

---

**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson **Ch. 1** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vivid Vocabulary:** outlaw p. 1      compliment p. 7

**Comprehension Check**

Explain why the first day of school wasn't so bad. Give details from the text. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Describe the Herdmans. Give examples to support the character traits you choose. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

This story was told in first person. Who was the narrator? How do you know? Give evidence from the text.

---

---

**Picked Passage:** *"I think she ought to wear a sign around her neck that says 'Beware of Gladys'"* p. 11  
Who said this? Why did they say it? How did Gladys respond?

---

---

**Link to Literature:** Tell about an outlaw from another story or from a movie.

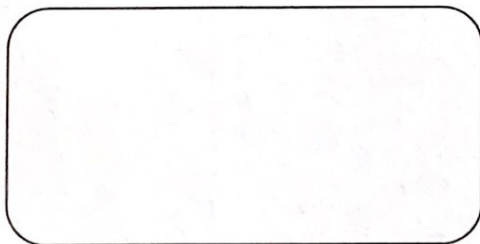
---

---

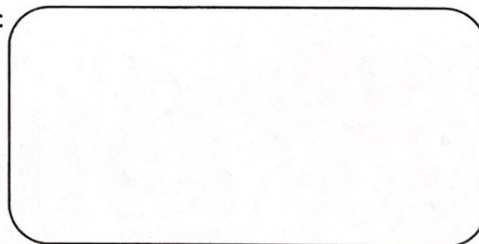
**Story Sketches:**

Sketch Howard McCluskey's head for the situation in this chapter. Explain in words how this happened.

Sketch:



Explanation:



**Test Taking:** Which quotation from Louella supports the fact that she tries to look on the bright side?

- A) "Maybe we should use some soap." p. 19
- B) "If you don't stand too close to him and then squint your eyes, does the purple look...like veins?" p. 19
- C) "I'll probably have to pay them." p. 17
- D) "You give me back my baby brother!" p. 17

**Swift Summary:** Summarize this chapter in 1-2 sentences:

---

---

**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson **Ch. 2** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vivid Vocabulary:** hysterical p. 24      anonymous p. 32

**Comprehension Check:**

Name one place the Herdmans aren't allowed and explain why. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Trace the steps the cat took before it got home. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Do you think the Herdmans should be in jail? Support your opinion. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Picked Passage:** "*That was typical Herdman- there was a lie in it somewhere, but you couldn't put your finger on where.*" p. 28 What was meant by this statement? Why did Beth make this comment?

---

---

**Link to Literature:** Mr. Santoro thought people were yelling "bad air" when really they were yelling "cat hair." Tell about a time you misunderstood someone or were misunderstood by someone.

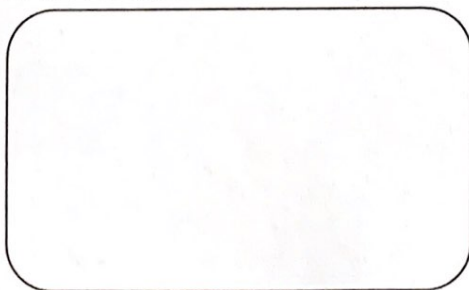
---

---

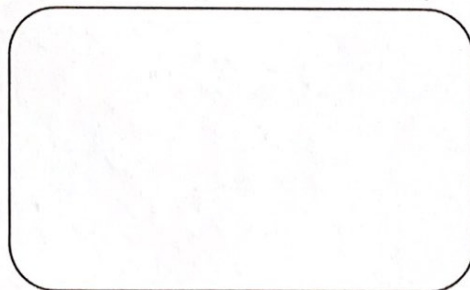
**Story Sketches:**

Sketch how the Herdmans' cat looked when it left the laundromat. Explain why it looked that way.

Sketch:



Explanation:



**Test Taking:** Using context clues, give the best definition of the word "lathered" in this sentence:

"*So I lathered the cat by mistake.*" p. 33 Visualize the scene...

A) sat on    B) soaped up    C) shaved    D) slapped

**Swift Summary:** Summarize this chapter in 1-2 sentences:

---

---



---

**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson **Ch. 3** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vivid Vocabulary:** commotion p. 39      civilize p. 44

**Comprehension Check:**

Describe Alice Wendleken's mother. Give examples to the support character traits you choose. \_\_\_\_\_

Why did the janitor think people were hurt in the supply closet? Fully explain the situation. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think Leroy should have been named Good Citizen? Support your opinion. \_\_\_\_\_

**Picked Passage:** *"Two or three days later Leroy stuck the snake in the third-grade pencil sharpener, tail first, and that teacher went all to pieces too."* p. 40 Explain this figure of speech.

**Link to Literature:** Imogene was afraid to catch Alice's germs. Miss Newman was afraid of a snake.

What are you afraid of? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Story Sketches:** A respirator is a machine that helps you breathe.

Sketch the picture of Alice that appeared in in the newspaper.

**Test Taking:** Which statement was clearly an opinion?

- A) There was a snake in the supply closet.      C) The snake that bit Leroy died.  
B) There was a snake in the pencil sharpener.      D) Leroy deserved to be Good Citizen of the Month.

**Swift Summary:** Summarize this chapter in 1-2 sentences:

**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson **Ch. 4** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vivid Vocabulary:** resigned p. 48    sculpture p. 52

**Comprehension Check:**

Explain why Mrs. Wendleken resigned from the PTA. Do you agree with her decision? Why/why not?

---

---

Describe two reasons Eugene got picked on before the Talent Show. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Who usually won the Talent Show? What was the main cause of someone else winning this year?

---

---

**Picked Passage:** *"Everybody knew what happened to the refreshments but as usual you couldn't prove anything because the evidence was gone and Gladys was gone."* p. 62 Explain what happened.

---

---

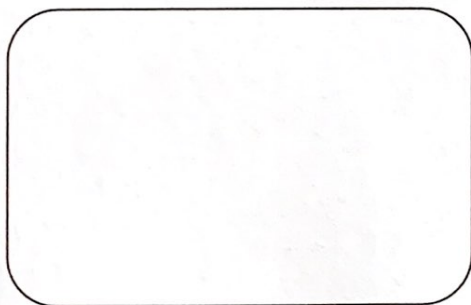
**Link to Literature:** Have you ever been to a Talent Show? Did you like it? Have you ever tried out? Do you want to? What's your favorite act that you've seen in a talent show?

---

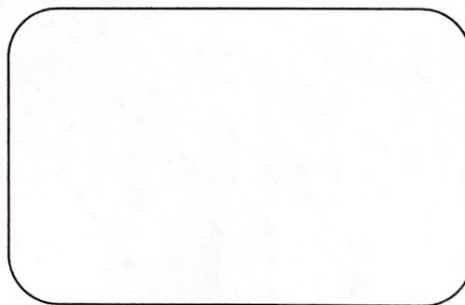
---

**Story Sketches:** Sketch what Eugene's part in the Talent Show looked like. What was happening?

Sketch:



Explanation:



**Test Taking:** What was the main reason Mrs. Bradley wanted Eugene to succeed in the Talent Show?

- A) She wanted Alice to have some competition.    C) She felt sorry for Eugene.  
B) Eugene was a friend of Beth's.    D) She wanted people to enjoy the Talent Show.

**Swift Summary:** Summarize this chapter in 1-2 sentences:

---

---



**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson **Ch. 5** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vivid Vocabulary:** messenger p. 65      supervisor p. 71

**Comprehension Check**

What word did Beth pick for Alice? Do you think it was a compliment? Why or why not?

---

---

What rumor did Imogene spread about the teacher's room? What proof did she offer?

---

---

Explain why the teacher's room got new furniture. Trace the events leading up to this decision.

---

---

**Picked Passage:** " 'This child has saved the day,' she said, 'We ought to thank her.' " p. 72

Who said this about whom? Why? How do you think most people felt about this statement?

---

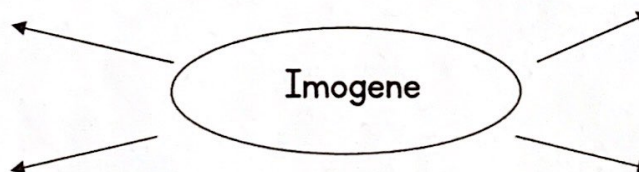
---

**Link to Literature:** What do you know about your school's teacher's lounge? Have you been inside?

---

---

**Story Sketches** Complete this character map. Give page numbers as evidence for each trait.



**Test Taking:** Where was Kenneth Weaver actually?

- A) in the teacher's room    B) in Toledo, OH with his parents    C) in the office    D) dead

**Swift Summary:** Summarize this chapter in 1-2 sentences:

---

---

---

**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson **Ch. 6** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vivid Vocabulary:** chomp p. 84      doomed p. 89

**Comprehension Check:**

Why was everyone afraid to ride Bus 6? Explain in detail. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why did the Herdmans finally have to ride the bus? Evaluate this solution. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why did Mrs. Yeagle say having the Herdmans on the bus wasn't so bad? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Picked Passage:** "For once though, they weren't the only ones who got what they wanted." p. 93

What did the Herdmans get that they wanted? Who else got something they wanted? What was it?

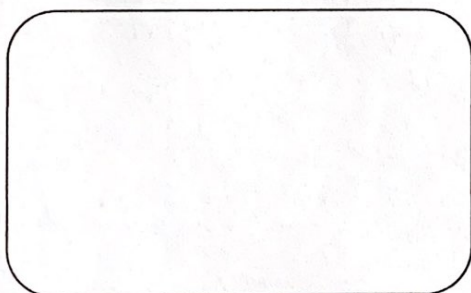
\_\_\_\_\_

**Link to Literature:** Tell about something that has gone wrong on a bus you've ridden before.

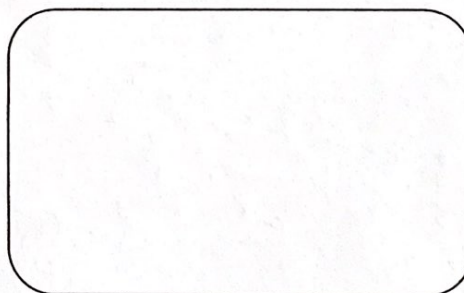
\_\_\_\_\_

**Story Sketches:** Sketch the prank the Herdmans played on the bus. What did they do?

Sketch:



Explanation:



**Test Taking:** Why was Lester afraid to take the eye test?

- A) Gladys threatened to switch his eyeballs herself if he failed.
- B) His vision was even worse than Imogene's.
- C) He was afraid Imogene will make fun of him if he has to wear glasses.
- D) Gladys told him if he couldn't do it they would take his eyeballs out & switch them.

**Swift Summary:** Summarize this chapter in 1-2 sentences:

\_\_\_\_\_



**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson **Ch. 7** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vivid Vocabulary:** hospitality p. 96 relief p. 108

**Comprehension Check:**

Why did Louella have to bring Howard to school? Fully explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why did the kids want to take Howard's blanket from him? Judge this behavior. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What happened to Howard's actual blanket? Explain how you reached this conclusion. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Picked Passage:** "*Some kids said no, but a lot of kids said yes because they figured Howard was going to be a pain in the neck.*" p. 96 Explain this figure of speech. How would you have voted? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Link to Literature:** Do you think the Herdmans should be allowed to have a pet? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Story Sketches:** Sketch the blanket that was returned to Howard. Include an important text detail.

**Test Taking:** Which was NOT a reason that Louella didn't want to bring Howard to school?

- A) She didn't think she'd be able to concentrate on her work.
- B) Miss Kemp was upset with Louella's mother for sending him.
- C) She was afraid the Herdmans would do something to him.
- D) She was embarrassed that he still carried a blanket.

**Swift Summary:** Summarize this chapter in 1-2 sentences:

\_\_\_\_\_

## **The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson **Ch. 8** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vivid Vocabulary:** prevention p. 119 epidemic p. 132

### **Comprehension Check:**

Describe what always happened when the Herdmans were absent. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did the Herdmans end up being the only students on the Fire Safety Team? Explain, step by step.

\_\_\_\_\_

What accident looked like it was on purpose on Fire Prevention Day? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Picked Passage:** "My father said it was like inviting a lot of bank robbers to demonstrate how to rob a bank." p. 126 Explain this statement in context. Do you think it was a good comparison? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Link to Literature:** The Herdmans caused problems at fire drills. Explain fire drills at your school.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Story Sketches:** Complete this graphic organizer for the main idea of this chapter. Use words.

Main Idea:

Detail:

↓

Detail:

↓

Detail:

↓

**Test Taking:** What was the most likely reason that kids starting quitting the Fire Safety Team?

- A) The Herdmans bullied them into quitting because they wanted their spots.
- B) The Fire Safety Team was boring.
- C) They thought it was more important that the Herdmans learn fire safety than them.
- D) They were afraid to be in the newspaper.

**Swift Summary:** Summarize this chapter in 1-2 sentences:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson **Ch. 9** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vivid Vocabulary:** stampede p. 138      suspicious p. 149

**Comprehension Check:**

Compare and contrast the first day of school at Woodrow Wilson Elementary to the last day.

---

---

Trace the events of what happened to Boyd. Who rescued him? How? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Where did Beth get the words she used to describe Imogene? What word did she think of first? Why?

---

---

**Picked Passage:** "...she could be almost anything she wanted to be in life." p. 152

Who was Beth talking about? Describe what she was thinking in detail. Do you agree? Why or why not?

---

---

**Link to Literature:** Tell about a compliment you have received. How did it make you feel?

---

---

**Story Sketches:** What did Imogene ask Beth to do after school? Why do you think she wanted this?

Sketch:

Explanation:

**Test Taking:** Which word best describes how Beth felt after receiving her compliments from Joanne?

- A) embarrassed because she doesn't like attention
- B) flattered because she was surprised at what Joanne thought
- C) scared because she had to compliment Imogene soon
- D) bored because they had been listening to so many compliments

**Swift Summary:** Summarize this chapter in 1-2 sentences:

---

---