


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.



Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.

Preparing to Read
Words to Know

- barren
- frail
- mistrust
- presentable
- suede

Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.


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.

Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.

Preparing to Read
Focus Your Reading

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



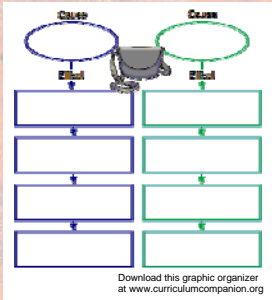
- One event brings about another.
- Cause-effect relationships are often signaled by words such as *because, since, thus, therefore, so, and as a result.*

Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.

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.



Download this graphic organizer at www.curriculumcompanion.org

Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.

Reading and Analyzing
Literary Analysis

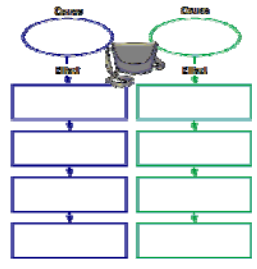
Conflict

- 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.

Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.

**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?




The diagram shows a central image of a boy with a bucket on his head. To the left, a blue circle labeled 'Cause' is connected to a blue box labeled 'Effect'. To the right, a green circle labeled 'Cause' is connected to a green box labeled 'Effect'. Below each 'Effect' box are three more empty boxes, with arrows pointing downwards between them, indicating a sequence of events.

Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.

**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?



A photograph of a woman sitting on a chair, wearing a patterned, long-sleeved dress and a headwrap.

Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.


**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?

Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.

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?



Copyright © 2007 Sacramento County Office of Education
Some images used under license from Shutterstock, Inc.
