

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Understanding Characters

**Don Quixote and  
the Windmills**  
Comprehension:  
Understanding Characters

Read the selection below.

## The Queen's Question

The queen stood in her dressing room, dressed in her royal garments. The rich fabric swirled around her ankles as she turned to face the mirror. She tipped her chin back and squinted at her image, beautiful and regal. Her jewels caught the golden light and sparkled like tiny flames. A smile crossed her lips. Surely, she thought, she must be the most beautiful in all her kingdom. Could there possibly be anyone fairer? She had to know.

She summoned her advisors. Sharply, she demanded to know who was fairer than she. Terrified, her advisors replied, "No one, Your Majesty!" "Liars!" she exclaimed. "You say this just to please me. I ask again—is there one fairer than I?" "Well, Your Majesty," replied one. "There is one maiden in the village of whose beauty many have spoken." The queen seethed in a long silence. Finally, she hissed, "Bring her to me."

Use the Column Chart to analyze the queen's thoughts, actions, and words.

Use the chart to help you answer the questions below.

Thoughts	Actions	Words

1. Describe what the queen is like.

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2. What is the queen's motive for sending for the maiden?

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# Understanding Characters

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Understanding Characters

Read the selection below.

## Cynthia and the “Fairy” Godmother

“Oh for goodness sake!” The plump little woman tapped the bent stick that she insisted was her “wand” against her palm. “This usually works like a charm.” She chuckled. “Get it? A charm!”

Cynthia laughed nervously. She wasn’t at all confident that this odd woman—her so-called “fairy” godmother—could be the least bit helpful. She felt as if she were holding on to her last shred of hope as she watched her godmother struggle with a pumpkin, of all things.

“Come on now,” said her godmother, rolling up her sleeves. “This worked last month on a melon without any trouble at all.”

As she prepared to try the transformation for the fifth time, the

godmother glanced over at Cynthia.

“Turn that frown upside down, my dear,” she quipped. “We’ll get you to the royal ball yet. Trust me.” She peered at Cynthia’s clothes. “Oh my,” she said. “You can’t wear *that*.”

Cynthia looked down at her ragged, patched skirt and sighed. She couldn’t possibly wear these rags to the ball. Just then her godmother muttered something ridiculous and waved her “wand” with a flourish over Cynthia’s outfit. Nothing happened.

“Oh dear,” clucked the godmother. “Well, we’ll come back to that later. Now, about this silly pumpkin. . . .”

Use a Column Chart like the one shown here to analyze the thoughts, words, and actions of the main characters. Then answer the questions below.


1. How are Cynthia and her godmother different?

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2. What effect can you predict the godmother’s behavior will have on the plot?

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# Idioms

An **idiom** is a common phrase or saying. Its meaning can't be understood by the meanings of its individual words. Some idioms are **adages**, or common sayings that give wise advice.

**idiom**

On Tuesday, it rained cats and dogs.

**adage**

Look before you leap.

**Don Quixote and the Windmills**

Vocabulary Strategies:  
Idioms

All that glitters is not gold.

A penny saved is a penny earned.

Don't go tilting at windmills.

It was a piece of cake.

She had beginner's luck.

She is fed up.

Please keep in touch.

Don't make a mountain out of a molehill.

Experience is the best teacher.

A watched pot never boils.

**Activity** Write an idiom from the box that means the same or nearly the same as each item.

1. It doesn't help to be impatient.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Don't spend money foolishly.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The test was easy for me.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Don't imagine things are worse than they actually are.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. It's better to strive for real goals than imaginary ones.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. My sister is annoyed.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Even if something is attractive, it's not necessarily meaningful.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. I hope you will write to me or call.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Words from Other Languages

**Don Quixote and  
the Windmills**  
Spelling: Words from Other  
Languages

**Basic** Write the Basic Word that best completes each sentence.

1. A very rich \_\_\_\_\_ owns the Triple Z ranch.
2. All of the ranch hands work in thick, denim  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. In cooler weather they also wear a warm cloak, or  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ helps keep sweat off their faces and  
necks.
5. They use a \_\_\_\_\_ to rope wild horses and  
stray cattle.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_, a flour tortilla with fillings, is a  
specialty of the ranch's cook.
7. He also prepares a spicy sauce called \_\_\_\_\_.
8. He chops one ripe, juicy \_\_\_\_\_ after another.
9. The cook serves lunch on the paved \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Then the workers take an afternoon nap, or  
\_\_\_\_\_.
11. They take turns sleeping in the \_\_\_\_\_ swinging  
on the porch.

**Challenge 12–14.** Write a short travel article for your school paper about things to see and do on a vacation. Use three of the Challenge Words. Write on a separate sheet of paper.

## Spelling Words

1. salsa
2. mattress
3. tycoon
4. burrito
5. bandana
6. tomato
7. poncho
8. dungarees
9. lasso
10. patio
11. siesta
12. cargo
13. vanilla
14. tsunami
15. iguana
16. plaza
17. caravan
18. hammock
19. pajamas
20. gallant

## Challenge

mosquito  
cathedral  
alligator  
tambourine  
sombrero

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Spelling Word Sort

**Don Quixote and  
the Windmills**  
Spelling: Words from Other  
Languages

Write each Basic Word beside the correct heading.

Two syllables	Basic Words:
Three syllables	Basic Words:  Challenge Words:
Other syllable counts	Challenge Words:

## Spelling Words

1. salsa
2. mattress
3. tycoon
4. burrito
5. bandana
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7. poncho
8. dungarees
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**Challenge** Add the Challenge Words to your Word Sort.

### Challenge

mosquito  
cathedral  
alligator  
tambourine  
sombrero

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Proofreading for Spelling

**Find the misspelled words and circle them. Write them correctly on the lines below.**

Dear Donnie,

We are having fun in Mexico, despite a stunami of chores before we left Laredo. I think the cargoe includes everything but a mattress! Our carivan of three left early while it was still dark. I was still in my pajammas! While we drove along, I read *Don Quixote*. He is so gallent. He reminds me of you.

For lunch today, I ate a buritto with saulsa and vannilla flan in a little piazza. Yesterday, during my midday seista in a woven-rope hammack, I watched a fat, lazy igauna on the hotel pattio. I named him Sancho Panza. Today I am shopping for a ponchoe for you to wear as you ride among the giants.

Dulcy

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 8. _____ |           |

**Don Quixote and the Windmills**  
**Spelling:** Words from Other Languages

## Spelling Words

1. salsa
2. mattress
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### Challenge

- mosquito  
cathedral  
alligator  
tambourine  
sombrero

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# Forming Contractions with *Not*

**Don Quixote and the Windmills**  
Grammar: Contractions

A **contraction** is a word formed by joining two words into one shorter word. An **apostrophe** (') takes the place of the letter or letters dropped in making the shorter word. You can combine some verbs with the word **not** to make contractions.

**contractions**

do + not = don't

are + not = aren't

have + not = haven't

will + not = won't

**Thinking Question**

*Which contraction is made with the word not?*

**1–5. On the line, write a contraction for the underlined words.**

1. Sancho hopes they will not meet the evil magician. \_\_\_\_\_

2. He knows there are not really four-armed giants in the field.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Don Quixote does not recognize the windmills. \_\_\_\_\_

4. He thinks he lost the battle because he had not been properly dubbed a knight. \_\_\_\_\_

5. The townspeople do not understand Quixote's madness.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6–8. Rewrite the sentence using a contraction with the verb and *not*.**

6. The friends have not stopped traveling for many months.  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Don Quixote could not believe the building was just a shack.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Sancho would not blow his bugle.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Contractions with Pronouns

**Don Quixote and the Windmills**  
Grammar: Contractions

You can make contractions with pronouns and some helping verbs. Use an apostrophe (') to take the place of the letter or letters dropped.

I + am = I'm

he + is = he's

they + are = they're

she + has = she's

you + have = you've

he + had = he'd

### Thinking Question

*Which word is made up of a pronoun and a verb?*

## 1–4. Write a contraction for the underlined words.

1. You will like the story of Orlando. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He is another foolish knight. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Orlando fought dragons, but Angelica said she would never care for him. \_\_\_\_\_
4. We have seen the play several times. \_\_\_\_\_

## 5–8. Rewrite each sentence to use a contraction for each pronoun and helping verb.

5. I am reading the story of Orlando now.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Orlando says he has gone mad with love.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. He had actually flown to the moon to find Orlando's wits.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. You would not believe these foolish knights!  
\_\_\_\_\_



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# Pronoun Contractions and Homophones

**Don Quixote and the Windmills**  
Grammar: Contractions

Some pronoun contractions have **homophones**. Homophones are words that sound the same, but are spelled differently and have different meanings.

<b>contraction</b>	<b>homophones</b>
<b>it's</b>	its belongs to <i>or</i> of it
<b>they're</b>	there in or at that place
<b>you're</b>	your belongs to <i>or</i> of you
<b>who's</b>	whose belongs to <i>or</i> of who/whom

**Activity** Circle the errors in this story. Look for pronoun contractions and their homophones.

Once they're was a princess who wanted to be a hero.

"Do you think its fair that I have to sit at home, while knights are having their big adventures?" she asked her mother.

"Perhaps your right," replied the queen, "but whose to say your adventure won't happen soon? Your good with a sword, an excellent rider, and also, you are wise."

The next morning a nearby king said he would give a reward to the person whose wisdom or might could save his country from a dreadful dragon.

The princess asked her parents if she could go, and with their permission, she set off. She rode a long distance. She passed through villages and hamlets, where people were harvesting they're crops.

She asked them, "Whose seen the dragon lately?"

Each time, the people pointed towards the west. "It's passed this way. We felt its breath and heard it's wings in the night."

So the princess followed the trail.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Easily Confused Verbs

**Don Quixote and the  
Windmills**

Grammar: Spiral Review

Verb	Meaning	Example
<b>can</b>	to be able	He <b>can</b> read books.
<b>may</b>	to be allowed	He <b>may</b> borrow my book.
<b>sit</b>	to rest	They <b>sit</b> on a wooden bench.
<b>set</b>	to place or put	They <b>set</b> their helmets on the bench.
<b>teach</b>	to give instruction	She will <b>teach</b> us about Don Quixote.
<b>learn</b>	to receive instruction	We <b>learn</b> about Don Quixote.
<b>let</b>	to allow	She <b>let</b> us read in class.
<b>leave</b>	to go away	They <b>leave</b> the classroom.
<b>lie</b>	to recline	I <b>lie</b> on the sofa to read.
<b>lay</b>	to put in a place	I <b>lay</b> my book on the table.
<b>rise</b>	to move upward	I <b>rise</b> early to read before breakfast.
<b>raise</b>	to put in a higher position	I <b>raise</b> my hands in class.

**Activity** Write the correct verb from the parentheses on the line.

1. "(Can, May) we stop to drink water?" the soldier asked the knight. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The knight is tired and wants to (sit, set) down for a while. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The knight offered to (teach, learn) the boys how to protect themselves. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The knight wondered if it was a good idea to (leave, let) home. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The knight and his friend will (lay, lie) down their heavy armor. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Both men (rise, raise) early in the morning. \_\_\_\_\_

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# Conventions

**Don Quixote and the Windmills**

**Grammar:**  
Connect to Writing

Good writers avoid double negatives. When you use a contraction with **not**, do not include another “no” word, such as **no**, **neither**, **none**, or **never**. Avoid using the contraction **ain’t**.

Good word choice:        He doesn’t have any armor.

   He has no armor.

Poor word choice:        He doesn’t have no armor.

   He ain’t got none.

**Activity** If the sentence is incorrect, rewrite it correctly. If it is correct, write *correct* on the line.

1. Cervantes couldn’t never know how popular his book would become.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. We don’t have no information on Cervantes’ childhood.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The author was once captured by pirates who wouldn’t let him go without payment.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Yousseff said he didn’t like fiction very much until now.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The school library don’t have no biography of Cervantes.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Isn’t Don Quixote not a great character?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. After 1607, Cervantes didn’t hardly never leave Madrid.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. I wouldn’t trust Don Quixote to do nothing for me.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. He hasn’t no common sense neither.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Focus Trait: Voice

## Strengthening Voice

**Don Quixote and the Windmills**  
Writing: Write to Narrate

Weak Voice	Strong Voice with Thoughts, Feelings, and Dialogue
I had a fun time at the Medieval Fair. I saw many interesting things there.	Stepping through the entrance gates of the Medieval Fair was like stepping 800 years into a past of legendary knights, castles, and quests. Overwhelmed, I whispered to my brother, "Where <i>are</i> we?"

**Read the following weak sentences. Rewrite them to develop a stronger voice. Include thoughts, feelings, and dialogue.**

1. I heard the town crier make an announcement. He was yelling.

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2. Next, a knight rode into the center of the town. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. The knight was a woman. She had red hair. She rode right up to me. \_\_\_\_\_

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