

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Work Packet

Week of March 8-12, 2021

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please do not begin any assignments until  
instructed by Ms. Eggink.\*



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

BCCSG \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_

1. The Most Beautiful Roof in the World is told in \_\_\_\_\_ person.

I know this because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How does the point of view of the book impact you as a reader? What do you gain? Lack?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

3. Write about Meg Lowman's research from the perspective on one of her sons.

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## "Bite at Night"

I was having a dream about working on the inflatable raft in the afternoon heat. I was floating above the rainforest canopy, attached by my harness, and I was sampling leaves on the emergent layer. I was just reaching for another leaf when suddenly there was a loud bang. I woke up with a start and sat up suddenly, my heart pounding. It was pitch black as I looked around, and I couldn't figure out where I was or what I was doing there. It took me a few moments to realize that I wasn't on the inflatable raft after all. I was in my tent, it was the middle of the night, and a loud noise had woken me up. I could still hear the rustling of something moving around nearby. "Calm down, you silly thing," I said to myself, "it's only a creature foraging for a midnight snack!"

I lay back again and spent the next thirty minutes tossing and turning, trying to get back to sleep. Eventually, I determined that to go back to sleep, I needed first to visit the bathroom. The bathroom was in an outhouse a short walk from my tent. One thing I always worried about when walking around in Cameroon, particularly in the dark, was the Gabon viper, one of West Africa's deadliest snakes. I knew that at least one of those venomous snakes slept under the platform of my tent, and I certainly didn't want to run into one of them at night.

Quickly, I threw on some clothes and started walking toward the outhouse, listening intently for the sound of a snake slithering through foliage toward me. Clumsy from sleep, I caught my foot on something and nearly fell to my knees. I didn't want to put my hands on the ground, for fear of touching something sinister. I managed to save myself without touching anything and muttered under my breath, "Yikes! For goodness sake, woman, be more careful." I was wide awake now and chastised myself for not bringing my flashlight.

A few steps later, I could just make out the outline of the outhouse about 100 feet away, exposed by the rays of moonlight that were penetrating the gaps in the dense canopy. I relaxed a little to know I was nearly there.

Suddenly, I felt a sharp, searing, bite-like pain on my right ankle. "Ouch! What was that?" I gasped with surprise. I was reaching down to try to touch it when I felt it again, this time in a different spot further down my foot. In a matter of milliseconds, my entire lower leg and foot felt as though they were on fire. It felt like a thousand burning-hot needles

were repeatedly being stabbed into my skin. Then it started on the other leg too. Very quickly, the pain was so intense that I couldn't think about anything else. The pain consumed me. I forgot that it was the middle of the night and everyone else in the camp would be sleeping. I started to jump up and down, hopping from one foot to the other. "Oh my goodness, owwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww!" I screamed. "Owwwwwwwwwwww, owwwwwwwwwwww, owwwwwwwwwwww!"

After the initial shock, I began to regain my senses and became aware of the noise of people in the camp waking up and calling out to one another, "Oh no! It sounds like she's been bitten by the Gabon viper. This could be bad!" I heard the footsteps of people running toward me and saw lights flicking on and getting brighter as they approached. I caught glimpses of concerned faces in the flashlight beams.

Even though I was in a lot of pain, I realized that I needed to alleviate their concerns immediately. "Calm down, everyone," I shouted. "It's nothing to worry about. I stumbled into a battalion of army ants who are eating me alive. I was startled and it hurts, but I'm going to be all right."

I heard the grunts of displeasure as they all understood that I had awakened them for no reason, and most people started to head back to their tents. Someone loaned me a flashlight so that I could safely make it to the outhouse and then back to my tent, where I located my first aid kit and nursed my wounds.

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Written by EL Education for instructional purposes

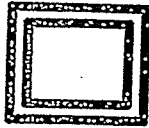


# Narrative Planning Graphic Organizer: "Bite at Night"

W.5.3, W.5.4, W.5.5

Lesson 2

Beginning



*Establish a situation.*

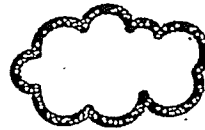
- What is happening?
  
  
  
  
- What is the setting?



*Introduce the characters.*

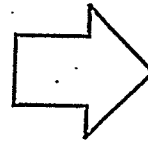
- Who is the narrator?
  
  
  
  
- What does the reader need to know about him/her?

Middle



*Describe a problem.*

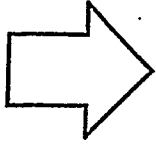
- What is the problem?



*Explain how the character(s) respond to the problem.*

- What does the **narrator** think, feel, or do when the problem occurs?
  
  
  
  
- What does he/she say?

Middle



- What do other **characters** think, feel, or do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What do they say?

End



- Provide a solution/resolution.*
- How is the problem solved/resolved?



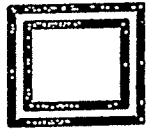
# Narrative Planning Graphic Organizer:

W.5.3, W.5.4, W.5.5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 2

Beginning



*Establish a situation.*

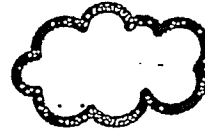
- What is happening?
  
  
  
  
- What is the setting?



*Introduce the characters.*

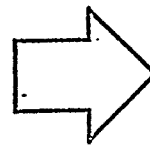
- Who is the narrator?
  
  
  
  
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Middle



*Describe a problem.*

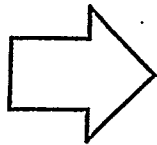
- What is the problem?



*Explain how the character(s) respond to the problem.*

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Middle



- What do other **characters** think, feel, or do?

- What do they say?

End

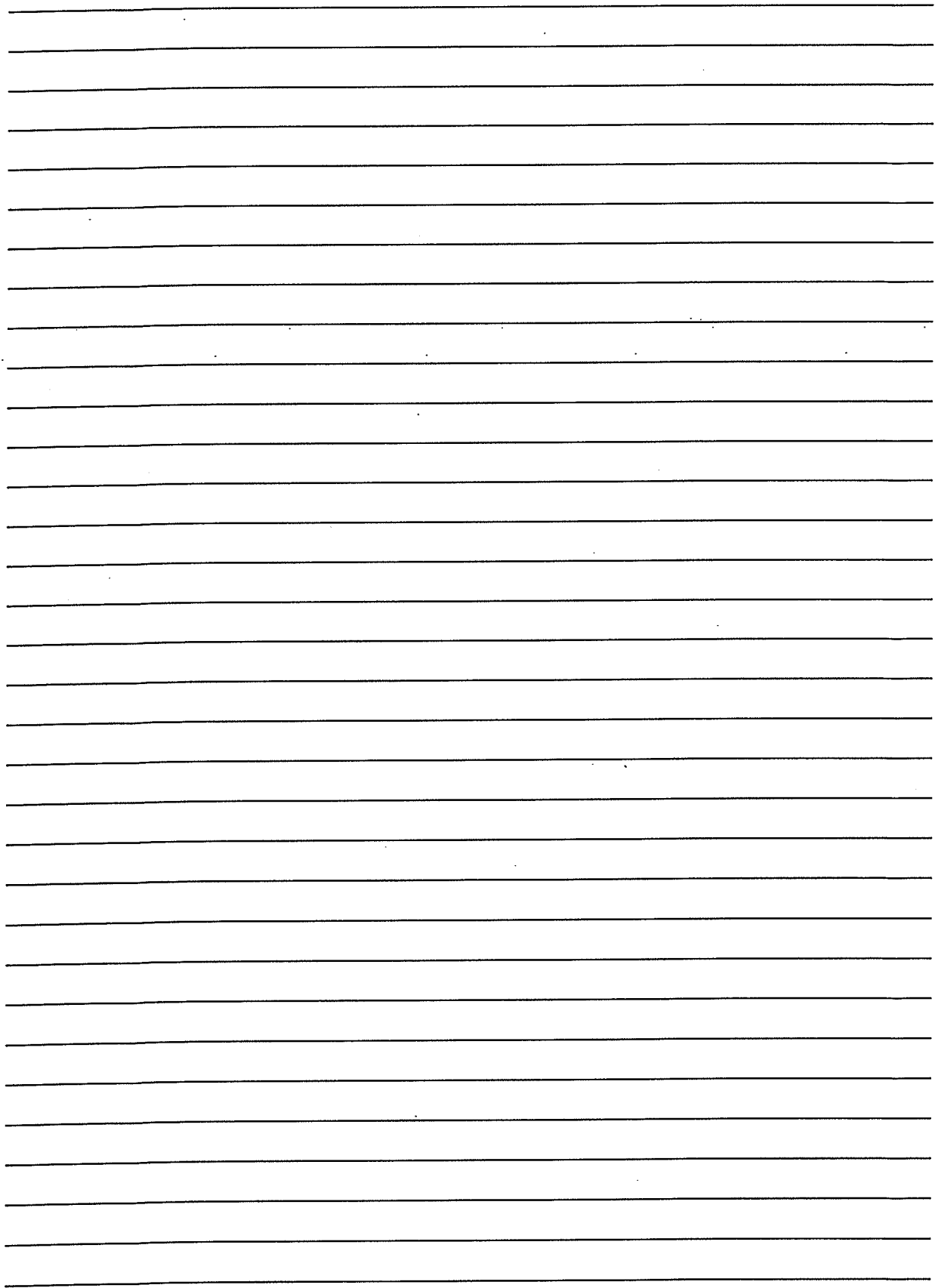


*Provide a solution/resolution.*

- How is the problem solved/resolved?

Personal Narrative: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Personal Narrative Checklist

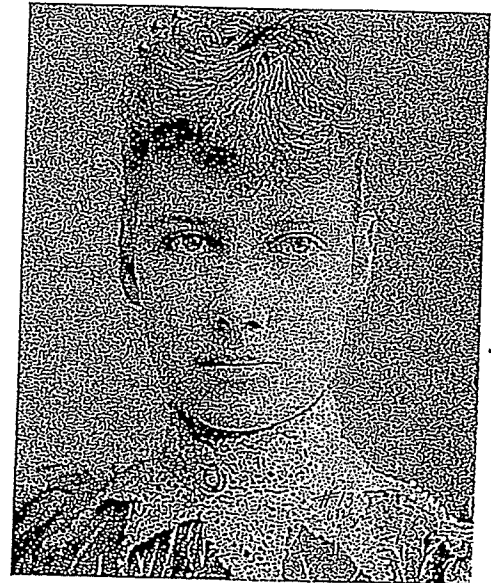
- Introduction- Hook your reader by briefly presenting your event
- Order & Sequence structure: beginning, middle and end
- 1<sup>st</sup> person POV with strong author's voice and descriptive (sensory) language
- Grammar Check: paragraphs, complete sentences, capitalization, punctuation
- Conclusion- wrap up your writing: lesson, how it changed you, why you chose to tell that story



## Nellie Bly, Investigative Reporter

Nellie Bly was born Elizabeth Jane Cochran in 1864. She grew up to become the first woman undercover reporter. When she was 18, Nellie wrote an anonymous letter to the editor of the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*. She responded to a sexist article the paper had printed. Her letter so impressed the editor that he ran an ad asking to meet her. He hired her. She took the pen name Nellie Bly and used it for the rest of her life. After a while, she grew restless. She wanted to write stories that brought about reform. So in September 1887, Nellie joined the staff of the *New York World*. Her first task? Be committed to the Women's Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell Island.

Nellie went there thinking that the people would be well-cared for. Instead she found shocking conditions. A woman could get committed to the asylum for life without proof of insanity. Nellie saw immigrants there simply because no one had met them in America and they spoke a foreign language. During her 10 grim days there, Nellie saw sane women so mistreated that they started to lose their grip on reality.



Courtesy of the Library of Congress,  
"Nellie Bly," LC-USZ62-75620

The nurses and doctors living on the island ate all the fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat. The patients had stale bread with rotten butter and weak tea. They were nearly starved. They were deliberately kept so cold that they shook most of the time. If they got sick and died, no one cared! They saw each death as making room for a new patient.

Once a week all the women in a hall took a bath in ice-cold water. The tub was filled once, and each woman dunked in it! This led to the spread of diseases and skin sores. Six combs were used on 45 women, causing head lice to spread. The "lucky" patients got to clean the place without pay, including the nurses' rooms and clothes. Others had to sit up straight for hours on benches without backs. They could not move without being punished. And the punishments were awful. Hair was yanked out by the handful. Women who cried were choked, kicked, slapped, or beaten. Others got locked in a closet. If a woman told a doctor about the mistreatment, she had her head held underwater until she almost drowned.

The editor sent a lawyer to get Nellie. She wrote about the terrible conditions. A grand jury called her to testify. The jurors asked her to go with them to the island. Although their visit was supposed to be secret, word got out. Things appeared presentable on that day. Still, the grand jury believed Nellie. It advised changes to the court. The court gave an extra \$1 million to the island's directors to "improve their care of the insane."

Nellie had blazed a trail for serious female reporters. She had shown the value of a woman's testimony. Best of all, she had told the public about the conditions of an insane asylum. She helped bring about much-needed reform.

## Nellie Bly, Investigative Reporter

These excerpts come from the series of newspaper articles Nellie Bly wrote after she was released from the mental hospital.

"What, excepting torture, would produce insanity quicker than this treatment? Here are women sent to be cured. I would like the expert physicians . . . to take a perfectly sane and healthy woman, shut her up and make her sit from 6 A.M. until 8 P.M. on straight-back benches, do not allow her to talk or move during these hours, give her no reading and let her know nothing of the world, give her bad food and harsh treatment, and see how long it will take to make her insane."

"I lay in bed picturing to myself the horrors in case a fire should break out in the asylum. Every door is locked separately and the windows are heavily barred, so that escape is impossible. In the one building alone there are some 300 women. They are locked, one to ten to a room. It is impossible to get out unless these doors are unlocked. Should the building burn, the nurses would never think of releasing their crazy patients. This I can prove to you later when I tell of their cruel treatment of the poor things entrusted to their care. In case of fire, not a dozen women could escape. All would be left to roast to death."

"'Urena', said [the nurse], 'the doctors say that you are 33 instead of 18,' and the other nurses laughed. After they had gotten all the amusement out of her they wanted and she was crying, they began to tell her to keep quiet. She grew more hysterical every moment until they slapped her face and knocked her head . . . this made the poor creature cry more, and so they choked her. Yes, actually choked her! Then they dragged her out to the closet, and I heard her terrified cries hush into smothered ones."

"Louise Schanz was consigned to the asylum without a chance of making herself understood. Can such carelessness be excused, I wonder, when it is so easy to get an interpreter? Here was a woman taken without her own consent from the free world to an asylum and given no chance to prove her sanity. Confined most probably for life behind asylum bars, without even being told in her language the why and wherefore. Compare this with a criminal, who is given every chance to prove his innocence. Who would not rather be a murderer . . . than be declared insane, without hope of escape? Mrs. Schanz begged in German to know where she was, and pleaded for liberty. Her voice broken by sobs, she was led unheard out to us."

"I left the insane ward with pleasure and regret—pleasure that I was once more able to enjoy the free breath of heaven; regret that I could not have brought with me some of the unfortunate women who lived and suffered with me, and who, I am convinced, are just as sane as I am."





# Nellie Bly, Investigative Reporter

1. How long was Nellie Bly a patient at the Women's Lunatic Asylum?
  - a. one week
  - b. ten days
  - c. two weeks
  - d. one month
2. After being a patient at the Women's Lunatic Asylum, Bly believed that
  - a. all of the women there were sane.
  - b. all of the women there were insane.
  - c. the doctors and nurses took good care of the patients.
  - d. many women were committed too easily.
3. If a patient died at the Women's Lunatic Asylum, it was
  - a. shocking and rare.
  - b. a reason to ask the government for more money.
  - c. viewed as keeping the island's population under control.
  - d. thoroughly investigated by the police.
4. Nellie Bly felt that the care of the insane should be improved. True or False? Use specific examples to explain your answer.

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5. Why did the jury believe Nellie even though the conditions they saw at the Women's Lunatic Asylum were not as bad as she had described?

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6. After reading Nellie's news articles, which story did you find more upsetting—Urena's or Louise Schanz's? Why?

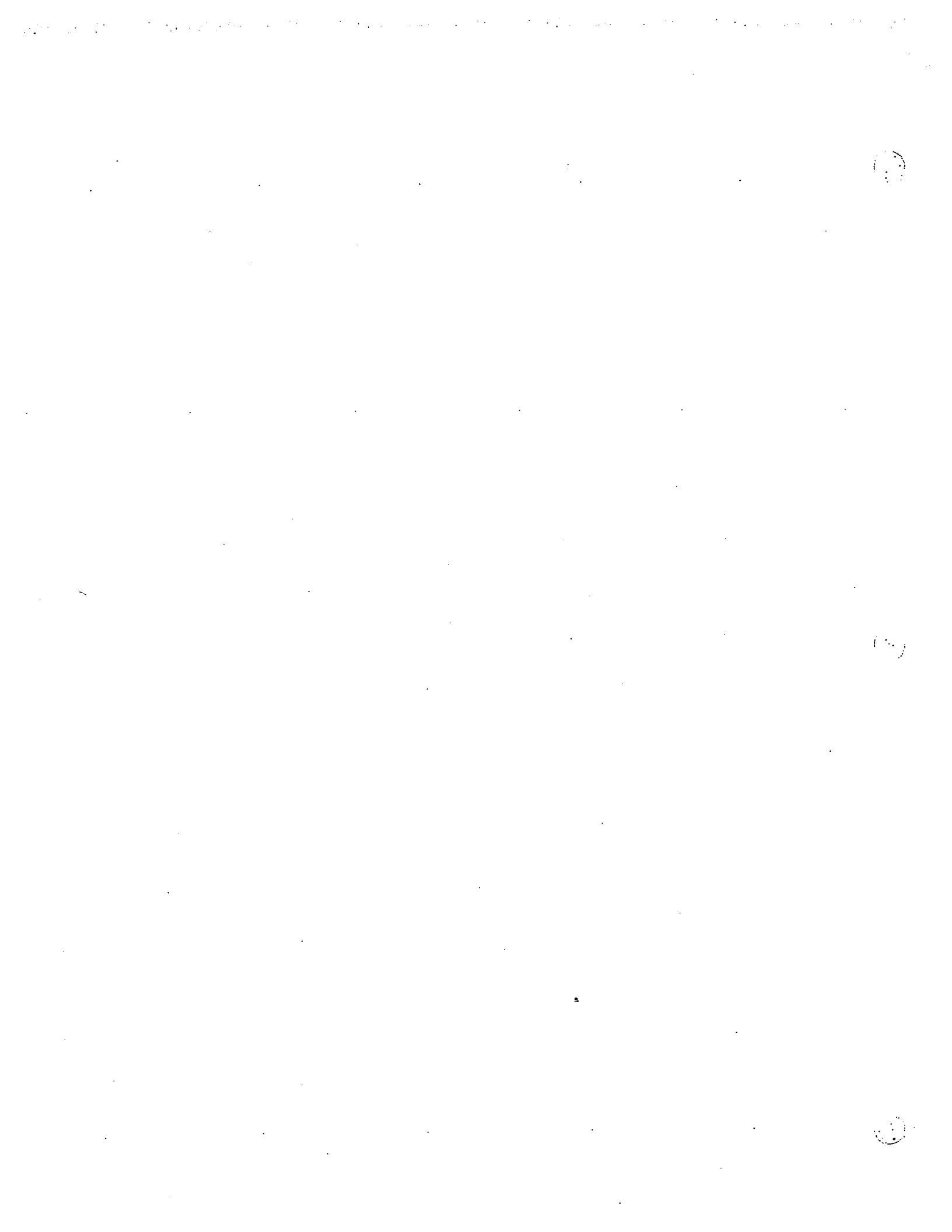
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## The Boston Tea Party

1 In the mid 1700s, there were 13 British colonies in North America. They were getting tired of being ruled by a King who lived across the Atlantic Ocean. The colonists could not vote on matters that affected them such as taxes that were paid to England.

2 The colonists loved their tea! A cup of hot tea was their favorite beverage. England put a tax on the tea that had to be paid by the colonists. The tax was to pay for England's debts from a previous war. This made the tea very expensive for the colonists.

3 The colonists were upset by the tax on their tea, but they were also upset that they had no representatives in England. Thus, they had no say in what taxes they paid. They were pretty much fed up with decisions being made for them that affected how much they had to pay in taxes.

4 In Boston on December 16, 1773, a meeting was held to discuss what to do about the tax on tea. Over 5,000 colonists attended the meeting. Important leaders such as Paul Revere, John Hancock and John Adams attended the meeting. At that very moment, there were three English ships in Boston Harbor. On board the ships were wooden crates of tea—lots of tea. In fact, there were 342 crates filled with tea. The value of the tea was over \$1,000,000 in today's money. No one knows if the protest was planned at that meeting, or if the protestors acted on their own. What is known is this. That night, men smeared soot on their faces and many dressed like Mohawk Indians. The protestors were not trying to make people believe they were Indians. Instead, they were sending the message that they now considered themselves Americans instead of British.

5 Armed with small axes, the protestors boarded the three ships. They hacked open the wooden crates of tea and threw the open crates into the water. As a result of the destruction of the tea, the harbor began to smell. The British closed the harbor. They imposed another tax meant to pay for the tea and would not open the harbor until the damage was paid in full. This angered the colonists even more and eventually led to the American Revolution against British rule.

1. Why did England put a tax on the colonists' tea?
  - A. The colonists drank too much tea.
  - B. Their tea was too expensive to drink.
  - C. England needed to pay for a previous war.
  - D. Tea was the colonists' favorite beverage.
2. What is the most likely reason the author wrote this article?
  - A. to entertain the reader with a story about the Boston Tea Party
  - B. to encourage readers to make a protest if they think taxes are unfair
  - C. to explain the causes and effects of the Boston Tea Party
  - D. to explain why the protestors dressed as Native Americans at the Boston Tea Party
3. After reading paragraph 4, the reader can infer that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. many people wanted to do something about the tax on tea
  - B. the English were afraid the protestors would throw their crates of tea overboard
  - C. many people were against throwing the tea overboard
  - D. at the meeting, a plan was made to protest the tax on tea
4. After reading the selection, what can you infer about the Boston Tea Party?
  - A. It was supported by all 5,000 colonists who attended the meeting.
  - B. It was one of the causes of the American Revolution.
  - C. It made the British think about lowering the tax on the colonists' tea.
  - D. It was supported by colonists and Indians, alike.

## Benjamin Franklin's Childhood

1 On January 17, 1706, Benjamin Franklin was born. He was the 15<sup>th</sup> of 17 children, and the 10th boy. His father, Josiah Franklin, was a soap maker and candle maker. He was born while the United States were still just colonies under Great Britain's rule. Being from a family of so many children, he often had to fend for himself. This caused him to have an independent spirit and become a great problem-solver.

2 When Benjamin was eight, his father sent him to the South Grammar School to prepare for life as a minister. After several months, however, Josiah decided he could not afford it and took Ben out. Soon Ben was back in school, this time at George Brownell's English School. He finished in 1716 after one year and never went to school again. His family was too poor to afford tuition, and there were no free public schools at the time. Even though Benjamin never became a minister, he believed, as did many Puritans at that time, that it was important to be honest, to be diligent, or hard working, and to always try to be a good person.

3 When Benjamin was twelve years old, he started working as an apprentice at his brother's print shop. He loved to read and write poetry, so he thought he would enjoy learning about printing and writing. While Ben worked for his brother, the brother started a newspaper called the New England Courant. Young Benjamin wrote some articles for the newspaper under the name Silence Dogood. No one knew Ben was the author of the articles because neither Ben nor his brother thought anyone would be interested in the opinions of a teenager. The essays made fun of the rich people in Boston and became very popular. Benjamin always believed in learning to write well, and he used his skills to influence people.

1. In paragraph 2, we can infer that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Ben's father was strict
  - B. religion was important in Ben's family
  - C. the boys in Ben's family were educated
  - D. Ben loved the outdoors
2. In paragraph 2, *diligent* means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. hard working
  - B. lazy
  - C. busy
  - D. full of activity
3. After Benjamin left the South Grammar School, he \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. became an apprentice at his brother's print shop
  - B. learned to make soap and candles from his father
  - C. entered the George Brownell's English School
  - D. wrote a series of articles under the name Silence Dogood
4. After reading the selection, the reader can conclude that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Ben became a minister
  - B. Ben became rich
  - C. Ben married and had many children
  - D. people continued to read Ben's opinions about his community



**Wednesday** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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Summary:

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**Thursday** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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**Friday** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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