Old Yeller  p. 21

Fourteen-year-old Travis, his mother, his five-year-old brother Arliss, and a stray yellow dog called Old Yeller are alone at the homestead while his father is away. When Arliss enrages a mother bear by grabbing her cub, Old Yeller must save the boy from the bear's attack.

Activity
Narrate an Adventure Story
Make up an adventure story with your family in which an animal comes to your rescue. Decide on the time and place of the story, which family members are present, and which animal will be the hero. Have each family member take turns describing his or her role in the story.

Comprehension Skill

Setting and Plot  p. 22
The **setting** is the time and place in which story events happen. Sometimes the author tells you the setting, but sometimes you have to figure it out from clues in the story. The **plot** is the sequence of events in a story. The plot usually starts with some background, or what the reader needs to know about the situation. Then the author sets up a **conflict**, or problem, which sets the plot in motion. The setting can affect the plot.

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know  p. 25
Knowing the meanings of these words is important to reading *Old Yeller*. Practice using these words.

**Vocabulary Words**

- **lunging** moving forward suddenly
- **nub** a lump or a small piece
- **romping** playing in a rough, boisterous way
- **rowdy** rough; disorderly; quarrelsome
- **slung** thrown, cast, or hurled
- **speckled** marked with many small spots
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Picture</th>
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</table>
### Setting and Plot

- The **setting** is the time and place in which a story occurs. Usually, the author tells you the setting, but sometimes you have to figure it out from clues in the story.
- The **plot**, or story line, is the sequence of events in a story. The plot usually starts with some **background**, or what the reader needs to know about the characters, setting, and situation.
- The main character or characters experience a **conflict**, or **problem**, which sets the rising action of the plot in motion.
- The setting can determine what kind of events happen in a story.

**Directions** Read the following passage. Then fill in the chart below with elements of the story’s setting and plot.

It had rained all night long and it was still raining in the morning. Nick called his sheep dog, Jake, to help him move the sheep to the north pasture. He needed to hurry because the stream in the south pasture would soon turn to a raging river. Already, the rain had washed out a part of the main path to the north pasture, so they would have to take the forest path to get to the north pasture.

The gold and red trees along the forest path drooped under the heavy rain. The passage between the trees was muddy and slowed their progress. It would take another hour to lead the sheep to the higher ground.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting (Time and Place)</th>
<th>Plot (Series of story events)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning, South Pasture</td>
<td>1. All night long, it_________</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. ___________</td>
<td>3. The rain_________</td>
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<td>4. ___________</td>
<td>5. The problem Nick faces is</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**School and Home**

**Home Activity** Your child described the setting and plot in a reading passage. Choose a favorite book or film with your child and work together to describe the elements of the setting and how they affect the story's events.
Vocabulary

Directions: Choose the word from the box that best matches each definition. Write the word on the line shown to the left.

1. a lump or small piece
2. moving forward suddenly
3. covered with small spots
4. thrown, cast, or hurled
5. rough and disorderly

Check the Words You Know
___lunging
___nub
___romping
___rowdy
___slung
___speckled

Directions: Choose the word from the box that best completes each sentence below. Write the word on the line shown to the left.

6. At the end of the school day, Susan _____ her books into her locker.
7. The bird’s nest held three pale, ____ eggs.
8. The boys liked ____ around during recess.
9. The ____ neighborhood kids ran down the block, shouting and laughing.
10. The pencil eraser was worn down to a _____.

Write a Journal Entry

On a separate sheet of paper write a journal entry you might make after you hiked in the woods and saw a bear. Use as many vocabulary words as you can.

Home Activity: Your child identified and used vocabulary words from Old Yeller. Work with your child to identify familiar people or things to whom each word might be applied.
**Adding -ed and -ing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spelling Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>answered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interfered</td>
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<tr>
<td>magnifying</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Words in Context** Write the list word that completes each sentence.

1. When I heard the warnings about the tornado, I almost ___.
2. Charlie spent the whole day ___ wood.
3. I ___ the phone as soon as it started ringing.
4. Ellen hopes she will be ___ for the state finals in the spelling bee.
5. The explorers ___ the world in search of the lost ancient city.
6. The karate expert ___ through a board with his bare hand.
7. Stella used a ___ glass to take a closer look at the ant.
8. I wish my sister would stop ___ with my studies.
9. Juan has been on the slopes taking ___ lessons.
10. The helicopter ___ the area, looking for lost hikers.
11. This summer my family will be ___ to California by car.
12. Lia realized she was ___ some important facts from her report.

**Word Groups** Write the list word that fits into each group.

13. upsetting, distressing, ___
14. responding, replying, ___
15. competent, prepared, ___
16. enhanced, enlarged, ___
17. disrupted, disturbed, ___
18. skated, slid, ___
19. guarding, inspecting, ___
20. left out, skipped, ___

---

**Home Activity** Your child used words with **-ed and -ing** endings. Say a list word and have your child use it in a sentence.
Vocabulary • Synonyms

- A synonym is a word that means the same or almost the same as another word.

Directions Read the following passage. Circle the synonym that best replaces each boldfaced word or phrase.

If you ask an American to imagine a bear, the black bear is almost certainly the one they will picture. Black bears are not seen much in American forests. Since Colonial times, their numbers have been shrinking because humans have hunted them and moved into their land. But it is still a good idea to avoid them.

Films often show bear cubs romping in the woods. However, brown bears are much more dangerous than they are cute. They eat everything from grass to animals and are very protective toward their young. Food left lying around campsites may attract them.

If you do see a bear, moving away is not a good idea. Any sudden movement will cause the bear to chase you. Park rangers often recommend loud singing or rowdy talk while you are hiking. Bears avoid humans when they can. If a bear hears you coming, it will vanish into the woods before you arrive.

1. much: often highly considerably
2. shrinking: hiding dwindling shriveling
3. land: nation property territory
4. cute: attractive adorable pretty
5. protective: caring anxious defensive
6. young: babies offspring children
7. moving: relocating fleeing stirring
8. rowdy: noisy rude disorderly
9. talk: conversation lecture gossip
10. vanish: disappear fade evaporate

Home Activity Your child identified synonyms that could replace words in a passage. Read a newspaper or magazine article with your child. Find two or three words that could be replaced with synonyms. Have your child name the synonyms.
Graphic Organizers are story maps, semantic maps, pictorial maps, webs, graphs, frames, charts, time lines, and other devices that help you to view and construct relationships among events, concepts, and words.

Directions: Complete the graphic organizer to understand the setting of a story by using the following information.

The story you read is set in a log cabin in the 1800s. A fireplace is used for heat and a cast iron wood stove for cooking. The furniture includes a straw bed and a table with four chairs.
Directions Fill in this graphic organizer with information about the vocabulary word *speckled*.

**Definition:** marked with small spots

- **part of speech**
- **antonym**
- **synonym**

**Draw a picture that illustrates the word.**

**Use word in a sentence.**

---

**Home Activity** Your child learned about using graphic organizers as a way to organize and understand information. Read a story with your child and create a graphic organizer to help him or her visualize and understand the setting or characters of the story.
Adding -ed and -ing

Proofread a Report. Circle five words in this report that are spelled incorrectly. Write them correctly on the lines. Find a sentence with improper capitalization. Write it correctly on the line.

Hybrid Cars
Some people think the efficiency of hybrid cars has been magnified. A hybrid car uses more than one source of energy while travelling. It combines a gasoline engine with a rechargeable electric battery. Because a hybrid uses electricity for extra power, its gas engine is smaller and lighter. When stopped at a red light, the battery takes over, omitting use of the engines. Some people think the efficiency of hybrid cars has been magnified, however because, they get better gas mileage, they save fuel. Hybrid cars give off fewer exhaust fumes, which avoids interfering with our air quality. This is one way technology is answering our pollution problems.

1. ____________ 2. ____________
3. ____________ 4. ____________
5. ____________ 6. ____________

Proofread Words
Circle the word in each pair that is spelled correctly. Write the word.
7. skiing
8. patroled
9. interfered
10. chopping
11. travled
12. magnifying

proofread answer: skiing 7. skiing
proved: patroled 8. patroled
proved: interfered 9. interfered
proved: chopping 10. chopping
proved: travled 11. traveled
proved: magnifying 12. magnifying

Spelling Words
- answered
- answering
- traveled
- traveling
- chopped
- chopping
- qualified
- qualifying
- panicked
- panicking
- interfered
- interfering
- omitted
- omitting
- magnified
- magnifying
- patrolled
- patrolling
- skied
- skiing

Frequently Misspelled Words
- grabbed
- swimming

Home Activity: Your child identified misspelled words with -ed and -ing endings. Ask your child to spell the list words he or she did not write when answering the questions on this page.
Historical fiction, like realistic fiction, is a made-up story that may include both real and imaginary characters and events. Characteristics of historical fiction include the following:

- The story takes place in the past.
- The setting is a place that still exists or existed in the past.
- Authentic details about the characters and setting help the reader understand what it was like to live in that place at that time.

Directions As you read Old Yeller, look for examples of the time and place in which the story is set and the authentic details that make this story historical fiction. Write those examples below.

Time

Place

Authentic Details

Explore the Genre

Think about the time, place, and authentic details in another story you’ve read that’s historical fiction. What similarities and differences do you find between that story and Old Yeller? Write about them. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need more space.
Adding -ed and -ing

**Spelling Words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>answered</th>
<th>answering</th>
<th>traveled</th>
<th>traveling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chopping</td>
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<td>magnifying</td>
<td>patrolling</td>
<td>skied</td>
<td>magnified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chopped</td>
<td>panicking</td>
<td>magnified</td>
<td>skiing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Antonyms** Write the list word ending in -ed that has the opposite or nearly the opposite meaning.

1. included
2. asked
3. snowboarded
4. unsuitable
5. minimized

**Synonyms** Write the list word ending in -ed that has the same or nearly the same meaning.

6. divided
7. frightened
8. meddled
9. went on vacation
10. monitored

**Word Clues** Write the list word that fits each clue.

11. what a person is doing down a snowy mountain
12. what students are doing when they respond
13. what a police officer is doing around a community
14. what a chef is doing to the onions
15. what people are doing when they intrude
16. what people are doing when they fly overseas
17. what a microscope is doing to a cell
18. what people are doing when they leave out information
19. what an athlete is doing at the Olympic trials
20. what people are doing when they have anxiety

*Home Activity* Your child has learned to spell words with -ed and -ing. To practice at home, name three verbs that describe weekend activities. Ask your child to spell each word with an -ed ending and with an -ing ending.
## Unit 1 Independent Reading Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Author</th>
<th>What is it about?</th>
<th>How would you rate it?</th>
<th>Explain your rating.</th>
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**Reading Time**

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