



4TH GRADE **ELA**

Student Materials

Unit 1

Finding Fortune: Where the Mountain Meets the Moon



Daily Lesson Materials

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Preview and Ch. 1.

1. What details does Grace Lin include about Minli? What do they show us?

2. Why is Jade Dragon so offended? What does she do as a result of this anger? How do her children react?

3. According to the story, why is Fruitless Mountain bare? What needs to happen for it to flourish again?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 2-3.

1. Describe a typical day for Minli, Ma, and Ba.

2. What does Minli want? Why?

3. How do the other villagers feel about Minli's decision to buy the goldfish? Why?

4. Compare and contrast how Ma and Ba respond to the goldfish.

5. Describe the Magistrate Tiger. Include details that describe what motivates him.

6. Describe the Old Man of the Moon.

7. Why does Grace Lin include "The Story of the Old Man of the Moon"?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 4-6.

1. How does Minli's mother influence her? How does Grace Lin show what Minli is thinking about her mom?

2. Why does Minli decide to release the goldfish into the river? What happens when she releases the goldfish? How does it make her feel?

3. Based on details from Chapter 5, how does Minli feel about leaving? Why?

Sentence Fragment

Complete Sentence

Sentence Fragment

Complete Sentence

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Prompt

Identify whether the sentences are complete or incomplete. If the sentence is incomplete, label it as a sentence fragment, and then revise it to include a subject and predicate.

1. Reads a book every night before bed.
2. Many children visited the library over the weekend.
3. The teacher and the students.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Character Description Recording Sheet

Describe Minli. Use details from Chapters 1–6 to support your answer.

Record details about Minli in the table below.

Page Number	Details about Minli: - words, actions, thoughts, interactions with others

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 7-9.

1. When Ma and Ba discover Minli is gone, they react in different ways. How does Ba react? How does Ma react? Why?

2. What conflict does Minli face in Chapter 8? How does Grace Lin use description to help the reader visualize the conflict?

3. Compare and contrast how Ma and Ba are feeling while looking for Minli. Identify two to three key moments that highlight how they are both feeling.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 10-11.

1. In Chapter 10, Minli meets Dragon. Instead of being **awed** by Dragon, she finds herself feeling sorry for him. Why? Give at least two to three details that describe why Minli feels sorry for the dragon.

2. Grace Lin decides to tell "The Story of The Dragon" from Dragon's point of view. How does this help a reader better understand how Dragon was born?

3. How does "The Story of the Dragon" deepen our understanding of the Magistrate?

4. What agreement do Minli and Dragon make at the end of the chapter? Why is it important?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Complete Sentences

Sort the words from the sentence below into the word chart.

1. *The painter who initially drew the picture made Dragon without any eyes.*

Subject: Who/what?	Predicate: Is/was doing?

2. *Minli woke up when the sun was high in the sky and burning with light.*

Subject: Who/what?	Predicate: Is/was doing?

3. *Her resentment seemed to darken with the fading moon.*

Subject: Who/what?	Predicate: Is/was doing?

Partner Challenge:

Write a complete sentence on the lines below. Then, have your partner sort the words into the correct boxes.

Subject: Who/what?	Predicate: Is/was doing?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Prompt

awed

Describe how the Dragon was born. What does the story reveal about Dragon and the Magistrate Tiger's character?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 12-13.

1. Summarize the "Story of the Goldfish Man" in your own words.

2. Read the quotation from page 61. "Under his gaze, Ma and Ba suddenly felt like freshly peeled oranges, and their words fell away from them. **Inexplicably**, they felt **ashamed**." Explain the significance and power of this statement.

3. After telling his story, the Goldfish Man says, "Don't you see? Even fates written in the Book of Fortune can be changed. How can anything be impossible?" How did his story prove this point?

4. Analyze Minli and the dragon's relationship. Are they becoming friends? Defend why or why not.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Prompt

engrossed inexplicably

How did the Goldfish Man's fortune change? What advice does the Goldfish Man give Ma and Ba about Minli and their family's fortune?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 14-15.

1. How does Minli **outwit** the monkeys?

2. What description does Grace Lin include to show how Minli and the monkeys are feeling? Identify at least two details for each character.

3. Grace Lin uses the words **awed** and **astonished** to describe the emissary and the magistrate's reactions to the family. Why does she pick these words?

4. Describe what happens to the paper containing the secret of happiness. How does the magistrate respond?

5. Why does the magistrate think he has been **deceived**? What does he do as a result?

6. How is Ma changing?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Sentence Scramble

Partner Practice Cards

Minli	the monkeys
were disappointed at not having found Minli	was enraged
were too greedy to let go of the rice	magistrate tiger
ma and ba	quickly packed her things

Minli	the monkeys
were disappointed at not having found Minli	was enraged
were too greedy to let go of the rice	magistrate tiger
ma and ba	quickly packed her things

Independent Practice Cards

Minli and dragon	the goldfish
is talking to ba	made camp for the night

Minli and dragon	the goldfish
is talking to ba	made camp for the night

Minli and dragon	the goldfish
is talking to ba	made camp for the night

Minli and dragon	the goldfish
is talking to ba	made camp for the night

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Prompt

enraged deceive

Summarize "The Story of the Paper of Happiness." How does it influence Ba and Ma?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 16-17.

1. What description does the author include to help a reader visualize Dragon Gate? Why do all fish want to reach Dragon Gate?

2. What advice does the fish give? Why is the advice important?

3. How does Minli's perspective of the city change once she is inside of it? What details does the author include to help a reader understand the Inner City?

4. How does the Buffalo Boy help Minli?

5. What is Minli's next mission on her adventure?

6. Who is Aunt Jin, and why does Minli think she might have met her?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Sorting Words and Phrases

1. *The emissary returned to the palace with the empty box.*

Subject	Predicate

2. *One day Minli and the dragon came upon a body of water.*

Subject	Predicate

3. *It looked a lot like Minli's goldfish but larger.*

Subject	Predicate

Partner Challenge:

Write a complete sentence on the lines below. Challenge your partner to sort the words into the correct boxes.

Subject	Predicate

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 18-19.

1. Describe the Buffalo Boy and his home. How does the Buffalo Boy's home impact Minli?

2. What impression does Minli have about the Buffalo Boy's friend in Chapter 18? Does her impression change in Chapter 19? Defend why or why not.

3. When is the Buffalo Boy's friend able to visit him? How is the friend able to help Minli?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Prompt

hesitate ashamed

Chapter 19 ends with the following quote:

"Minli's questions fell from her as she realized there was nothing else to say."

Explain the significance of this statement and what it shows about Minli. How is Minli beginning to change?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 20-21.

1. What do Ma's actions in Chapter 20 reveal about how she is changing?

2. Why does the Buffalo Boy not accept Minli's gift to show her gratitude? How does this fit with what we know about him?

3. Why does Minli decide to buy the peach?

4. What happens to the peach that Minli buys?

5. How does Minli's act of kindness help her reach her goal of finding the king?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Run-On Sentence Cards

Minli continued her journey through the forest she encountered many strange creatures.

He looked at Ma she continued to stir her porridge.

Dragon agreed they both smiled.

Minli met the dragon they decided to travel together to the Never-Ending Mountain.

Ma was furious she knew she had to go after Minli.

The king said he'd be here he will come.

Minli was tired she went to sleep.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 22-23.

1. How does Minli get to the Inner City? Describe the Inner City and how it makes Minli feel.

2. How does the king respond when he sees Minli in the Inner City? Why?

3. What does the king think is the borrowed line? Why has he **cherished** it?

4. How is the king's version of "The Story of the Old Man of the Moon" different from the story Minli knew? Why?

5. Why does the king decide to give Minli the borrowed line?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Prompt

cherished

Describe the king. How does the author describe the king's thoughts and actions to develop his character?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Single Paragraph Outline

Topic Sentence: _____

● Detail 1: _____

● Detail 2: _____

● Detail 3: _____

● Detail 4: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Single Paragraph Outline

Topic Sentence: _____

● Detail 1: _____

● Detail 2: _____

● Detail 3: _____

● Detail 4: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Character Description Recording Sheet

Prompt: Describe Minli. Use Chapters 7–23 to support your answer.

Record details about Minli in the table below.

Page Number	Details about Minli: - words, actions, thoughts, interactions with others

Name: _____ Date: _____

Single Paragraph Outline

Topic Sentence: _____

● Detail 1: _____

● Detail 2: _____

● Detail 3: _____

● Detail 4: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

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Record details about Minli in the table below.

Page Number	Details about Minli: - words, actions, thoughts, interactions with others

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 24.

1. Who does Dragon encounter? What description does the author include to help a reader visualize the scene?

2. What information does Dragon learn from the lion about who he is?

3. Summarize what happens in the short story, "A String of Destiny."

4. What does Dragon discover? Why does Grace Lin include "A String of Destiny"?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 25-27.

1. When Ma and Ba first returned from their journey, they felt optimistic about Minli's return. Do they still feel that way? Why or why not?

2. Ba says, "I think, perhaps, the word was faith." (p. 152) Explain what Ba is talking about. What does it mean to have faith in something?

3. Both Minli and Dragon think they have the borrowed line. Based on what you know from the story, which borrowed line do you think is the real borrowed line?

4. Where are Minli and Dragon going in Chapter 27? How does Lin use descriptive details to set the scene?

5. Summarize the key events of Chapter 26.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 28-31.

1. Grace Lin adds many descriptive details of the storm. How do these images impact the mood?

2. How do Dragon's injuries impact Minli?

3. What does Minli decide to do to save Dragon? Why is this a difficult decision? Did she make the right decision?

4. What description does the author include to describe the tiger in Chapter 31? Identify two to three specific words or details and explain what they mean.

5. Describe the scene with Minli and the tiger. What descriptive details does Grace Lin include to paint an image for the reader?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 32-34.

1. The twins say they use the tiger's anger against him. What does that mean?

2. Why do the twins try to defeat the tiger? How does the grandfather feel about the twins' actions? Why?

3. How does the grandfather respond when Minli mentions that her friend is hurt? What does this reveal about what the grandfather values?

4. How does the grandfather respond when he finds Dragon? What does this reveal about what the grandfather values?

5. Explain why the village is called "the Village of the Moon Rain."

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 35-37.

1. Ba begins to question if the fish was actually talking to him. Why?

2. Read the quote from page 191. "Their laughter intertwined but when they looked at each other, they could see the tears forming were not from joy." Explain the significance of this statement.

3. Summarize the story of "The Green Tiger and the Tea." Why does Grace Lin include this story?

4. How are the characters and events in the story of "The Green Tiger and the Tea" connected to earlier events in the book?

5. How do the villagers treat Minli when she returns to the village with the twins? How does this make Minli feel?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 38-39.

1. Summarize the story of Da-A-Fu's ancestors.

2. How does the story of Da-A-Fu's ancestors connect to an earlier story? How/why do you think the village was moved?

3. Describe Never-Ending Mountain. What figurative language does Grace Lin include to help a reader better visualize Never-Ending Mountain?

4. When Minli suggests Da-A-Fu could ask the Old Man of the Moon how to change their fortune, they laugh. Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 40-42.

1. Ba tells Ma they are like, "the Dragon waiting for a sign of his pearl." After reading the story about Dragon's pearl, explain what Ba means by his statement.

2. Summarize "The Story of the Dragon's Pearl."

3. Read the quote from page 232: "She spoke without the desire or envy she used to feel when speaking of the wealth of others." Explain the significance of this statement.

4. Why does Minli offer to ask the Old Man of the Moon Dragon's question? What does this show about Minli and how she has changed?

5. Describe Minli's journey to get to the Old Man of the Moon.

6. Summarize The Story of Wu Kang. What lesson does the story teach?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Prompt

astonished

What lesson is the Old Man of the Moon trying to teach Wu Kang? How does this connect to Minli and the lessons she learns on her journey?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 43-44.

1. Describe Minli's interaction with the Old Man of the Moon. What connections can you make to previous events and characters in the story?

2. Which question does Minli decide to ask? Why?

3. Summarize "The Story that Ma Told."

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 45-46.

1. How does the Old Man of the Moon resolve Dragon's conflict?

2. Summarize Dragon and Minli's trip home.

3. Why does Dragon begin to act strangely?

4. How does Minli feel when she reenters her home? Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Today's reading was *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Ch. 47-48.

1. Close read the following paragraph on page 266.

"'Minli? Minli?' Ma and Ba's happiness burst from them like exploding firecrackers and even before she could open her eyes they had flung themselves upon her. The joy! How it flowed and flooded over her! More golden than the king's dragon bracelet, sweeter than a peach from the Queen Mother's garden, and more beautiful than a Goddess of Heaven!"

What figurative language does Grace Lin use in this paragraph? Why? What mood does it create?

2. Describe the connection between Dragon and Fruitless Mountain.

3. What good fortune do Minli and her family discover? Which of the fortunes is the most valuable to Minli and her parents? Why?

4. How does the entire village change after Minli's return? Why?

5. Summarize what happens when the Goldfish Man returns.

After identifying a group of similar details, write one strong sentence that describes Minli based on these details.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Single Paragraph Outline

Topic Sentence: _____

● Detail 1: _____

● Detail 2: _____

● Detail 3: _____

● Detail 4: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Discussion Prompt

Using details from the entire unit and text, prepare for a class discussion about the following Essential Questions:

- What does it mean to have good fortune?
- How are people transformed through their relationships with others?

Make sure to identify specific moments from the text to support your answers.

Use the box below to plan your response. Write your response on the lines below the box.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Single Paragraph Outline

Topic Sentence: _____

● Detail 1: _____

● Detail 2: _____

● Detail 3: _____

● Detail 4: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Character Perspective Recording Sheet

Prompt: Describe Minli.

Record details about Ma's opinion of stories in the table below.

Page Number	Details about Ma: - words, actions, thoughts, interactions with others

Name: _____ Date: _____

Single Paragraph Outline

Topic Sentence: _____

● Detail 1: _____

● Detail 2: _____

● Detail 3: _____

● Detail 4: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Single Paragraph Outline

Topic Sentence: _____

● Detail 1: _____

● Detail 2: _____

● Detail 3: _____

● Detail 4: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Narrative Brainstorming Graphic Organizer

Point of View:

Setting:

Characters:

Climax:

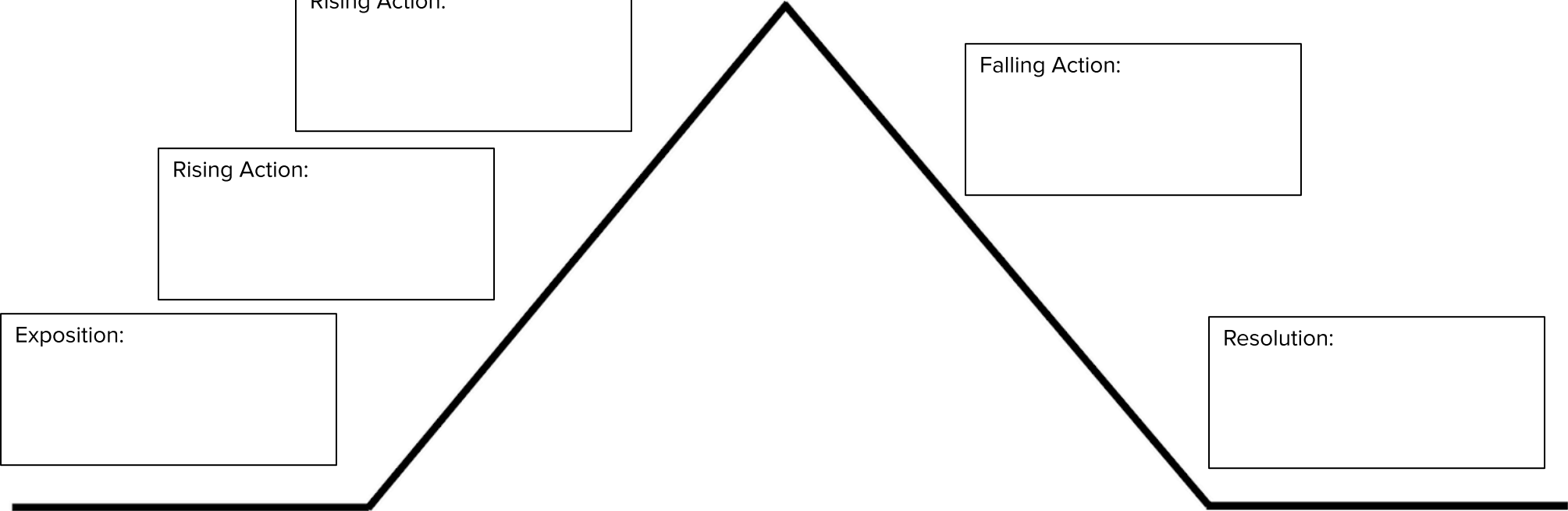
Rising Action:

Falling Action:

Rising Action:

Exposition:

Resolution:



Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Story Brainstorming Page

Brainstorm scenes from *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* that could have a different ending.

Scene from Novel	New Ending Idea

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Story Brainstorming Page

Brainstorm scenes from *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* that could have a different ending.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Narrative Brainstorming Graphic Organizer

Point of View:

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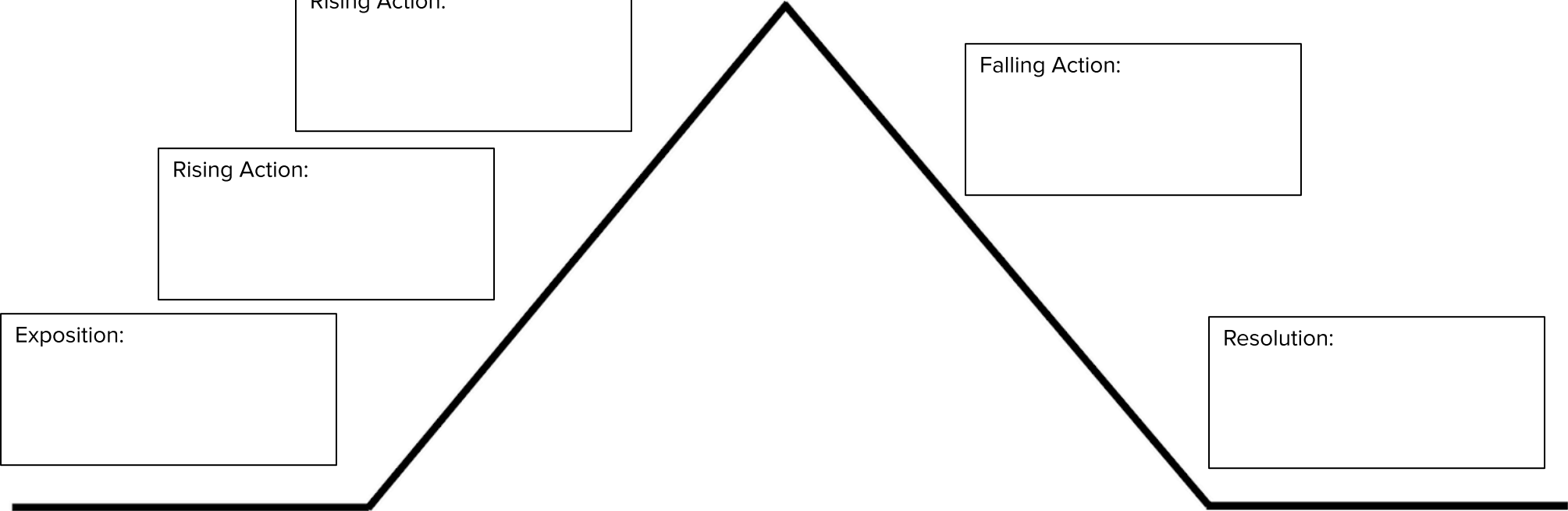
Rising Action:

Falling Action:

Rising Action:

Exposition:

Resolution:



Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Story Brainstorming Page

Brainstorm scenes from *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* that could have a different ending.

Scene from Novel	New Ending Idea

Name: _____ Date: _____

Narrative Brainstorming Graphic Organizer

Point of View:

Setting:

Characters:

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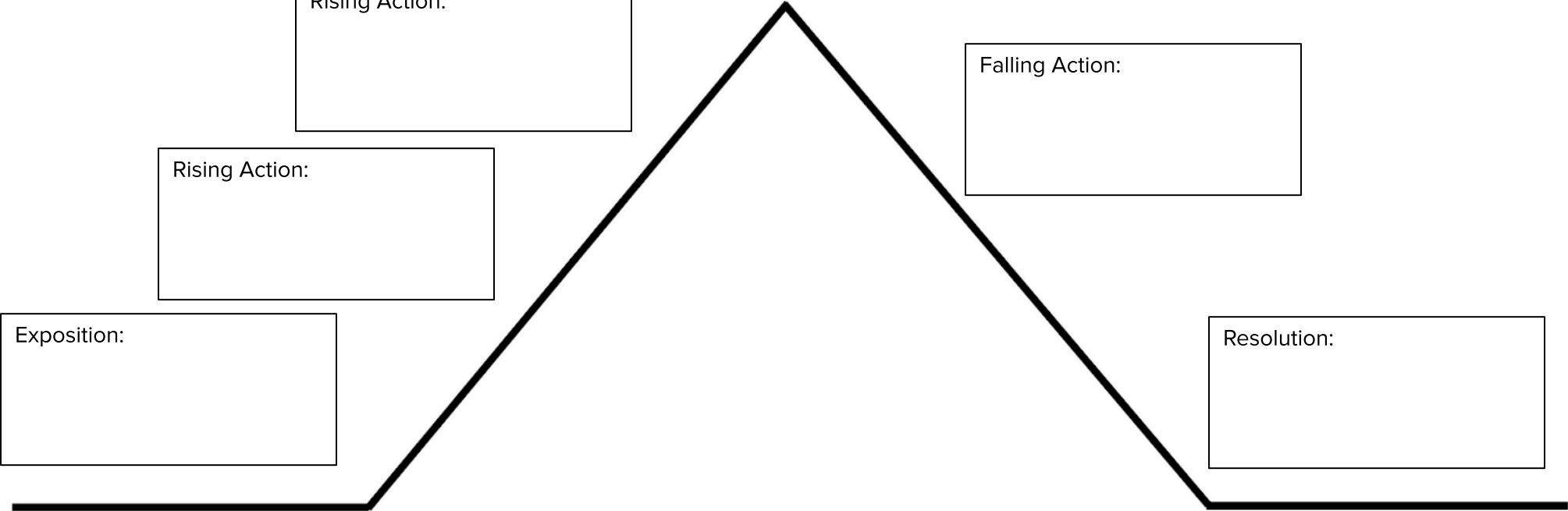
Rising Action:

Falling Action:

Rising Action:

Exposition:

Resolution:



Name: _____ Date: _____

Narrative Brainstorming Graphic Organizer

Point of View:

Setting:

Characters:

Climax:

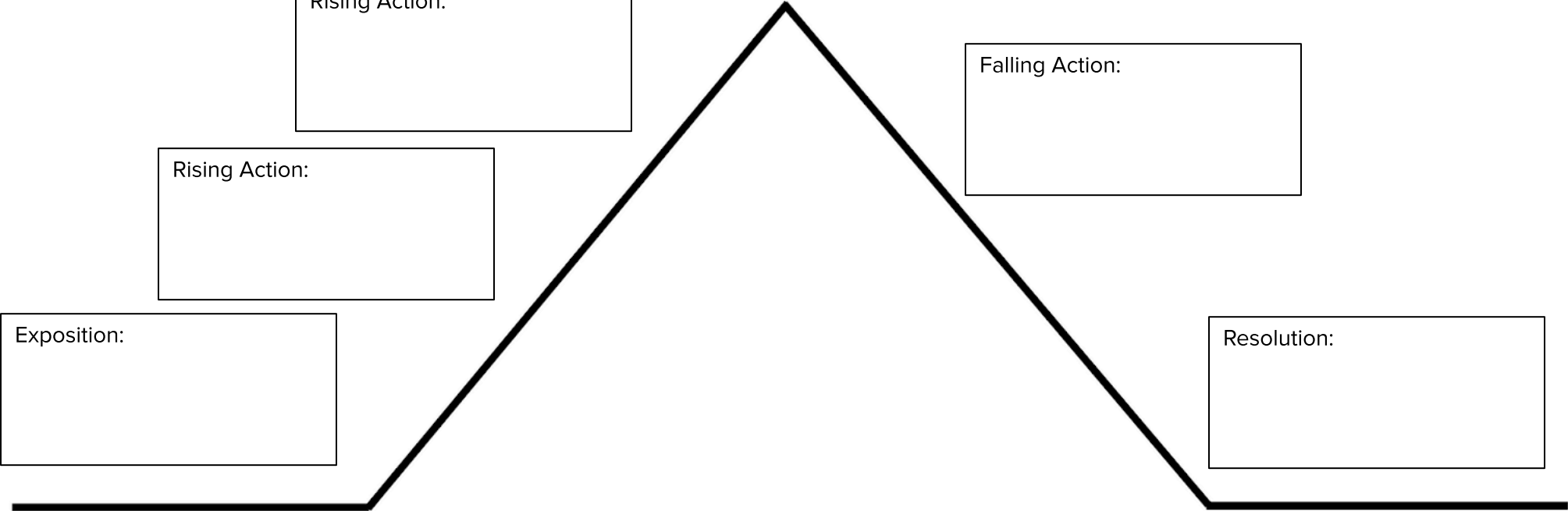
Rising Action:

Falling Action:

Rising Action:

Exposition:

Resolution:





Vocabulary

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
affectionately	adv.	in a loving or caring way
appalled	adj.	shocked or very upset
ashamed	adj.	feeling shame or guilt
astonished	adj.	feeling great surprise or wonder
attain	v.	to accomplish something
awed	v.	caused a feeling of amazement
cherished	adj.	loved or valued very much
contentedly	adv.	to do something in a way that is satisfying
deceive	v.	to make someone believe something that isn't true, to trick someone
delightful	adj.	very pleasant
despair	n.	a feeling of no hope
destined	adj.	definitely going to become something or do something

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
dis-	prefix	
discontent	n.	unhappiness or disapproval
engrossed	adj.	holding someone's complete interest or attention
enraged	adj.	very angry
envy	n.	a feeling of unhappiness or jealousy because someone else has something you want
-ful	suffix	
hesitate	v.	to stop briefly because you are nervous or unsure
im-	prefix	not
impulsive	adj.	doing something suddenly without thought
in-	prefix	not
inexplicably	adv.	in a way that is unable to be explained or understood
-less	suffix	

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
mis-	prefix	bad or badly, wrong or wrongly
misfortune	n.	bad luck
-ness	suffix	
obedient	adj.	doing what someone tells you to do
outwit	v.	to beat someone by being smarter
protest	v.	showing strong disagreement or disapproval
sacrifice	v.	to give up something that means a lot to you in exchange for something else
scrutinizing	v.	looking at something closely
stubborn	adj.	not changing your mind about something
taunted	v.	said insulting things to someone in order to make them angry
un-	prefix	
urge	n.	a strong feeling of wanting something

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
viciousness	n.	the act of being very violent and cruel



Unit Rubrics & Assessments

Opinion Writing Rubric

4th Grade English Language Arts

Rubric Scoring Key	Fully meets (4) All criteria present in the writing	Mostly meets (3) Most criteria present, with some misunderstandings	Partially meets (2) Criteria attempted, but major misunderstandings	Does not meet yet (1) Criteria are not attempted or not enough evidence to rate
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Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
Organizational Structure Ideas are grouped logically; Sections are ordered strategically; Includes introduction and conclusion sections; Uses third-person to state an opinion consistently	4 3 2 1	
Introduction Clearly states a topic and opinion based on facts and details; Introduction <u>may</u> use a lead that captures the reader's interest, such as posing a question or presenting interesting facts or details	4 3 2 1	
Conclusion Includes a concluding sentence or section that <u>may</u> ask a question or make a suggestion; Concluding sentence/section <u>may</u> begin with a transition word or phrase unique to conclusions (e.g. <i>In conclusion</i> , <i>finally</i>)	4 3 2 1	

Development	Rubric Score	Notes
Reasons Includes three to four facts and details to support opinion; Effectively chooses compelling reasons and orders most compelling reasons first	4 3 2 1	
Linking Words and Phrases Effectively and consistently uses linking words or phrases; Effectively and consistently uses linking words or phrases to connect opinion and reasons, or paragraphs	4 3 2 1	

Language	Rubric Score	Notes
Grammar Includes complete simple, compound, and complex sentences Uses nouns correctly, including relative pronouns Uses verbs correctly, including relative adverbs, the progressive form, and modal auxiliaries Uses adjectives correctly, including ordering adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns Forms and uses prepositional phrases correctly	4 3 2 1	
Conventions Uses correct capitalization conventions Uses correct punctuation conventions, including commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text, commas before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence Correctly uses frequently confused words, such as "to" and "too," and "there," "their," and "they're"	4 3 2 1	

Narrative Writing Rubric

4th Grade English Language Arts

Rubric Scoring Key	Fully meets (4) All criteria present in the writing	Mostly meets (3) Most criteria present, with some misunderstandings	Partially meets (2) Criteria attempted, but major misunderstandings	Does not meet yet (1) Criteria are not attempted or not enough evidence to rate
---------------------------	---	---	---	---

Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
Event Sequence Includes all the key components of the narrative arc: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution; Uses paragraphs to manage the sequence of events by showing a new event or when a new character speaks	4 3 2 1	
Point of View Point of view is clear and consistent throughout the story; Clear understanding of the task's audience and purpose	4 3 2 1	
Setting Includes many details directly and indirectly to describe the place, time, and (if pertinent) the weather conditions of the story; Describes the setting using sensory details, descriptions of the characters' actions, dialogue, or physical appearance	4 3 2 1	
Paragraph Structure Consistently starts new paragraphs appropriately, including when a new event starts or when a new character is speaking	4 3 2 1	

Development	Rubric Score	Notes
Characters Includes one to two major characters; Develops the major character with multiple details and descriptions; Uses both direct and indirect description	4 3 2 1	
Plot Begins by introducing the characters, setting, and background information using sensory details; <u>May</u> begin with dialogue to hook the reader; Major characters experience and solve problems throughout the story; Ends with a resolution, which <u>may</u> include showing how the problem is solved or a lesson that shows how the main character changes or learns something	4 3 2 1	
Precise Words and Phrases Appropriately uses temporal words to help the events in the story unfold logically	4 3 2 1	
Dialogue Appropriately uses dialogue to advance the plot and establish a character's personality; Includes variety of dialogue tags that show how the characters are speaking	4 3 2 1	

Language	Rubric Score	Notes
Grammar Includes complete simple, compound, and complex sentences; Uses nouns correctly, including relative pronouns; Uses verbs correctly, including relative adverbs, the progressive form, and modal auxiliaries; Uses adjectives correctly, including ordering adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns; Forms and uses prepositional phrases correctly	4 3 2 1	
Conventions Uses correct capitalization conventions; Uses correct punctuation conventions, including commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text, commas before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence; Correctly uses frequently confused words, such as "to" and "too" and "there," "their," and "they're"	4 3 2 1	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Single Point Opinion Writing Rubric

4th Grade English Language Arts

	Areas for Growth What could I do to make my writing even stronger? How can I improve?	Criteria Expectations for my writing assignment:	Strengths What am I doing well already? What am I proud of?
Position		I write a topic sentence that clearly states my position.	
Structure		I write an introduction that clearly states my opinion and includes a question or facts.	
Development		I use facts and details to support my position.	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Single Point Narrative Writing Rubric


4th Grade English Language Arts

	Areas for Growth What could I do to make my writing even stronger? How can I improve?	Criteria Expectations for my writing assignment:	Strengths What am I doing well already? What am I proud of?
Characters		I include the thoughts and feelings of at least one major character.	
Voice		I use the correct pronouns for the narrator throughout the story.	
Starting the Story		I engage the reader by including one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Descriptive details- Sound effect- Question	
		I orient the reader to the characters and setting by including descriptive details.	
Paragraph Structure		I start a new paragraph when a new event occurs.	

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Editing Checklist 1


Language and Conventions Focus Area	
I begin all sentences with a capital letter.	
I end all sentences with the correct punctuation mark.	
My sentences have a subject, <i>who</i> or <i>what</i> does something, and a predicate, what they <i>do</i> or <i>how they are</i> .	

My writing goal:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Editing Checklist 2

Language and Conventions Focus Area	
I begin all sentences with a capital letter.	
I end all sentences with the correct punctuation mark.	
My sentences have a subject, <i>who</i> or <i>what</i> does something, and a predicate, what they <i>do</i> or how they <i>are</i> .	
I recognize and correct run-on sentences by adding a comma and a coordinating conjunction.	

My writing goal:

Name: _____ Date: _____ *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*

Read the excerpt from *Starry River of the Sky* by Grace Lin. Then answer the questions that follow.

Excerpt from *Starry River of the Sky*

By Grace Lin

In this excerpt, a boy named Rendi has run away from home and is traveling alone. He has hidden inside a merchant's cart.

- 1 "I just need enough wine to protect us from the Noxious Animals," the innkeeper said. "For me to drink and to write the *wang* symbol on my daughter's forehead. One jug will be fine."
- 2 "But it is the famous Son Wine," the merchant said. "And I can give you a very good deal."
- 3 "Son Wine?" the innkeeper said. Rendi could hear the hesitation. *Don't buy any!* Rendi begged silently, trying to quiet his thumping heart. *Don't open the cart!*
- 4 "I can sell it in the city for a high price, but it has been so hot that I'm afraid the wine may spoil before I get there," the merchant continued. "You can see I've even had to cover my cart. It's better for me to sell you some now. We can include my last night's lodging in the cost."
- 5 As noiselessly as possible, Rendi scrambled to the back of the cart while the men outside agreed on a price. Rendi squeezed between the two *gangs*¹ farthest from the opening, the huge clay containers compressing him like meat in a dumpling. The cart opened, and Rendi clasped his bag close to him, feeling the hardness of his rice bowl through the cloth.
- 6 The merchant and the innkeeper struggled to remove a *gang*, rocking the cart back and forth. Rendi scarcely breathed, and the men grunted as they pushed and shoved. Neither noticed the small figure well hidden in the shadows of the remaining *gangs*.
- 7 With a rude curse from the merchant, the vat finally dropped safely to the ground with a thud. Both men leaned against the cart, and the sun glinted from the back of the merchant's bald, perspiring head. As the innkeeper sighed from the exertion, Rendi slowed his breath. *Safe*, Rendi thought as he listened to the men finish their deal. He closed his eyes in relief.
- 8 "What's that?" the innkeeper said.
- 9 Rendi's eyes flew open. Hands and arms reached toward him, grabbing and pulling. He

¹ **gang** (noun): a huge pottery vessel that holds wine

squirmed and struggled, but there was no escape. Rendi was roughly dragged out of the cart, and soon he was staggering and squinting in the bright daylight.

- 10 "A stowaway!" the merchant growled, his friendly manner disappearing. The merchant was wiry and sun-brown, and his hands were strong as iron chains. One hand clamped the back of Rendi's neck in a relentless grip while the other rose to strike him with a vicious blow.
- 11 Rendi cringed, but the innkeeper grabbed the merchant's arm before it struck. "He's just a boy," said the innkeeper, who was shaped a bit like a jug of wine himself. "He doesn't look much older than my daughter.
- 12 "You can have him, then!" the merchant said with an unkind laugh. He shoved Rendi to the ground. As Rendi coughed up dust and the innkeeper helped him to his feet, the merchant quickly closed the cart, climbed into the driver's seat, and grabbed the reins of the donkey. "Didn't you say your son left?" he mocked. "Have this one. He's included with the wine!"
- 13 "But...." The innkeeper said as the wheels of the cart spit dust at him. "But..."
- 14 Rendi's muscles were as soft as uncooked tofu and his face as friendly as an angry tiger, but Master Chao said finally, "I do need someone to help with the chores at the inn."
- 15 *A chore boy!* Rendi scowled with scorn, but then he saw the long, wide, empty road in front of him and the dust from the merchant's cart floating in the air like a fading ghost. The grass was yellow and withering, and a quick scan around showed, besides the shabby inn, a handful of broken-down stone houses. *There's nothing here!* Rendi thought with shock. *Where am I?*
- 16 "What kind of chores?" Rendi said, forcing the words from his mouth. He would stay for now, he told himself. But just for now.
- 17 "Well, first," Master Chao said, "I need you to help me bring this wine into the inn."
- 18 Rendi was not much help moving the wine. He could not get his puny arms around the gang, much less lift it. Master Chao grunted and huffed and panted and had only succeeded in moving the wine a few feet when Rendi said, "If we put it on its side, we could roll it."
- 19 Master Chao stopped and said, "What is your name?"
- 20 "Rendi."
- 21 "Well, Rendi," Master Chao said, "that is a good idea."
- 22 Rendi's dark frown lightened. They tilted the *gang* and slowly rolled it into the inn, the hot sun burning their necks. But when they brought the wine into the back storeroom, a

small figure ran in like lightning, and Rendi's scowl returned.

- 23 It was Master Chao's young daughter, Peiyi. Her round face still showed remains of her breakfast, and the bottoms of her pant legs were brown with dirt. Rendi wrinkled his nose, looking at her as if she were a worm in a half-eaten peach.
- 24 "Who's that boy?" Peiyi asked, stopping in midstride.
- 25 "That's Rendi," Master Chao said without turning. He was mixing realgar powder into a small bowl of wine. "Rendi is going to take over some of Jiming's chores. Rendi, this is my daughter, Peiyi."
- 26 Rendi sniffed and rolled his eyes away from her in contempt. Peiyi's eyes narrowed.
- 27 However, Master Chao seemed not to notice and brought Peiyi in front of him. He gently pushed her tangled hair from her cherry-blossom-pink face. She stood as still as a carved statue, with only her eyes moving, as her father dipped his finger into the wine mixture and carefully wrote wang, a symbol of power, with it on her forehead. Rendi watched from the doorway, and a strange, jealous anger filled him.
- 28 "That should protect you from the Noxious Animals," Master Chao said to her, and sighed. "Day of Five Poisons, already! Spring was hardly here, and now it's summer."
- 29 Peiyi didn't answer, for her eyes were glued on Rendi in the doorway. He had been making rude faces at her, pretending to be each of the five poisonous animals – snake, scorpion, centipede, spider, and toad. His last impression was of the Noxious Toad, which he made by bulging his eyes and sticking out his tongue.
- 30 "Why is that boy here?" Peiyi said, her lips pursing.
- 31 "I told you," Master Chao said. "With Jiming gone, we need someone to help with the chores."
- 32 "We don't need him!" Peiyi protested. "Jiming will come back!"
- 33 Master Chao sighed again, this time with a heavy sigh that fell like a stone in water. "Your brother made his decision," he said, standing up stiffly. Without another word, Master Chao walked out of the room.
- 34 Peiyi stared after her father with forlorn eyes and then looked at Rendi. The strange, jealous anger from before had lingered and strengthened, and he jeered at her.
- 35 "Baby!" Rendi said. "Too young to drink the wine, so you have to wear the wang sign! Watch out for the Noxious Animals!"
- 36 Peiyi glared. "Horrible!" she hissed at him, and ran out of the room.

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1. Summarize what happens with Rendi in paragraphs 1 through 10.

2. Read the sentence from paragraph 14.

Rendi's muscles were as soft as uncooked tofu and his face as friendly as an angry tiger, but Master Chao said finally, "I do need someone to help with the chores at the inn."

Why does the author include the description "and his face as friendly as an angry tiger"?

- a. to show how warm and welcoming Rendi is
 - b. to highlight how ugly and disfigured Rendi's face is
 - c. to show how unfriendly and hostile Rendi is
 - d. to highlight how confused Master Chao is by Rendi
3. What does the word contempt mean as it is used in paragraph 26?
 - a. disapproval
 - b. eagerness
 - c. awe
 - d. weariness

4. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: Which statement best summarizes what happens in paragraphs 26–29?

- a. Master Chao prepares a protective symbol for Peiyi, while Rendi watches and then mocks her.
- b. Rendi and Peiyi become friends after joking about the Noxious Animals together.
- c. Master Chao teaches Rendi how to protect himself from the Noxious Animals.
- d. Peiyi scares Rendi by pretending to be dangerous animals.

Part B: Which detail from paragraphs 26–29 best supports the answer to **Part A**?

- a. "'That should protect you from the Noxious Animals,' Master Chao said to her, and sighed." (paragraph 28)
- b. "Rendi watched from the doorway, and a strange, jealous anger filled him." (Paragraph 27)
- c. "Peiyi didn't answer, for her eyes were glued on Rendi in the doorway." (Paragraph 29)
- d. "His last impression was of the Noxious Toad, which he made by bulging his eyes and sticking out his tongue." (paragraph 29)

5. How does Rendi change from the beginning of the passage to the end?

- a. He goes from feeling confident to feeling scared.
- b. He goes from feeling relieved to feeling frustrated and unkind toward others.
- c. He goes from feeling angry to feeling grateful for help.
- d. He goes from feeling curious to feeling bored.

6. Describe Rendi. What specific words and descriptions does Grace Lin include to help a reader better understand Rendi?

Name: _____ Date: _____ *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***Part One: Vocabulary**

1. Read the sentence.

Minli was _____, so she made decisions without thinking.

Which word best completes the sentence?

- a. astonished
- b. engrossed
- c. ashamed
- d. impulsive

2. Read the sentence.

Minli believes she is **destined** to change her family's fortune.

What does the word **destined** most likely mean in this sentence?

- a. Surprised by something
- b. Definitely going to become or do something
- c. Forced to do something
- d. Afraid of what will happen

3. Why does Minli feel
- discontent**
- at the beginning of
- Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*
- ?

- a. **Discontent** means unhappiness or dissatisfaction, and Minli feels this way because her family is poor and their life is difficult.
- b. **Discontent** means worry, and Minli feels this way because she is afraid her father's stories are not true.
- c. **Discontent** means boredom, and Minli feels this way because she is tired of hearing the same stories every night.
- d. **Discontent** means frustration, and Minli feels this way because she wants to help her family but does not know how.

4. Read the sentence.

Minli sat **contentedly** by the fire, listening to her parents' stories.

What does the word **contentedly** mean in this sentence?

- a. In a satisfying way
- b. In a bored and tired way
- c. In a loud and excited way
- d. In a fast and rushed way

5. Pick two words from the list below. Use each in a sentence that shows an understanding of the word.

hesitate	stubborn	appalled	deceive
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- _____

- _____

Student: _____	Examiner: _____	Date: _____
Words Read Correctly: _____	Errors: _____	

Excerpt from *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*

"This is not just any gift," Ba whispered, and he took his sleeve and gently rubbed	16
the surface of the stone. To Minli's great surprise, the grayness of the stone began to	32
smudge away and a translucent, lustrous glow seemed to shine through. "This is a	46
dragon's pearl."	48
Minli and Ma stared. "A dragon's pearl!" Ma said slowly. She sat down and looked at	64
Minli. "A dragon's pearl is worth the Emperor's entire fortune."	74
Minli opened her mouth but before any words could come out there was a great	89
shouting and clamoring outside on the street. Ba quickly, but carefully, put the	102
dragon pearl back on the table before they all hurried out to see what the uproar	118
was about.	120
"What is it?" Ma asked, grabbing a neighbor. The entire village had flowed into the	135
street, talking and shouting like a flock of birds discovering a feast. "What is happening?"	150
"It's Fruitless Mountain!" the neighbor said. "Fruitless Mountain has turned green."	161
"What?" Ba said.	164
"It's true, it's true!" another neighbor chimed in. "Fruitless Mountain is no longer	177
fruitless! And the Jade River is clear and fresh too!"	187
Minli, Ma, and Ba looked at the mountain. It was true. Fruitless Mountain was no longer a	204
black shadow above them. As the day dawned, the mountain had transformed.	216

Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2011. Print. Pages 267-268.

Excerpt from *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*

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Minli and Ma stared. "A dragon's pearl!" Ma said slowly. She sat down and looked at Minli. "A dragon's pearl is worth the Emperor's entire fortune."

Minli opened her mouth but before any words could come out there was a great shouting and clamoring outside on the street. Ba quickly, but carefully, put the dragon pearl back on the table before they all hurried out to see what the uproar was about.

"What is it?" Ma asked, grabbing a neighbor. The entire village had flowed into the street, talking and shouting like a flock of birds discovering a feast. "What is happening?"

"It's Fruitless Mountain!" the neighbor said. "Fruitless Mountain has turned green."

"What?" Ba said.

"It's true, it's true!" another neighbor chimed in. "Fruitless Mountain is no longer fruitless! And the Jade River is clear and fresh too!"

Minli, Ma, and Ba looked at the mountain. It was true. Fruitless Mountain was no longer a black shadow above them. As the day dawned, the mountain had transformed.

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Texts & Supporting Readings



In addition to the materials in this document, students will engage with third party, copyrighted materials as part of this unit. To see a list of those texts and their authors please visit:

<https://www.fishtanklearning.org/curriculum/ela/4th-grade/materials/>