

G. Trueheart, Man's Best Friend

A Short Story

by James McNamee



A Study Guide by Margaret Whisnant

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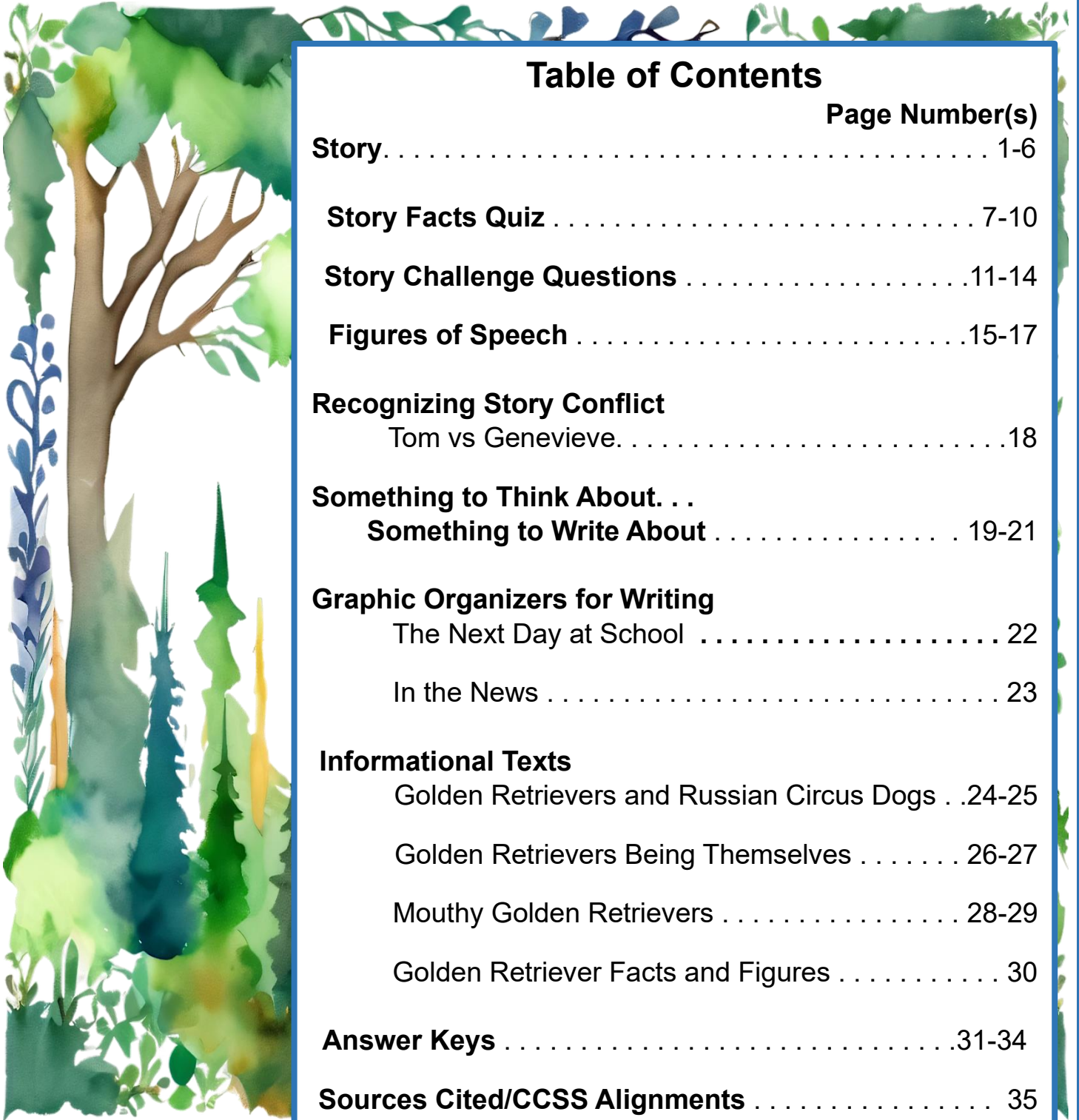
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Story Facts Quiz

Directions: Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank to the left.

- _____ 1. Vancouver Island, where Tom Hamilton lived, is located off the coast of
(A) Seattle, Washington.
(B) Fairbanks, Alaska.
(C) the Province of British Columbia, Canada.
(D) the Province Nova Scotia, Canada.
- _____ 2. Which of the following was **not** true of Tom's Aunt Prudence?
(A) She taught at the university.
(B) Tom's dad said she wasn't very smart.
(C) Tom liked her.
(D) Genevieve Trueheart was her dog.
- _____ 3. Rusty was Tom's
(A) dog.
(B) baby brother.
(C) best friend at school.
(D) pet pheasant.
- _____ 4. Aunt Prudence had papers to prove that Genevieve Trueheart had been born a
(A) Golden Retriever.
(B) Labrador retriever.
(C) French bulldog.
(D) great Pyrenees.
- _____ 5. Genevieve was overweight because
(A) she had a thyroid problem.
(B) she slept all the time, and didn't get enough exercise.
(C) Aunt Prudence had fed her a lot of sugary food.
(D) she was a very old dog.



G. Trueheart, *Man's Best Friend* Challenge Questions

Write your answers to the following questions in the blanks provided.

- _____ 1. A story's mood refers to the way the author wants readers to feel as the tale unfolds. What mood best describes Tom and Genevieve's adventures?
- (A) hopeless
 - (B) dramatic
 - (C) stressful
 - (D) humorous



2. Other than his size, how were Rusty and Genevieve different?

- _____ 3. Which of the following story excerpts indicates that Genevieve is not a young dog?
- (A) *Genevieve had been born a Golden Retriever of decent parents and Aunt Prudence had papers to prove it.*
 - (B) *She had the muscles of a jellyfish. She couldn't run. She couldn't walk.*
 - (C) *She was a horrible example of what ten years of living with Aunt Prudence would do to any creature.*
 - (D) *She looked like a pigmy hippopotamus with hair.*
- _____ 4. What is the *most likely* reason Genevieve didn't get a chance to meet any boys in the city?
- (A) Aunt Prudence's job as a professor didn't provide a lot of social contact with boys Tom's age.
 - (B) Except for Tom, Aunt Prudence had no use for boys his age.
 - (C) There were no boys in the neighborhood where Genevieve and Aunt Prudence lived.
 - (D) Boys were not interested in making friends with Genevieve because of her size.

Figures of Speech

G. Trueheart, Man's Best Friend is peppered with clever *similies*, *metaphors*, and *hyperboles* that help the reader **see** and **feel** what the characters are experiencing.

Use the information in the box below to answer the questions about the figures of speech found in the story.

Simile A comparison of two unlike things using the words "like" or "as."

Walking to school with Genevieve, Tom was as agitated as socks in a washing machine.

Metaphor A comparison of two unlike things implying that something is another being or thing. The words "like" or "as" are **not** used

The big cat was Freddy Krueger with fur.

Hyperbole An exaggeration that magnifies a particular quality or characteristic to create emphasis, drama, or humor.

Genevieve Trueheart is, without a doubt, the most courageous dog in the history of the world!

_____ 1. Tom's father said his Aunt Prudence was *all brains*. What is the meaning of his hyperbole?

Aunt Prudence

- (A) was really smart.
- (B) wasn't interested in ordinary things.
- (C) was smarter than Tom's father.
- (D) liked learning more than anything.

_____ 2. *Genevieve had been born a Golden Retriever of decent parents. . . But Genevieve had eaten so many chocolates and French pastries and frosted cakes that she was three times as wide as a Golden Retriever ought to be.*

Which phrase from the quote is a hyperbole?

- (A) so many chocolates
- (B) French pastries and frosted cakes
- (C) three times as wide
- (D) Golden Retriever



_____ 3. Tom's opinion of Genevieve was that *She looked like a pigmy hippopotamus with hair.*

The sentence in italics is an example of

- (A) personification.
- (B) a metaphor.
- (C) a hyperbole.
- (D) a simile. \

Something to Think About. . . Something to Write About

(1)

The dry season on Vancouver Island is from June to October. These months bring dry, semi-drought conditions to the area.

- Reread the paragraph that begins *Tom felt sick and cold, but his brain was working*. Find the clue the author placed in the story that can help the reader figure out what time of the year this story took place.
 - What season—spring, summer, autumn, winter—did Tom and Genevieve experience the encounter with the cougar. Explain how you reached your conclusion.
-

(2)

Authors sometimes use *foreshadowing*, a hint of something that will happen later in the story to create reader curiosity or intrigue.

- Summarize the conversation in which Tom added *foreshadowing* to the plot.
 - What **two** possible events did he forecast?
 - How was Tom's warning accurate? How did the actual event compare to Tom's prediction?
-

(3)

- Explain how Genevieve accidentally helped save Tom's life.
 - How did Tom purposely save Genevieve?
 - What role did the lumberjacks play in saving them both?
 - One definition of the word *ironic* is *an outcome of events that is the opposite of what was expected*. How was the ending of the story *ironic*?
-

(4)

Genevieve rolled over on her back when the Mexican hairless touched her nose. She did the same thing when she realized there was a cougar pawing her.

- Research to find out what this dog behavior indicates.
- Was it the best decision Genevieve could make in both incidents? Give details to explain your answer.