

The Magic Pen

A fun, fanciful, artsy tale!



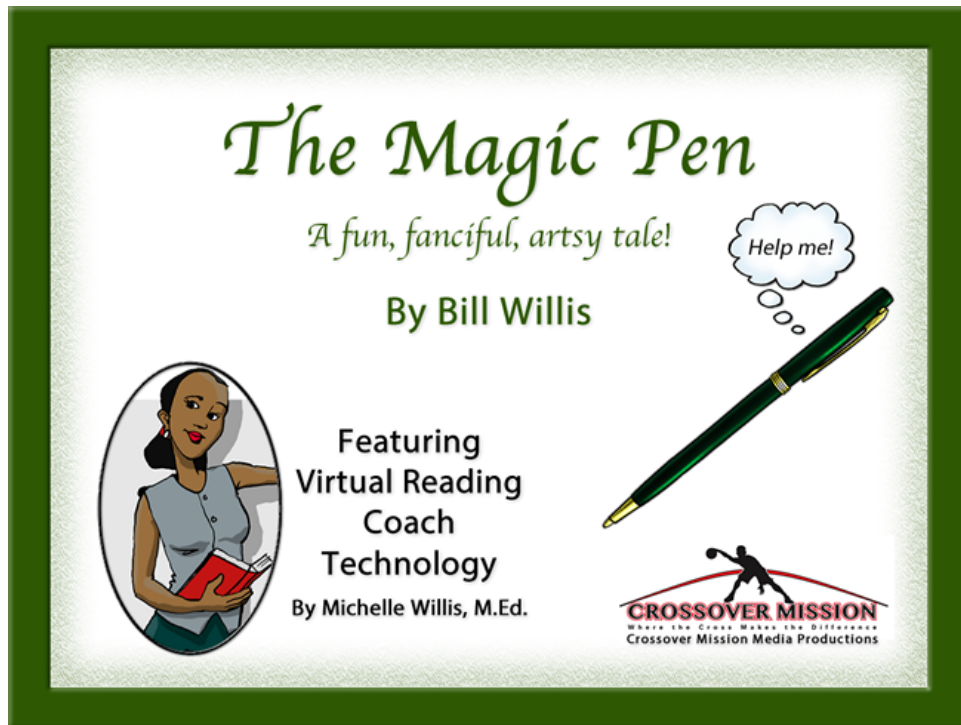
Program Worksheets

Student Name: _____

First Virtual Reading Coach Challenge

Making Predictions

Look at the title and cover art of the book below. What can you predict from this beyond whether you think you will like the story? Take a moment to study the cover's contents. Notice the title and subtitle: *The Magic Pen – A fun, fanciful, artsy tale.* Then look at the picture of the pen and the caption "Help me."



What are three predictions you can make about *The Magic Pen* by looking at the content of the cover?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Chapter 1 Virtual Reading Coach Challenge

Determining an Author's Purpose



What is the author's purpose for writing *The Magic Pen*?
Place a checkmark in the correct box.

- To entertain
- To persuade
- To inform

The Author's Word Choices

Based on what is happening in the story and how Tommy is feeling, what is the most likely meaning of the word “**incredulously**?”

- Sure of himself
- Unable to believe
- Clearly understanding

Characters and Literary Devices

In this story, to which character has the author applied the literary device of personification?

- Tommy
- Peter
- Carrie

Settings: Part 1

Directions: Look at this list of story elements. Each one provides some type of information about the place, time, mood, or circumstances of Chapter 1. On the right you have the four categories listed above. Decide in which category each element listed on the left belongs and place a checkmark in the correct element(s). The elements marked with an asterisk (*) fit into more than one category.

Story Elements	Place	Time	Mood	Circumstances
*Tommy is sitting in a chair.				
*Tommy just finished his homework.				
Tommy is curious about the fat round glass.				
*Tommy jumps up hastily.				
Tommy spills the contents of the glass.				
*Tommy is shocked that the pen can talk.				

Setting - Part 2

Directions: Below you see some possible inferences or logical guesses about the setting and the characters in Chapter 1. Read each possible inference and decide if the reader can infer it based on information in the first chapter. Check “yes” if it can be inferred and “no” if it can’t.

Inference	Yes	No
1. Tommy is sitting at a desk.		
2. Tommy is in his room. His room is upstairs.		
3. Tommy is alone.		
4. Although Tommy is curious, he doesn’t expect anything strange is about to happen.		
5. Peter has an adventurous personality.		
6. Tommy is pretty good at keeping a secret.		

Chapter 2 Virtual Reading Coach Challenge

The Five Elements of a Plot Quiz

Resolution/Conclusion

Introduction

Climax

Rising Action

Falling Action

Personification

Directions: Choose from the terms in the Word Box above to match each term to its meaning. Write the correct term on the line.

1. _____: This is the turning point of the story and is meant to be the moment of highest interest and emotion.
2. _____: This occurs when a series of events build up to the conflict. Now events begin to get complicated.
3. _____: This is the end of a story, either happy or sad. If there is a lesson or moral to the story, this is where the author typically brings it to the reader's attention.
4. _____: This is the part of a story in which events and complications begin to be resolved, usually as a result of the actions of the main characters or because of circumstances beyond the control of the main characters.
5. _____: This is the beginning of the story where characters and setting are established. Here the author also establishes the conflict or main problem encountered by the characters.

Bonus Question

In your own words, explain how an author uses the literary device known as "personification." Continue on the back of the page if you need more space.

Chapter 3 Virtual Reading Coach Challenge

Rising Action



Why do you think Tommy’s parents found out about the drawings? Was it something Tommy did, or was it something Tommy should have done but didn’t do? Choose the statement you agree with most strongly.

- Tommy did something that let his mother discover his drawings.
- Tommy failed to do something he should have done to protect his secret.

Look at the statements below and check the statement which best describes the meaning of “inference.”

- An inference is a guess the reader makes without any evidence from the text.
- An inference is an informed guess the reader makes based on evidence from the text.

Read the three text excerpts below. Which excerpt provides evidence from the story that gives the reader a clue about why Tommy’s mother found the folder of pictures?

Explain the reason for your choice to your tutor. Does your tutor agree with you? Discuss your reasons.

- “What are all these pictures?” asked Tommy’s mother the next morning at breakfast.
- “I went up to get your laundry and saw this folder of pictures lying open on your desk,” she said, holding up the red folder.
- “These are incredible, Tommy,” exclaimed his mother.

Chapter 4 Virtual Reading Coach Challenge

More About Rising Action, How Stories End, Lessons and Morals

1. Read the statement in red below.

The climax of the story comes when Peter makes it clear to Tommy that he has only enough ink for one more picture. After drawing this last picture together, Tommy will have to draw the pictures himself, using the talent within him. This greatly troubles Tommy. Will Tommy be able to do it?

Is this an accurate description of the story's climax, the moment of greatest tension or suspense? Circle yes or no.

Yes No

2. In Chapter 4, Tommy also discovers that his encounter with Peter and his wonderful drawing ability has been a dream, not a real event. Circle yes or no to the following questions. These are opinion questions, so there are no right or wrong answers.

a. Did you see this coming? Did you ever suspect it was a dream and not real?

Yes No

b. Was there a point during the story that you asked yourself how Peter could be real? Did you wonder how he could think and talk the way he did?

Yes No

The Moral or Lesson of the Story

Tommy has a talent for drawing, but he doesn't discover it until the dream makes him aware of his hidden ability. The author wants you, the reader, to give some thought to your own "spark," to think about your own hidden talent or ability, to figure out what makes you feel alive and energized, to uncover what helps you express who you truly are.

Do you agree, disagree, or are you uncertain that the statement in *italics* above is the moral or lesson of this story? Circle one. Explain the reason for your answer to your tutor.

Agree

Disagree

Uncertain