

Section: "Your World" • Issue: February 16, 2009

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Fact Versus Opinion

Example:

Fact: Millions of teens have cell phones.

Opinion: Cell phones should be allowed at school.

Directions: Read the following sentences about the articles in this issue's "Your World" section. Then write **F** next to the sentences that are facts and **O** next to the sentences that are opinions.

- ___ 1. Michelangelo was a really talented artist.
- ___ 2. Eri Yoshida is Japan's first woman to sign with a professional men's baseball team.
- ___ 3. Raising a wild animal is too much work.
- ___ 4. Shreve Stockton says adopting a coyote changed her life.
- ___ 5. The first recorded use of "canine" meaning "dog" was in 1869.
- ___ 6. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is the best-selling book of the last 15 years.
- ___ 7. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is the best book ever written.
- ___ 8. Lucas Laborde is thrilled about the car he built himself.

YOUR TURN

Opinions are often based on facts. Because of this, an opinion may sometimes be expressed as if it were a fact. For example, "Sarah is generous" is an opinion. "Sarah gave half of her sandwich to Adam" is a fact that supports the opinion. It shows *how* Sarah is generous.

Rewrite the opinion below as a fact.

Opinion: *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a great book.

Fact: _____

Use the fact below to write an opinion.

Fact: Lucas Laborde built his own battery-powered car.

Opinion: _____

Article: "Political Firsts" • Issue: February 16, 2009

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What Is Congress?

Directions: Read the information below and answer the questions that follow.

The Legislative Branch

The legislative branch of the U.S. government is called Congress. It has two houses—the House of Representatives and the Senate. The primary job of Congress is to make the country’s laws. Congress writes, discusses, and votes on bills. To become a law, a bill must receive a majority vote from both houses, as well as a signature of approval by the President. If the President decides not to sign a bill—or to *veto* it—Congress may override the veto by a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate.

House of Representatives	Senate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the House of Representatives are called Representatives or Congressmen and Congresswomen. • Representatives are elected to two-year terms. • The number of Representatives from each state is based on the population of that state. Currently, there are 435 U.S. Representatives. • A Representative represents the people of a district in a state. • To run for a seat in the House of Representatives, candidates must be at least 25 years old, have been a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and live in the state in which they are running. • The House can impeach or accuse U.S. officials of misdemeanor crimes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Senate are called Senators. • Senators are elected to six-year terms. • Every state has two Senators. Currently, there are 100 U.S. Senators. • A Senator represents the people of an entire state. • To run for a seat in the Senate, candidates must be 30 years old, have been a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years, and live in the state in which they are running. • The Senate approves presidential appointments and treaties. • The Senate puts U.S. officials on trial who have been impeached by the House of Representatives.

1. What parts make up the legislative branch? _____
2. Which house of Congress has 435 members? _____
3. How many years older do you have to be to run for the Senate than for the House of Representatives?

4. Which house of Congress has the power to impeach a U.S. President? _____

5. What is the primary job of Congress? _____

Play: *Pink Panther 2* • Issue: February 16, 2009

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Reading Between the Lines

To infer something is to draw a conclusion by evaluating the facts presented to you. To draw educated conclusions, you must consider all of the information carefully. In this activity, you will make inferences from the dialogue in the play *Pink Panther 2*.

Directions: Read the lines of dialogue below, and answer the questions that follow.

1. Context: Inspector Clouseau is en route from France to Japan to join a team of investigators who are working to catch the Tornado, an international thief.

N4: Clouseau and his sidekick, Ponton, are in line at the airport.

CLOUSEAU: Ponton, this case is very strange. For 10 years, the Tornado terrorized Europe, stealing more than a quarter of a billion dollars' worth of artifacts. Then he stopped! Why, after 10 years of inactivity, does he suddenly spring back into action?

NEWSCASTER 1: In Paris, France, the legendary Pink Panther diamond has been stolen.

N2: Horrified, Clouseau and Ponton leave the airport.

Why do Clouseau and Ponton leave the airport?

- Ⓐ Their flight was canceled.
- Ⓑ They know the Tornado is in France.
- Ⓒ They know where the Pink Panther diamond is.
- Ⓓ Ponton is really the Tornado.

2. Context: A group of crime experts has gathered to catch the Tornado.

PEPPERIDGE: Gentlemen, we must determine how the crime was committed—a task for which I am suited, as I am an expert at deduction.

CLOUSEAU: You are an expert at deduction?

PEPPERIDGE: That is my field.

CLOUSEAU: I believe you are experiencing hip pain.

PEPPERIDGE: How did you know?

CLOUSEAU: One side of the sole of your shoe is worn more than the other. You are favoring your right leg.

What is Clouseau trying to prove?

- Ⓐ Pepperidge has a hip problem.
- Ⓑ Pepperidge should see a doctor.
- Ⓒ Clouseau is also an expert at deduction.
- Ⓓ Clouseau is an expert at diagnosing hip problems.

WRITE NOW!

Write your own inference question from dialogue in the play. Follow the format above. Then, trade your question with a friend and answer each other's questions.

Play: *Pink Panther 2* • Issue: February 16, 2009

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Parts of Speech

Directions: What if you were a detective like Clouseau? Fill in the blanks below. Then plug the words into the blanks in the following story, "A Dangerous Run-In," to see how well you'd do!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Plant, singular: _____ | 13. Adjective: _____ |
| 2. Noun: _____ | 14. Verb ending in -ing: _____ |
| 3. Country: _____ | 15. Plural noun: _____ |
| 4. Favorite cartoon character: _____ | 16. Past-tense verb: _____ |
| 5. Favorite male celebrity: _____ | 17. Exclamation: _____ |
| 6. Favorite female celebrity: _____ | 18. Past-tense verb: _____ |
| 7. Plural noun: _____ | 19. Onomatopoeia: _____ |
| 8. Adjective: _____ | 20. Noun: _____ |
| 9. Kind of building: _____ | 21. Verb: _____ |
| 10. Number: _____ | 22. Color: _____ |
| 11. Animal, plural: _____ | 23. Noun: _____ |
| 12. Adverb: _____ | 24. Plural noun: _____ |

A Dangerous Run-In

Detective _____ **1** and I are working on a tough case. The _____ **2** of

_____ **3** has been stolen, by none other than the dreaded _____ **4**! To make

matters worse, _____ **5** and _____ **6** have gone missing, and we have a sneaking suspicion that the cases are related. Good thing the detective and I are total _____ **7**!

We followed the criminal's _____ **8** trail to a _____ **9**. But the door was guarded by _____ **10** _____ **11**!

“Ha ha ha!” cackled the criminal _____ **12**. “You’re too _____ **13**!”

Then the detective and I had an idea. _____ **14** our handy _____ **15**, we _____ **16** the door. “_____ **17**!” I cried as the locks fell away. The detective and I _____ **18** into the room to apprehend the villain. It was very dark, and I heard a terrible _____ **19**. I turned on my flashlight to shed some _____ **20** on the

situation. There were our missing celebrities—and our stolen relic!

“I should have known not to _____ **21** you two,” grumbled the dreaded criminal.

After we saved the day, the detective and I received _____ **22** _____ **23** for closing the case! We’re the greatest _____ **24** ever.

Poetry: "More Than Friends" • Issue: February 16, 2009

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Find Your Inner Poet

After reading the poems in "More Than Friends," give your poetry skills a whirl. Review the rules for a Shakespearean sonnet and a tanka listed on page 19. Now write your own. Your poems can be about anything you want.

SONNET

Title: _____

TANKA

Title: _____

Article: "Robert's Sudden Stardom" • Issue: February 16, 2009

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Robert's Sudden Stardom Quiz

Directions: After you read the article "Robert's Sudden Stardom," answer each of the following questions.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. Which country does Robert Pattinson call home?
 (A) Spain
 (B) United States of America
 (C) Canada
 (D) England</p> | <p>2. Who did Robert Pattinson play in the Harry Potter films?
 (A) Percy Weasley
 (B) Cedric Diggory
 (C) Neville Longbottom
 (D) Dean Thomas</p> | <p>3. Who does Robert Pattinson use as an example for how to handle fame?
 (A) his co-star Kristin Stewart
 (B) Leonardo DiCaprio
 (C) the stars of the Harry Potter films
 (D) Miley Cyrus</p> |
| <p>4. What does Robert Pattinson say is in his heart?
 (A) London
 (B) playing a vampire
 (C) being an actor
 (D) action movies</p> | <p>5. How do you think Robert Pattinson feels about appearing before so many screaming fans?
 (A) indifferent
 (B) excited
 (C) nervous
 (D) flattered</p> | <p>6. Which of the following sentences uses quotation marks properly?
 (A) "I agree with them, he says."
 (B) "Every single time, he says, I got so nervous, and I got cold sweats."
 (C) "She doesn't back down to people", Robert says.
 (D) "I see how the Harry Potter people have dealt with fame," says Robert, "and they're still very, very normal and sane."</p> |
| <p>7. Which of the words below best replaces the word intrigues in the following sentence: <i>They have a dark secret, which is lethal and also intrigues people.</i>
 (A) attaches
 (B) captivates
 (C) tricks
 (D) bores</p> | <p>8. What is the <i>cause</i> for the <i>effect</i> of Robert Pattinson breaking into cold sweats?
 (A) having to play baseball
 (B) having to fly
 (C) fans screaming to see him
 (D) all of the above</p> | <p>9. Who does Robert Pattinson play in the movie <i>Twilight</i>? What kind of character is he?

 _____</p> |
| <p>10. Why didn't Robert Pattinson want to audition for the lead role in <i>Twilight</i>?

 _____</p> | | |

Article: "Political Firsts" • Issue: February 16, 2009

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Political Firsts Quiz

Directions: After you read the article "Political Firsts," answer each of the following questions.

- Who was the first African-American to be a member of the U.S. Senate?
 - Hiram Revels
 - Joseph Rainey
 - Douglas Wilder
 - Barack Obama
- Which of the following is one of Joseph Rainey's accomplishments?
 - He was the first African-American elected to the House of Representatives.
 - He was the first African-American to become a member of the U.S. Senate.
 - He was the first black governor in U.S. history.
 - He was the first African-American Mayor of Washington, D.C.
- Which of the following events happened first?
 - Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman elected to Congress.
 - Douglas Wilder was born.
 - Barack Obama was elected to the U.S. Senate.
 - Joseph Rainey helped slaves freed by the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Which of the following pairs of politicians have called Chicago home?
 - Douglas Wilder and Shirley Chisholm
 - Sharon Pratt Dixon Kelly and Barack Obama
 - Carol Moseley Braun and Barack Obama
 - Blanche Bruce and Carol Moseley Braun
- Which of the words below would best replace the word **parity** in the following sentence: *As the first African-American to reach the highest office in the U.S., President Barack Obama is proof that parity among Americans of all backgrounds is possible!*
 - equality
 - imbalance
 - compromise
 - concession
- Which of the following statements is FALSE?
 - Douglas Wilder was named after the famous orator Frederick Douglass.
 - Shirley Chisholm was the first black woman to be elected President.
 - Blanche Bruce attended Oberlin College in Ohio.
 - Carol Moseley Braun has a law degree.
- Why were the eight people featured in "Political Firsts" chosen?
 - They all have famous families.
 - They are all African-Americans.
 - They all are the first African-American men or women to hold a particular political office.
 - all of the above
- Which adjective does not describe Blanche Bruce?
 - brave
 - hardworking
 - smart
 - unsupportive
- The best alternate title for this article would be _____.
 - "Looking Back"
 - "African-American Firsts"
 - "Black History Month"
 - "Historical Firsts"
- Which of the following statements is an OPINION?
 - Shirley Chisholm was a woman to be admired.
 - Hiram Revels left the Senate to oversee a higher-learning institution for blacks.
 - Michelle Obama is the first African-American First Lady.
 - Douglas Wilder was elected Governor of Virginia in a landslide.

Play: *Pink Panther 2* • Issue: February 16, 2009

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Important Events

How can you make sure that you understand what you've read? Write a summary! A summary is a shortened version that describes the main points. The hardest part of summarizing is pinpointing the moments that make up the central action or idea of the story. Sometimes the funniest parts, the best lines, or even your favorite characters are not essential enough to be mentioned in a summary.

Directions: On the lines below, summarize each scene or pair of scenes from *Pink Panther 2*.

Scenes 1 & 2: _____

Scene 3: _____

Scenes 4 & 5: _____

Scene 6: _____

Scenes 7 & 8: _____

Scenes 9 & 10: _____

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Plotting a Timeline

Directions: After you read "Political Firsts," take note of some of the important events. Then, put those events on the timeline below. Include the births and deaths of any people featured, along with one sentence about why that person or event is important.

TIMELINE

1800	
	1810
1820	
	1830
1840	
	1850
1860	
	1870
1880	
	1890
1900	
	1910
1920	
	1930
1940	
	1950
1960	
	1970
1980	
	1990
2000	
	2010

Poetry: "More Than Friends" • Issue: February 16, 2009

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Text-to-Self Connections

When you read a work of literature, you can often get meaning from it by thinking about how it relates to your own life. What does it remind you of that is similar to or different from how you act or think, or things that have happened to you? With this graphic organizer, explore the connections between your life and the lives of the characters in "More Than Friends."

What the male narrator is like:

How I am like and unlike him:

Line(s) from "Veggie Panini Is the Answer to Everything":

What this reminds me of in my life:

"MORE THAN FRIENDS"
_____ **Title of Work**

What the female narrator is like:

How I am like and unlike her:

A line(s) from the "Her" section of "Stressed":

What this reminds me of in my life:

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