



SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS

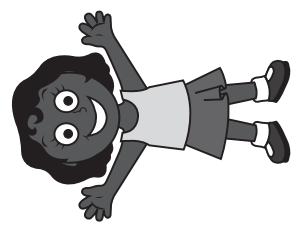
The Purcell Register

5th Grade

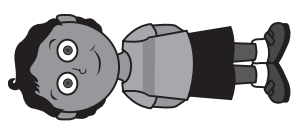
Name: _____ Date: _____

Read & Compare Character Traits

Directions: Read about the two characters below. Highlight words and phrases that show their external and internal traits. Then, compare them using the double bubble chart on the next page.



Sasha is a 10-year-old girl. She is in fifth grade at Northgate Elementary School. Sasha has short, curly hair and brown eyes. Sasha has lots of friends at school. She is always very talkative and sometimes it gets her in trouble in class. But she is a smart student and a kind classmate, so she is never in trouble for long. Her teacher understands that she is just being friendly. Today in class, Sasha's teacher, Ms. Hammond gave a math test. Sasha felt confident that she did well on the test. Math is her favorite subject. She took the test quickly and then started talking to her friend, Gabby. "Shhh!" Ms. Hammond scolded. After school, Sasha always goes to her parents' restaurant. She tries to be helpful since her parents are very busy. Usually she sweeps the floors and fills ketchup containers. Finally, when it's time for dinner, Sasha gets to pick something from the menu. Her favorite thing to eat at the restaurant is wat with injera, which is a type of stew served with bread.



Anil is a fifth grader at Northgate Elementary. He'll be turning 11 next month. Anil has curly, black hair and hazel eyes. Anil is very quiet in class, but he enjoys talking with his best friend, Grant, during recess. Some people think that Anil is unfriendly, but Grant knows that he is just shy. Today Anil took a math test in class. He felt very nervous. Even though he is a smart kid, he doesn't like math very much. He prefers to read and write. In fact, Anil hopes to be an author one day so he can write books of his own. After school, Anil has piano lessons. He is a very talented musician. Then, he goes home to babysit his little brother and sister. His dad works at night, so Anil has to be helpful around the house. When his mom gets home, he helps make dinner. Tonight they are having kibbeh, which is made from meat, grains, and spices.

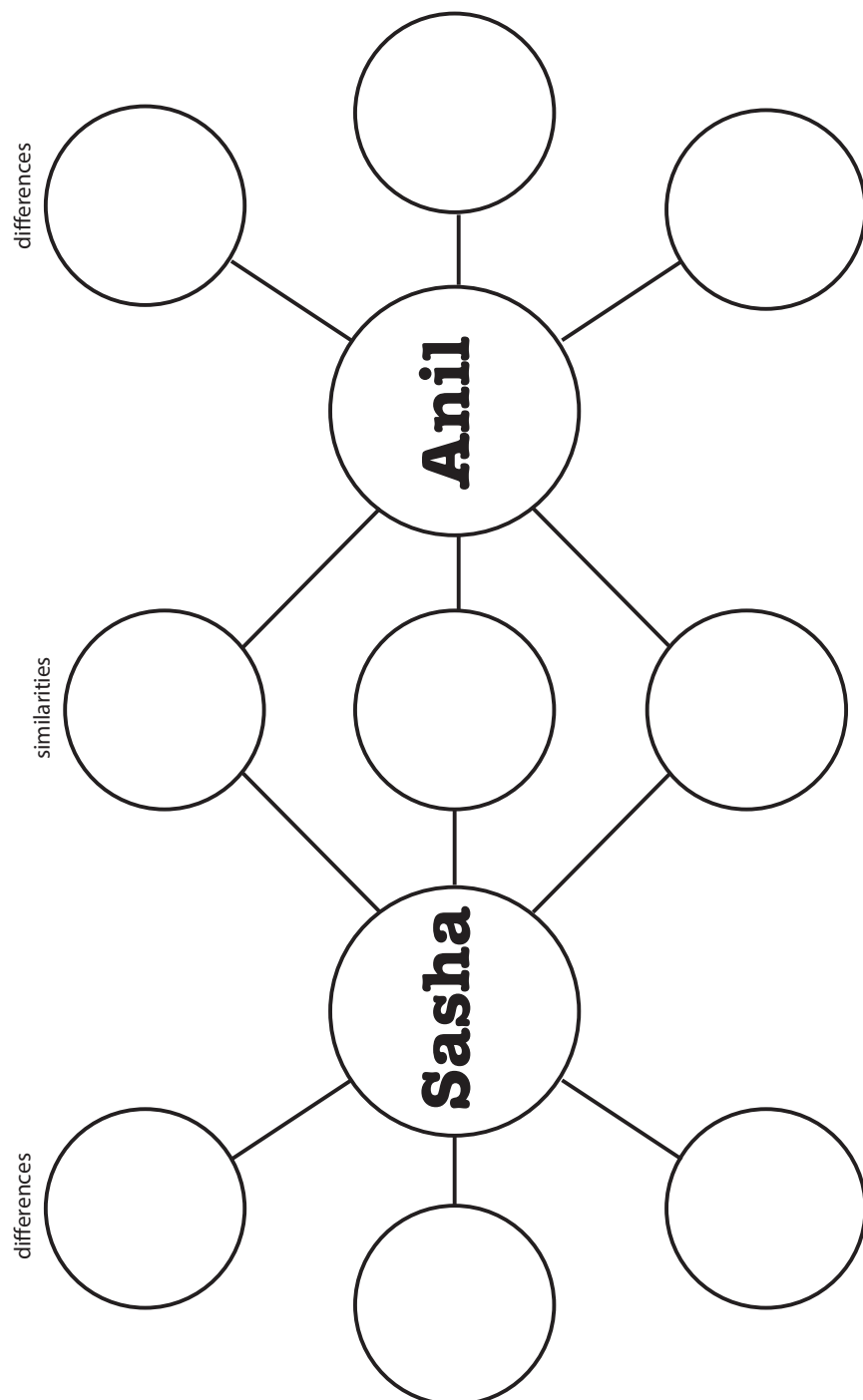
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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read & Compare Character Traits

Directions: List three traits Sasha and Anil have in common and three traits that are unique to each character.



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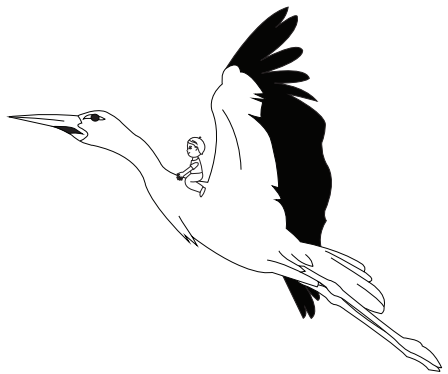
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Making Inferences in a Fictional Text

An **inference** is a conclusion you come to based on reasoning and evidence within a text. Making an inference requires using both information from the text and your background knowledge. Read the passage below and answer the inference questions that follow.

clues in text + what you know = inference

The Hazelnut Child



Once upon a time, before the continent of Europe was given that name, there lived a couple who had no children. They wished every day for a child, even if he were no bigger than a hazelnut. At last, their wish was granted, and they had a child who was the size of a hazelnut, just as they had said. They loved the child very much and they took excellent care of him. When the hazelnut child turned fifteen, his parents asked what he would become, now that he was of an age to work. "I would like to be a messenger," said the child. His mother laughed and asked, "How can you possibly be a messenger? Your tiny feet would take an hour to carry you the distance anyone else could cover in a minute." "Give me a message to carry," said the boy, "and see how quickly I return." So his mother told him to go the house of his aunt in the neighboring village and bring back a comb. "I'll be back before you know," said the boy. His mother held the front door open for her son, and off he went on his journey. He found a man on horseback who was headed for the next town. The boy **crept** up the horse's leg, crawled under the saddle, and began to pinch the horse's back. Rearing up, the horse took off at breakneck speed and wouldn't slow down, no matter how hard the rider pulled at its reins. When they reached the neighboring village, the hazelnut child quit pinching the horse, and it slowed enough that the boy was able to climb back down its leg. His aunt was delighted to see him and gave him the comb he asked for. The hazelnut child returned home on the back of another horse and presented his mother with the comb. "But how did you get home so quickly?" she asked. He did not answer her question, but only said, "You see, I told you messenger was the **profession** for me." Using his newfound skill, the hazelnut child hitched a ride on a stork that was heading south for the winter and landed in a faraway country. There, he met the king, who was **astounded** by this tiny creature who rode storks as if they were horses. The king was so taken with the hazelnut child that he gave the boy a diamond bigger than himself. The boy hitched the diamond to his stork and flew home, and he and his parents lived in peace and **prosperity** for the rest of their lives.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Making Inferences in a Fictional Text

Defining Key Vocabulary

Directions: Use context clues to match each vocabulary word to its definition.

- crept** a paid occupation or job
- profession** wealth or good fortune
- astounded** moved slowly and quietly to avoid being noticed
- prosperity** greatly surprised or impressed

Making Inferences

Directions: Complete the chart by writing a quote from the text (on the left) or an inference you can make (on the right).

	The text states...	This most likely means...
1	"They wished every day for a child, even if he were no bigger than a hazelnut."	What can you infer about the couple who later became the hazelnut child's parents? _____ _____ _____
2	Write a quote from the story that supports this inference. _____ _____ _____	The hazelnut child was determined to prove that he could accomplish his goals, despite his small size.
3	"The king was so taken with the hazelnut child that he gave the boy a diamond bigger than himself."	What can you infer about the king? _____ _____ _____