

Sample Outline and Sample Paragraph

Prompt: How do family dynamics shape a person's identity? Provide examples from Chapters 1–3 of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* to support your answer.

Support students in discussing the role of each of the sentences in the paragraph by numbering or color-coding them.

Sample Outline	Sample Paragraph
<p>Topic Sentence: Family dynamics shape a person's identity by influencing their beliefs about honesty and loyalty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail 1: Byron—stands up for Kenny at school → loyalty • Detail 2: Momma—helps Kenny fix friendship with Rufus → honesty and loyalty <p>Concluding Sentence: Kenny's experiences with Momma and Byron are clear examples of how family dynamics shape who a person is and who they aspire to be.</p>	<p>Family dynamics shape a person's identity by influencing their beliefs about honesty and loyalty. Kenny learns important lessons about these values from his family, which helps shape how he sees the world. For example, Byron helps Kenny understand the importance of loyalty. Even though Byron often teases Kenny at home, he protects him at school. When Buphead attempts to tease Kenny for reading in front of their class at school, Byron defends him and shows pride in his skills. This moment teaches Kenny that true loyalty means standing by someone when it counts. It's clear that Kenny wants to emulate his brother's loyalty because he helps Byron when he gets his lips stuck to the car mirror.</p>

Sample Paragraph
<p>Family dynamics shape a person's identity by influencing their beliefs about honesty and loyalty. Kenny learns important lessons about these values from his family, which helps shape how he sees the world. For example, Byron helps Kenny understand the importance of loyalty. Even though Byron often teases Kenny at home, he protects him at school. When Buphead attempts to tease Kenny for reading in front of their class at school, Byron defends him and shows pride in his skills. This moment teaches Kenny that true loyalty means standing by someone when it counts. It's clear that Kenny wants to emulate his brother's loyalty because he helps Byron when he gets his lips stuck to the car mirror. Kenny also learns important lessons about how to be an honest and loyal friend from Momma through her guidance about his friendship with Rufus. Though at first Kenny is embarrassed about his friendship with Rufus and doesn't stand up for him, he admits his mistake to Momma, who encourages Kenny to be honest and apologize. Kenny follows her advice, and this experience teaches him that it's important to be loyal to your friends no matter the situation. In conclusion, family dynamics play an important role in shaping a person's identity by guiding their beliefs about honesty and loyalty.</p>