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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thoughts</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. Describe what the queen is like.

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

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

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.

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.
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 Word Sort**

Write each Basic Word beside the correct heading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two syllables</th>
<th>Basic Words:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Three syllables</th>
<th>Basic Words:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other syllable counts</th>
<th>Challenge Words:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Challenge** Add the Challenge Words to your Word Sort.

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
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 tsunami of chores before we left Laredo. I think the cargo includes everything but a mattress! Our caravan of three left early while it was still dark. I was still in my pajamas! While we drove along, I read *Don Quixote*. He is so gallant. He reminds me of you.

For lunch today, I ate a burrito with salsa and vanilla flan in a little plaza. Yesterday, during my midday siesta in a woven-rope hammock, I watched a fat, lazy iguana on the hotel patio. I named him Sancho Panza. Today I am shopping for a poncho for you to wear as you ride among the giants.

Dulcy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>3.</th>
<th>4.</th>
<th>5.</th>
<th>6.</th>
<th>7.</th>
<th>8.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>19.</td>
<td>20.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenge

mosquito

Cathedral

Alligator

Tambourine

Sombrero
Forming Contractions with Not

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 |

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. __________
Contractions with Pronouns

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

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! _______________________

Thinking Question
Which word is made up of a pronoun and a verb?
Pronoun Contractions and Homophones

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>contraction</th>
<th>homophones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>it’s</td>
<td>its   belongs to or of it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they’re</td>
<td>there in or at that place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you’re</td>
<td>your   belongs to or of you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who’s</td>
<td>whose belongs to or of who/whom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 its wings in the night.”

So the princess followed the trail.

---

*Grammar*

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237  Grade 5, Unit 4: What's Your Story?
Easily Confused Verbs

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

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. __________
Conventions

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

   Correct

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

   Correct

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?

   Correct

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.

   Correct
Focus Trait: Voice  
Strengthening Voice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weak Voice</th>
<th>Strong Voice with Thoughts, Feelings, and Dialogue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I had a fun time at the Medieval Fair. I saw many interesting things there.</td>
<td>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 are we?”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

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

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

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

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________