

Name _____

plumes

meaningful

barren

expression

Finish each sentence using the vocabulary word provided.

1. (plumes) At the zoo our class _____

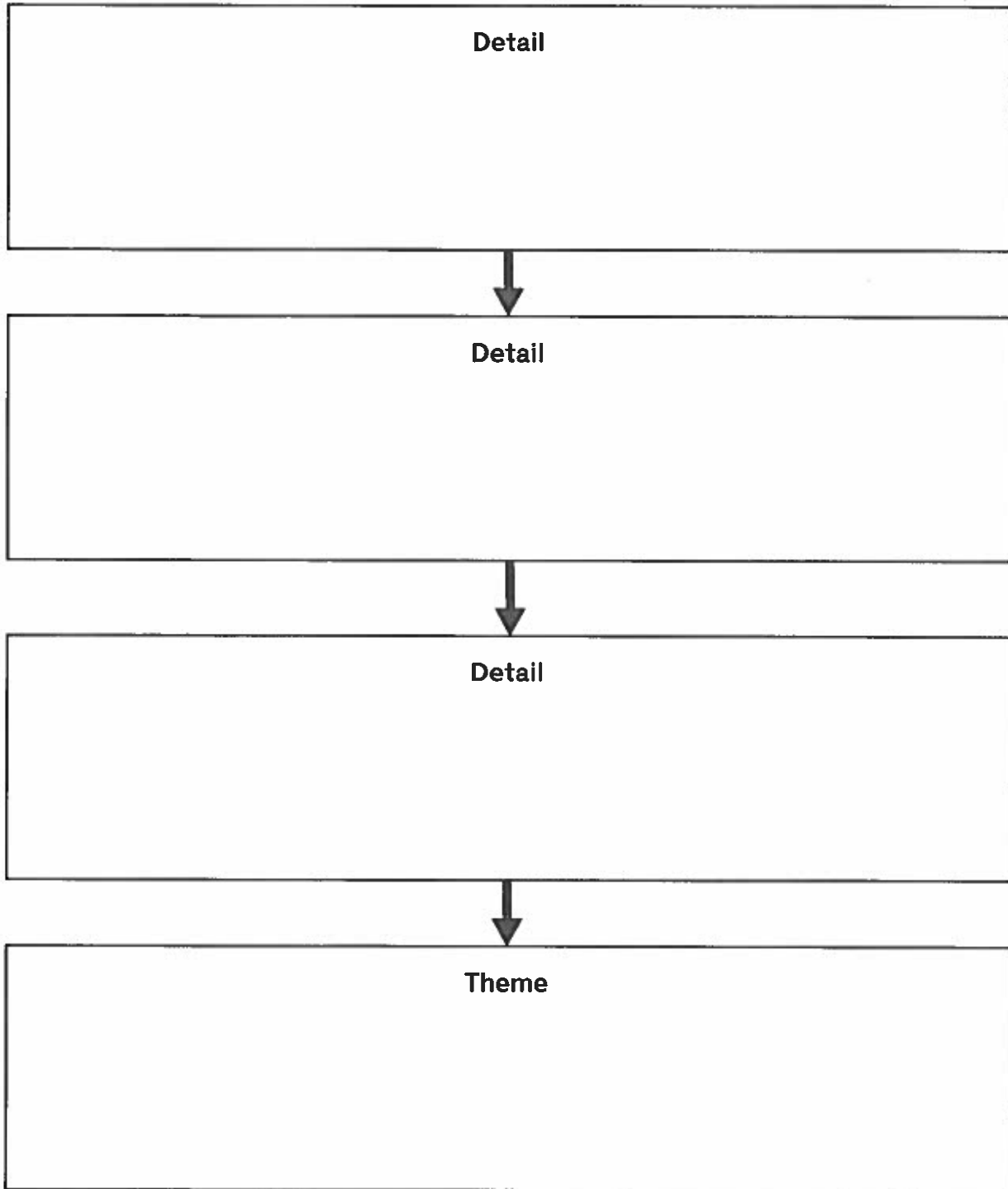
2. (barren) The desert land was _____

3. (meaningful) The old letter from her father was _____

4. (expression) In his notebook _____

Name _____

Read the selection. Complete the theme graphic organizer.



Name _____

Read the passage. As you read, check your understanding by asking yourself what theme or message the author wants to convey.

Grandpa's Shed

My grandpa is a mountain,
5 Brooding, looming, tall.
8 I stand in his shadow, silent as a stone.
17 Rattling rusty paint cans,
21 He gestures toward the shed. I gape.
28 That shed's a squat gray mushroom,
34 Needing more than paint to fix.

40 The old man's hands are vises,
46 Prying open paint cans lightning fast.
52 Astonished, awed, I gasp aloud,
57 "Red, yellow, green—and PURPLE!"
62 My words explode like fireworks.
67 Anticipating anger,
69 my mouth shuts like a trap.

75 Grandpa merely dips his brush,
80 Paints a horse and hound.
85 "The horse I harnessed as a boy,
92 Dog was mine too."

96 Impulse strikes—a flash of fire.
102 I seize a brush,
106 Soon swishing, swirling pictures.
110 With each stroke, a story,
115 My words painting pictures.
119 We share that shed like one vast canvas,
127 His strokes to mine, my words to his.
135 We step back, gazing at stories told.

Name _____

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. What key details in the poem describe events that happened?

2. What key details tell you about the speaker's feelings?

3. What is the theme, or important message, of the poem?

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to expression and phrasing. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

	Words Read	-	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		-		=	
Second Read		-		=	

Name _____

Climbing a Hill

Hiking is like a roller coaster.
It's not just one long climb
and then the ride is over.

The dizzying drop after that first
climb sets in motion a wild journey—
bends, curves, smaller hills
that take me by surprise.

I don't want the ride—the climb—
to ever end. All too soon, the coaster
car glides to a stop, like loping down
that last stretch of steep hill.

A sense of accomplishment
dares me to climb again.



Answer the questions about the text.

1. How do you know this is free verse poetry?

2. How is the text arranged on the page?

3. What other literary elements are used in the text?

4. What feelings does the speaker express?

Name _____

Meter, or rhythm, is a repeating pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables.

Stanzas are groups of lines in a poem that express a key idea.

Read the lines of the free verse poem below. Then answer the questions.

Grandpa's Shed

My grandpa is a mountain,
 Brooding, looming, tall.
I stand in his shadow, silent as a stone.
Rattling rusty paint cans,
 He gestures toward the shed. I gape.
That shed's a squat gray mushroom,
 Needing more than paint to fix.

1. What is the key idea of this stanza?

2. What syllables are stressed in the first three lines of this stanza?

3. Write another stanza for this poem that uses irregular meter.

Name _____

Read each passage. Underline the similes and metaphors. Then explain the author's meaning in your own words.

1. My grandpa is a mountain, / Brooding, looming, tall.

2. I stand in his shadow, silent as a stone.

3. That shed's a squat gray mushroom,

4. The old man's hands are vises, / Prying open paint cans lightning fast.

5. My words explode like fireworks.

6. Anticipating anger, my mouth shuts like a trap.

7. We share the shed like one vast canvas

Name _____

The suffixes *-ance* and *-ence* can mean "an action or act" or "the state of." Read each sentence and write the word that has the suffix *-ance* or *-ence*. Use what you know about the meaning of the suffix to write the meaning of the word.

1. The people in attendance cheered when their team scored the winning goal.

2. My brother and sister enjoyed the choir performance last weekend.

3. Our dependence on electricity is fueling a search for new types of energy.

4. The barking dogs created quite a disturbance in the neighborhood.

5. The sudden appearance of the fox startled us.

6. A good leader should have the ability to inspire confidence and trust.

7. Their idea to create a new park on the empty lot was met with great resistance.

8. It will take persistence to achieve your physical fitness goals.

Name _____

Esther wrote the poem below and studied the language in “Words Free as Confetti,” “Dreams,” and “A Story of How a Wall Stands” to respond to the prompt: *Write a free-verse poem about a favorite activity that you do in your spare time.*

Saturday afternoon, my favorite time is here.
Soon there will be tasty happiness.
Just Mom and I baking
Chewy, chunky, chocolate chip cookies!

We mix and stir and pour.
We laugh and stir some more.
Putting drops of dough on the sheet,
The oven’s ready, can’t miss a beat.

The kitchen is warm and cozy,
Cookies, gooey and sweet.
We keep checking every minute.
What a terrific tasty treat!

Reread the passage. Follow the directions below.

1. Circle the sensory language Esther used to describe the poem’s setting.
2. Draw a box around the stanza that has no set patterns in it.
3. Underline one example of alliteration that Esther included.
4. Write two of the homophones found in the first stanza of Esther’s poem.
