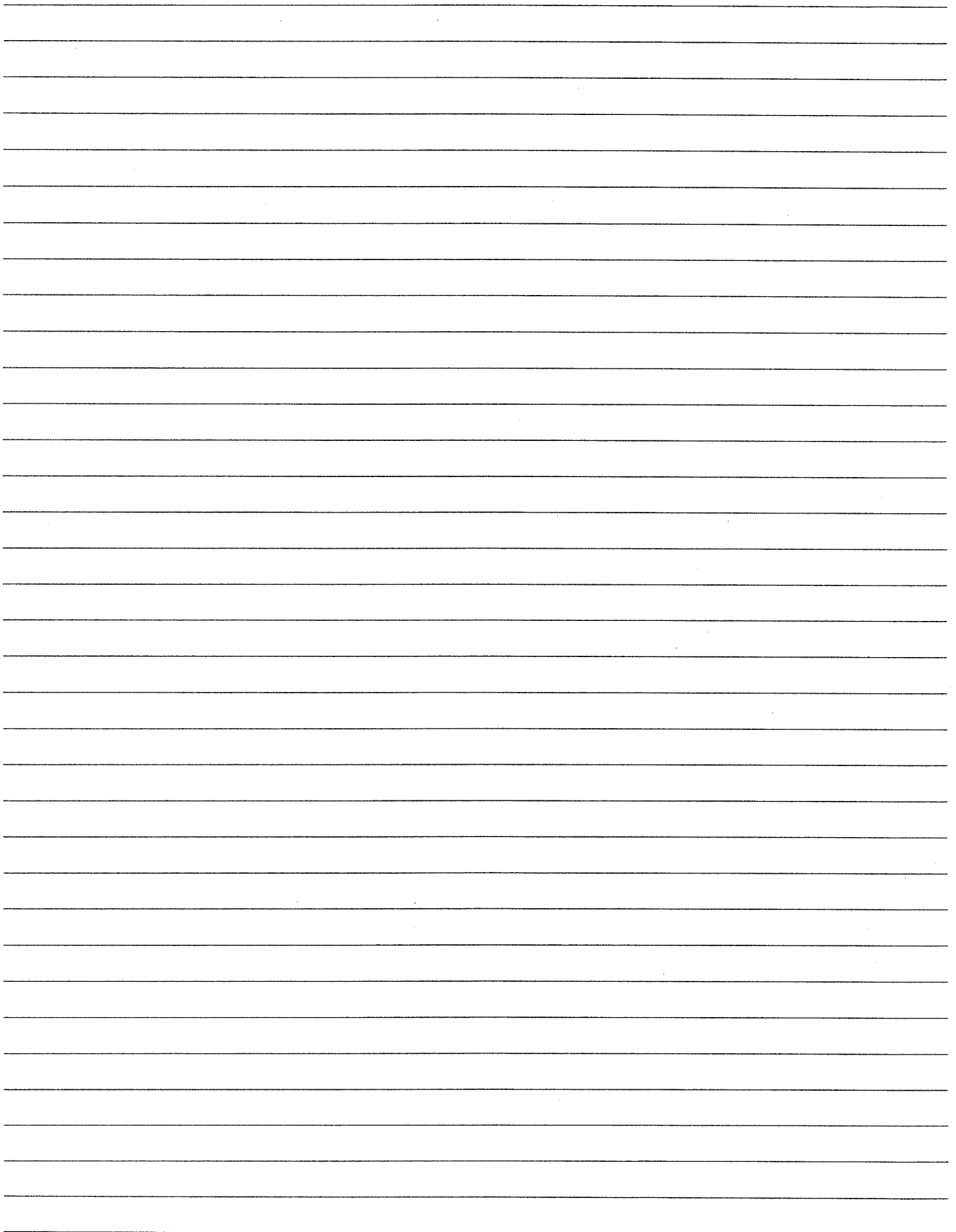
3. Define the word efface. What does it mean when the author writes, "The little waves...Efface the footprints in the sands."

4. Why do you think the traveller does not return to the shore?

CONNECTING NOVELS AND POETRY

Write an essay that includes the following task:

- Read Longfellow's "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls" at least twice.
- State the central message of the poem.
- State how the message and details of the poem are connected to Walk Two Moons.
- State how the message and details of the poem are connected to Hatchet.
- Support your claims with evidence from each book.
- Your essay must include a proper beginning, middle, and end.



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