

Thank You Ma'am

FICTION SELECTION
Unit 1, Part 1, Grade 7

Preparing to Read

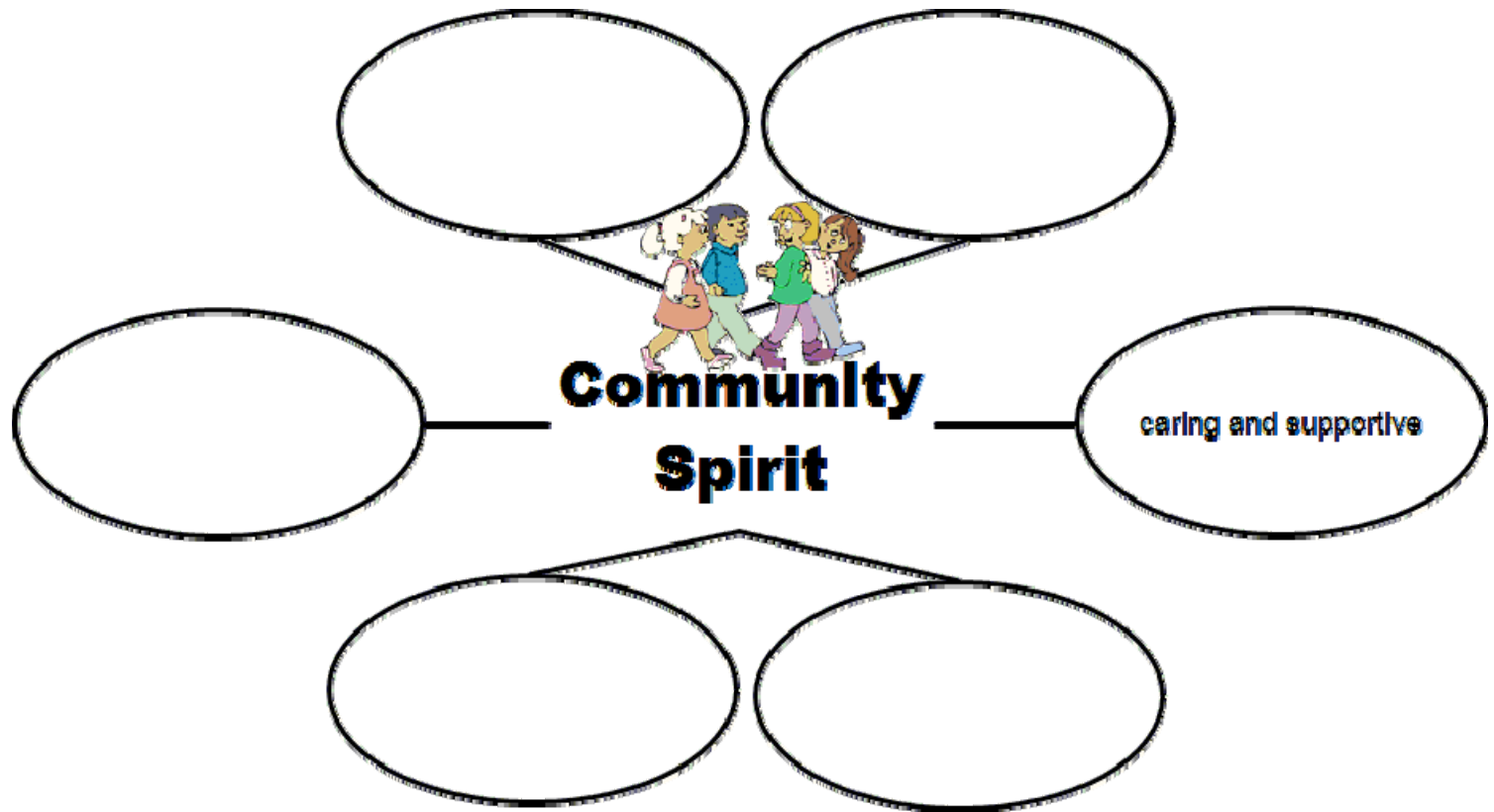
Connect to Your Life

- An African proverb says, “It takes two parents to produce a child, but it takes an entire village to raise the child.”
- What values do you associate with community spirit?



Preparing to Read

Connect to Your Life



Download this graphic organizer at www.curriculumcompanion.org

Preparing to Read

Build Background

- “Thank You Ma’am” takes place in the late 1950’s in Harlem, New York.
- During this time, Harlem attracted a community of African-American musicians, artists, and writers, including Langston Hughes.



Preparing to Read

Words to Know

- barren
- frail
- mistrust
- presentable
- suede

Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

- The action of the **plot** is usually set in motion by a **central conflict**, or struggle between opposing forces.
- A character's struggle against an outside force is called an **external conflict**.
- A struggle within a character is an **internal struggle**.
- Look for both types in this selection.

Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

Events in stories are often related as **cause and effect**.

- One event brings about another.
- Cause-effect relationships are often signaled by words such as *because*, *since*, *thus*, *therefore*, *so*, and *as a result*.

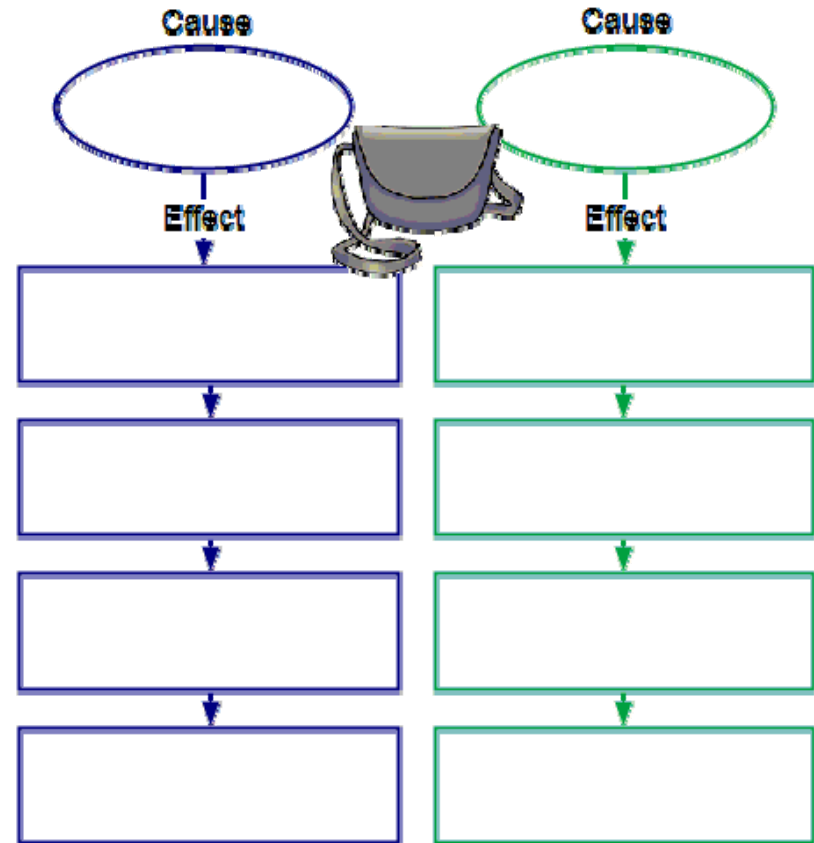


Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

Reader's Notebook:

- As you read, try to connect the major events in a series of causes and effect.
- Record these in a diagram.



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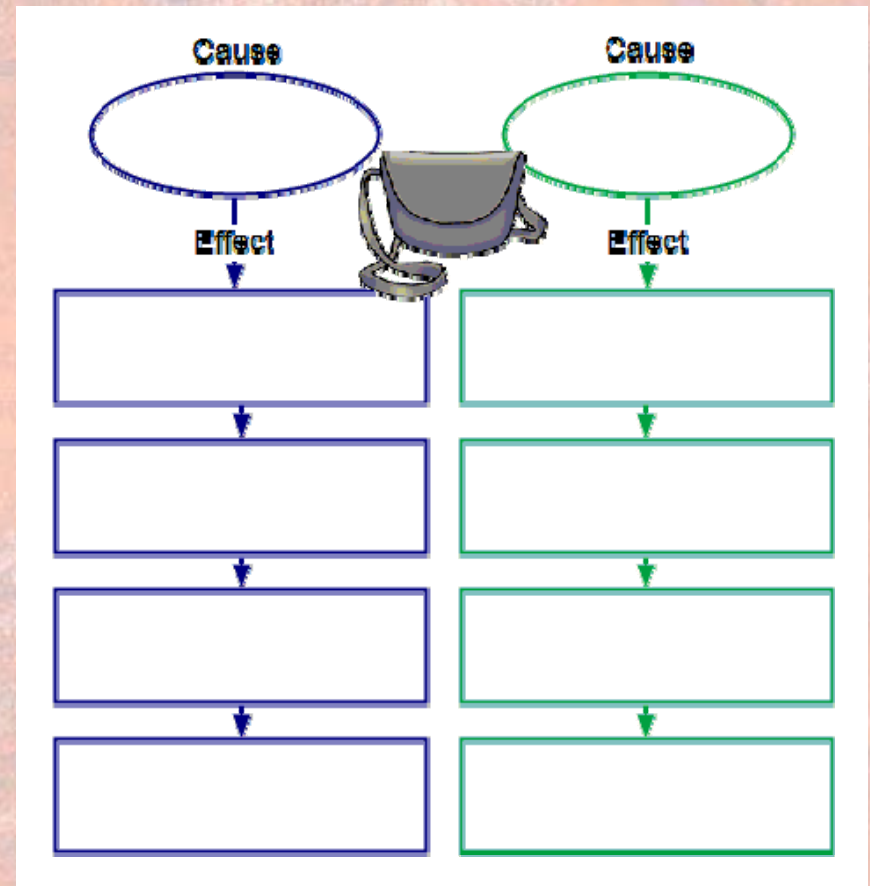
Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

Conflict

- What is the conflict that begins the action of the story?
- Is this conflict internal or external?
- Look for other conflicts as you read and identify them as internal or external.

Reading and Analyzing Active Reading

- Cause and Effect
- Record the first event in your cause-effect chart.
- Why is this event unexpected to the boy?



Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

- Why do you think the author chose to have the woman say, “You a lie!”?
- How does this dialogue enhance your understanding of the woman’s character?



Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

- What types of conflict is Roger experiencing?
- How does he resolve his internal conflict?
- What additional characteristics of Mrs. Jones are revealed by her words?

Reading and Analyzing

Active Reading

- Why does Roger sit so that Mrs. Jones can see him?
- What do you think Roger might have wanted to say Mrs. Jones?

