

Teachers' Guide  
for



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Pre-Reading Activities:

1. Have students write what they think the story will be about based on the title and cover of the book.
2. Research author Tim Green. Who was he? How do you think his background helps him write sports stories?
3. What qualities and skills are needed to be an actor or actress? Do you think you have any of those skills? Are those skills useful in other areas of life?
4. What kind of books do you normally like to read? Do you think you will like this one, based on the title and cover? Why or why not?
5. Have you ever been on your own or been someplace where you didn't know anyone? How did you feel? How were you able to get through the event/time period you were in?

Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: temperamental

Match the vocabulary word with the definition.

- 1. battered -- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. enormous -- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. trembled -- \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. production -- \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. assistants -- \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. beautiful -- \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. glittering -- \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. encouraged -- \_\_\_\_\_

- a. the act of producing; creation; manufacturing
- b. a person who gives support; helper
- c. to reflect light with a brilliant, sparkling luster
- d. to beat persistently or hard; pound repeatedly
- e. wonderful, very pleasing, delighting the senses or the mind
- f. to inspire with courage, spirit, or confidence
- g. greatly exceeding the common size
- h. to shake involuntarily with quick, short movements, as from fear, excitement, weakness, or cold

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is your first impression of Trevor? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. What is your first impression of Sam? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Contrast the appearance that Sam's dad tries to project and the reality of their financial situation.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. What is Trevor's birthday present? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What does Mr. Palomaki do for a living? \_\_\_\_\_ What does he want to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. What does the casting agent notice about Sam? \_\_\_\_\_



Literary Concept: Setting

In a well-written paragraph, describe where and when the story takes place:

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Pick one aspect of the movie set and illustrate it: Page number that it is on: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: scholarship

Fill in the blank with the correct vocabulary word.

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. identical  | 5. elegant   |
| 2. suggesting | 6. dignified |
| 3. obviously  | 7. menacing  |
| 4. impressed  | 8. hammering |

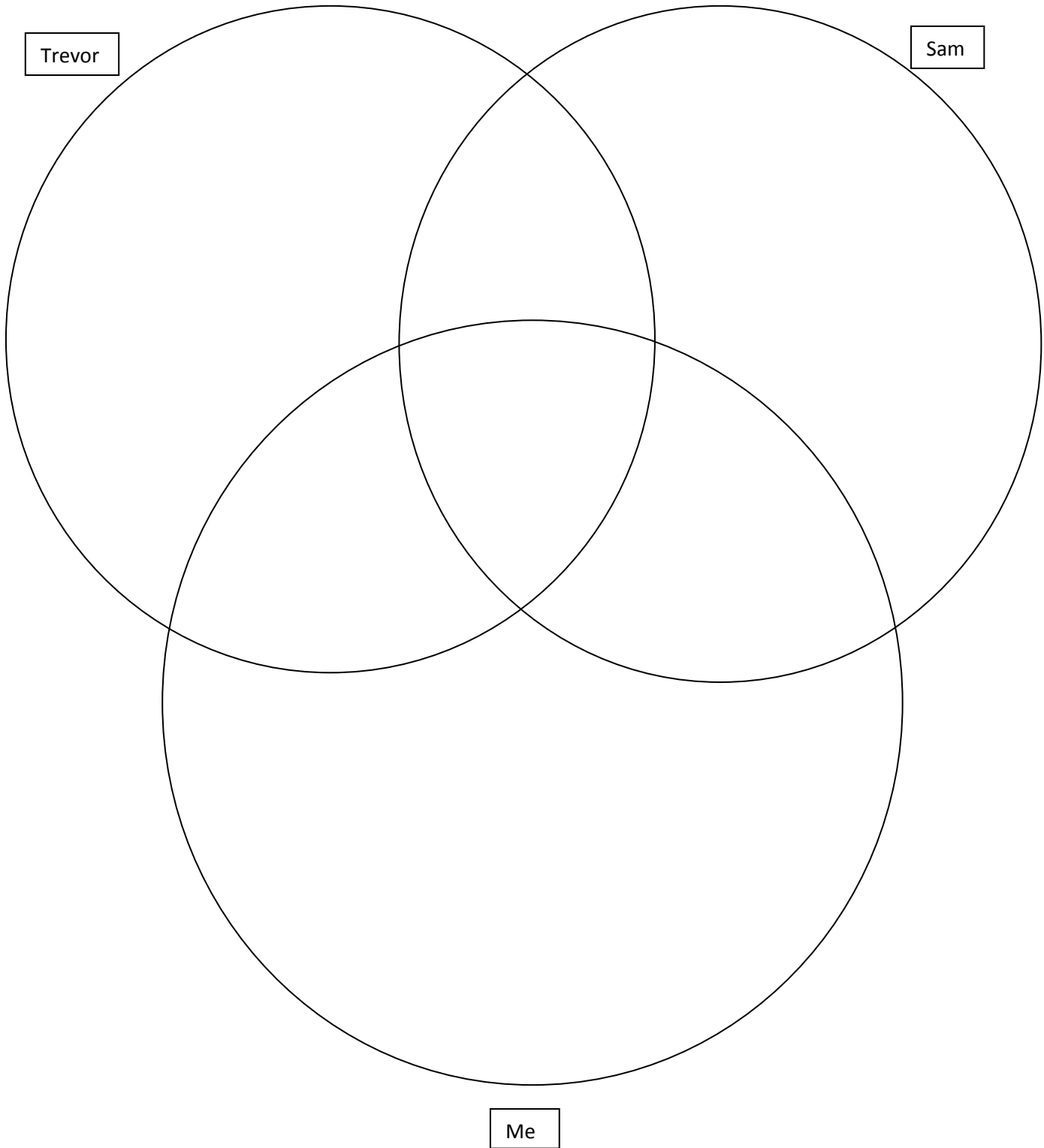
1. He nearly dropped one of the \_\_\_\_\_ serving trays .
2. The two pictures were \_\_\_\_\_ and he couldn't tell them apart.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ from the construction crew outside was giving her a headache.
4. Even though Sam was \_\_\_\_\_ joking, his friend still got mad at it.
5. Jim's new suit made him look very \_\_\_\_\_ as he prepared for his job interview.
6. The floors and walls were charred, \_\_\_\_\_ there had been a fire.
7. Kyle was quite \_\_\_\_\_ with the artwork his sister had done.
8. She made the picture of the lion look very \_\_\_\_\_.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Trevor disappointed in his birthday present? Why was he embarrassed? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does Sam NOT want to be Trevor's stand-in? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sam's dad is 'in the business'. What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is Sam's dream? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



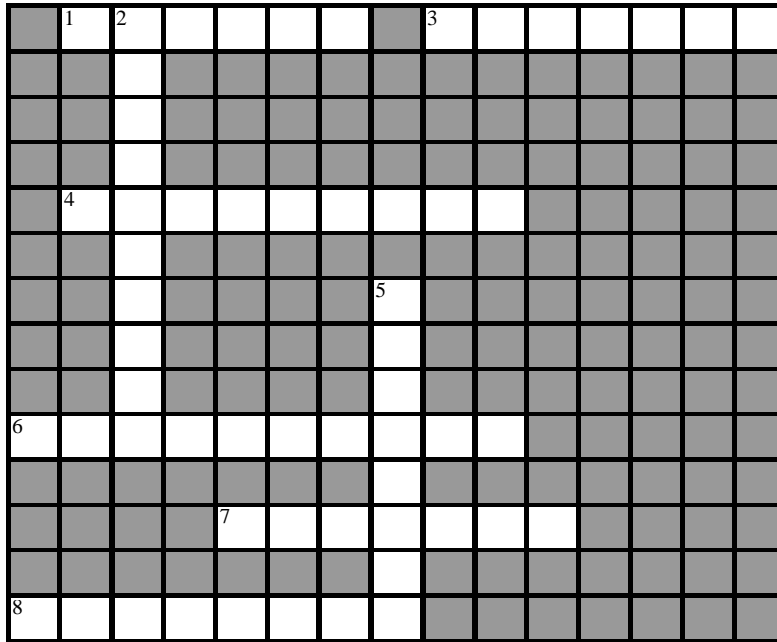
Literary Concept: Compare and Contrast - complete the Venn Diagram



Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: sweltering

Complete the crossword puzzle.



**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. sick to your stomach                         | 2. came near or nearer to                                   |
| 3. to choose or take as your own                | 5. the act of forming a fabric by looping a continuous yarn |
| 4. self-controlled, calmness                    |   |
| 6. deviating from a straight line or path       |   |
| 7. to regard with wonder, pleasure, or approval |   |
| 8. full to the upper edge or rim                |   |

- 1. indirectly
- 2. approached
- 3. composure
- 4. nausea
- 5. adopted
- 6. knitting
- 7. admired
- 8. brimming



Discussion Questions:

1. What is Sam's initial impression about McKenna Steele? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What mistake did Sam make when he first talked to Trevor? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Trevor's mom react when she saw Sam? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does it mean to be blackballed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

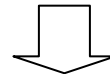
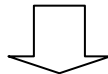
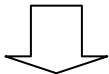
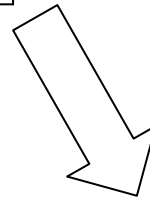
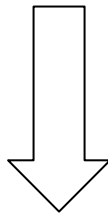
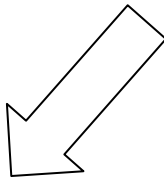
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What genre of movie is Trevor in? \_\_\_\_\_



Literary Concept: Characterization - Choose a character from the story, choose three different traits to describe him/her, and explain why you choose each of those traits.

Character Name:



Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: quizzical

Using a dictionary, write the definition of each vocabulary word.

1. polished - \_\_\_\_\_

2. beamed - \_\_\_\_\_

3. behavior - \_\_\_\_\_

4. circular - \_\_\_\_\_

5. descended - \_\_\_\_\_

6. squinted - \_\_\_\_\_

7. adventure - \_\_\_\_\_

8. executives - \_\_\_\_\_

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Discussion Questions:

1. If you could switch places with one person, (family member, classmate, celebrity, etc) who would it be and why would you choose them?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How does Trevor persuade Sam to switch places? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why does Trevor want to switch places with Sam? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How do they make Sam look like Trevor? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is McKenna Steele's house like? Be descriptive. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Literary Concept: Making Predictions:

Predict what the first day will be like for both Sam and Trevor after they switch places:

Trevor:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sam:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: publicist

Illustrate each of the vocabulary words on an separate sheet of paper.

- 1. uncomfortable
- 2. trembled
- 3. attention
- 4. towering
- 5. disappearing
- 6. slightest
- 7. existence
- 8. opportunity

Discussion questions:

- 1. How does Trevor explain his change in appearance to Sam's dad? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. What well-known author does Sam's like to quote? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. How does Sam hide his nervousness when Trevor's mom picks him up? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. How good of an actor is Trevor? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What does Sam text to Trevor after he gets into Trevor's bedroom? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Why does Sam's dad not want any help with his script? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Give a detailed description of Trevor's home. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Literary Concept: Character Perspective

Choose one aspect of either Sam or Trevor's life and describe how they view it differently.

Aspect of his life: \_\_\_\_\_

Trevor:

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Sam:

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Part 1: Vocabulary

Write a definition of each of the following vocabulary words:

- 1. glittering - \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. obviously - \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. brimming - \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. executives - \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. slightest - \_\_\_\_\_

Part 2: Story Content Questions

- 1. Who are the main characters? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. How are they alike? How are they different? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What are the main goals for each of our main characters?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. What physical changes does each of them have to make in order to make the switch?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

Part 3: Literary Concepts

- 1. What is the setting of the story? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. How do each of the main characters view their situations differently? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you think will be the biggest challenge for the boys as they attempt to switch places?

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4. Choose a character trait to describe each of the main characters? Why did you pick them?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: interaction

Use each vocabulary word in a sentence that demonstrates your understanding of the word.

1. obsession - \_\_\_\_\_

2. appeared - \_\_\_\_\_

3. incredible - \_\_\_\_\_

4. neglected - \_\_\_\_\_

5. charitable - \_\_\_\_\_

6. concentrate - \_\_\_\_\_

7. wrinkling - \_\_\_\_\_

8. publicist - \_\_\_\_\_

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Discussion Questions:

1. What scares Sam when he gets into the car to go to the movie studio? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Dolph ask Sam for? How does Sam help instead? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Sam and Trevor look so much alike, what conclusion does Sam's dad come to? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. According to McKenna, how easy will it be to get *Dark Cellar* to Trevor's agent? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



5. Who does Sam meet and why does he start laughing? \_\_\_\_\_



Literary Concept: Conflict - Circle one of the four types of conflict and answer the questions about the story.

Man vs. Man

Man vs. Society

Man vs. Nature

Man vs. Self

1. Who is the conflict between? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What causes the conflict to arise? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe the conflict. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is the conflict resolved? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Would you have handled it differently? \_\_\_\_\_ How/Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: fundamentals

Create a crossword puzzle for each vocabulary word. (Use graph paper to help)

- 1. thumped
- 2. stumbled
- 3. bystander
- 4. groaned
- 5. grasping
- 6. ridiculous
- 7. hesitated
- 8. intently

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Discussion Questions:

1. What happened when Trevor got to baseball practice? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How did Coach Sharp react? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe the rest of practice. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. There have been several moments where Trevor and Sam both felt they might be 'discovered'.

Describe two of them.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How is Sam doing as an actor? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What/who are two things that have helped him so far? \_\_\_\_\_

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Literary Concept: Focus on the Details - Adjectives and Adverbs

Choose two different sentences or sections from the book, write them out, and then answer the questions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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a. What senses are being targeted by the author? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How do the adjectives and adverbs used enhance the writing? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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a. What senses are being targeted by the author? \_\_\_\_\_

b. How do the adjectives and adverbs used enhance the writing? \_\_\_\_\_

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Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: inconsistencies

Write your definition of each vocabulary word using context clues, then look them up and write down the dictionary definition.

1. lazily - \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. shocked - \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. confidence - \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. biological - \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. bombarded - \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

6. inspirational - \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

7. razzing - \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

8. expressions - \_\_\_\_\_  
- \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
1. How do Trevor's baseball troubles continue? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What idea does Sam get now that he has access to nearly unlimited resources? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How do you hit a curveball? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In addition to shooting movies, what else does Sam have to do as an 'actor'? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

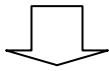
5. What is Trevor's plan for dealing with Klum? \_\_\_\_\_



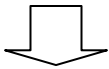
Literary Concept: Problem and Solution

Several problems have arisen during the story. Some of them have been solved, and others haven't yet. Choose three (two that have been solved and one that hasn't been yet) and fill in the chart below. The conversation bubble is for you to write what you would do/have done.

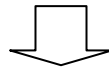
Problem #1



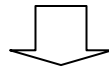
Solution



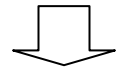
Problem #2



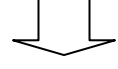
Solution



Problem #3



Solution Prediction



Section 9: Chapters 41-45, p. 149-166

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: unexplainable

Make flash cards with the vocabulary word on one side and the definition on the other and then study them with a partner.

1. disturbing
2. respective
3. scowled
4. manuscript
5. perseverance
6. confusion
7. enthusiasm
8. determination

-----  
Discussion Questions:

1. What message does Trevor tell Scotty Needum to pass on to Dorian Klum? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Sam's dad quotes two different Shakespeare plays. Which two? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe Stu Lisson, Trevor's agent. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Who's Myron Kettle? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is one thing that is 'just not done' in the movie business? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why is Trevor not excited about the 'surprise' from Sam's dad? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why did Trevor have trouble hitting the curve ball in the batting cages? \_\_\_\_\_

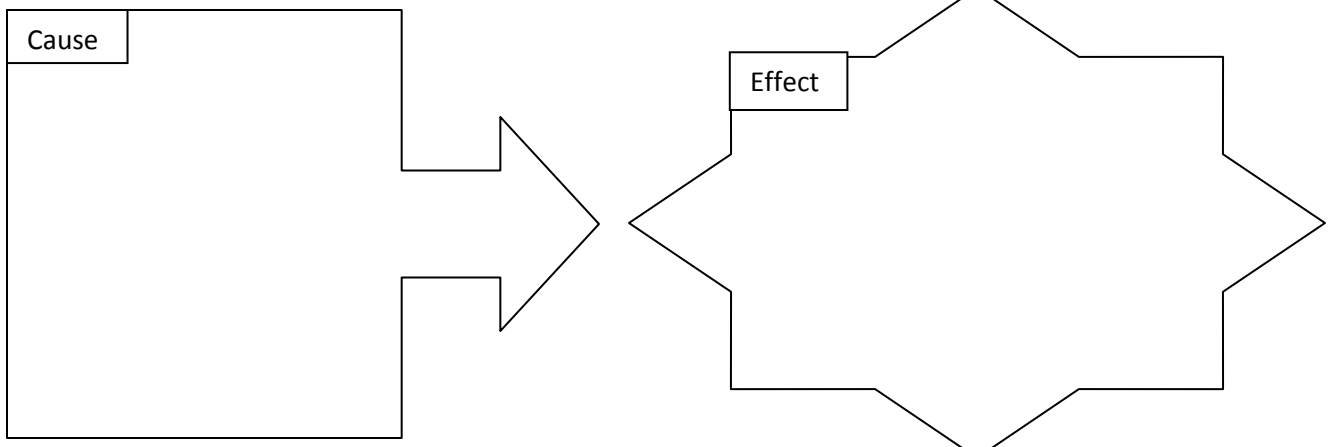
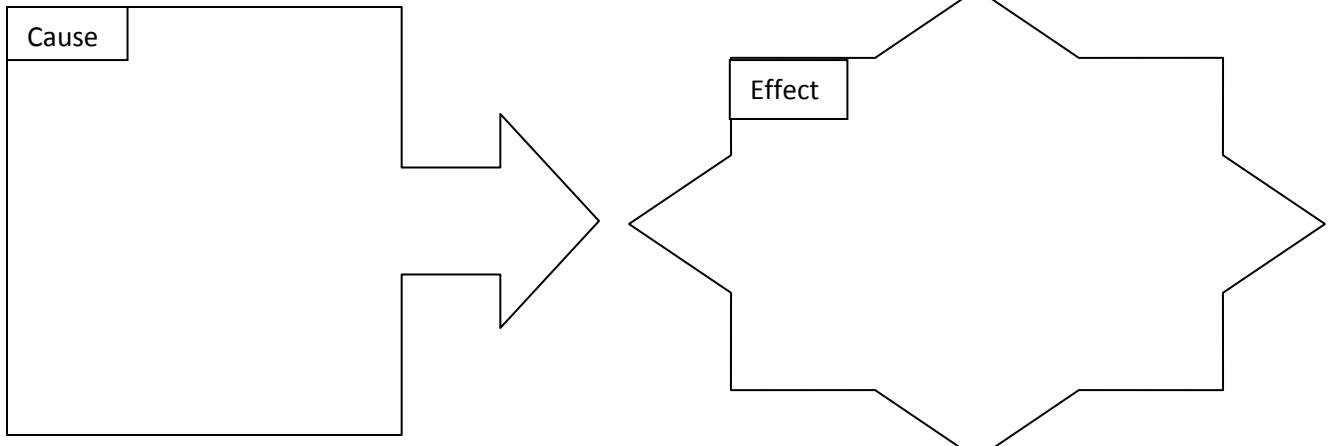
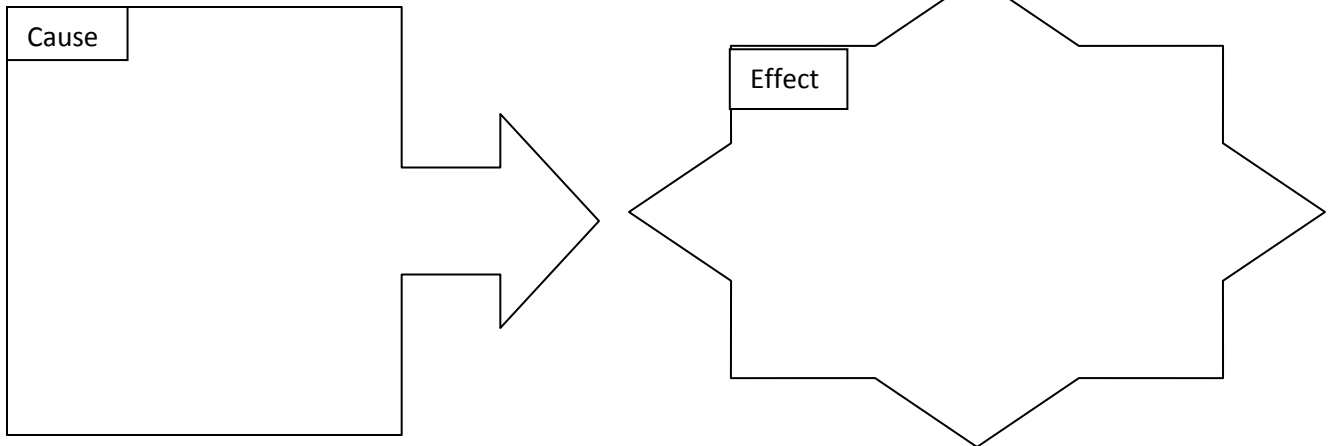
\_\_\_\_\_

8. How does McKenna change tactics when pushing to get the *Dark Cellar* script picked up? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Literary Concept: Cause and Effect



Vocabulary:

Challenge Words: biological

Complete the word search and be prepared to share the definitions of each vocabulary word in class.

N L K Z Y E G N I L B M U B G  
 O D F K B Q I H N N I S U H O  
 I A E L B A K A T S I M N U G  
 T N X B A V A S E F P M T F E  
 C H V S E R G K N X Q E E X B  
 I W D E M N E L T Y Q S F Y P  
 R R G H S W D C I W M L L A Z  
 F O D I D T G O O H A H I G J  
 S E V L N T I T N W H I C R J  
 T R A G W F D G N V R T K Y N  
 C G J G N P A R A S Z O E Y E  
 K Y C A Z W W V Y T K P R B A  
 A V P R O D U C T I O N E R V  
 A Y J P B R J K F X N R D Q R  
 M O E C N A R U S S A D S N R

ASSURANCE  
 BUMBLING  
 FLICKERED  
 FRICTION  
 INTENTION  
 INVESTIGATORS  
 PRODUCTION  
 UNMISTAKABLE

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Trevor's plan to stand up to Klum backfire? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How does Klum threaten Trevor? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe how Sam's phone interviews go. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. McKenna describes another way 'this town works'. What is it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Sam's dad says, "Life is all about trade-offs, Sam." What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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6. Why does Trevor tell Sam not to try to find their biological mother? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. How does Sam insult Trevor? \_\_\_\_\_

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Literary Concept: Making Personal Connections - connecting the events and characters of the story to your own life.

Character/Event: \_\_\_\_\_ page #: \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of memories, feelings, ideas did you have when reading this section?

### Connection to my own experiences

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### Other books, stories, and movies it reminds me of

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Part 1: Vocabulary - give a real world example of how the vocabulary word would fit the situation.

1. neglected - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. intently - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. inspirational - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. perseverance - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. intention - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Part 2: Story Content Questions

1. Who is Dolph? \_\_\_\_\_ Describe Sam's first encounter with Dolph.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the name of Sam's dad's latest script? \_\_\_\_\_ what genre is it? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Give one instance of where either Sam or Trevor thought they had been discovered?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe some of Trevor's baseball struggles. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What famous author does Sam's dad like to quote? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name one of the plays that he quotes. \_\_\_\_\_

Part 3: Literary Concepts:

1. What are the four main types of conflict?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Give an example of one from the story. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Choose and describe one of the following characters using different adjectives and adverbs.

Stu Lisson

McKenna Steele

Dorian Klum

Trevor's mom

Coach Sharp

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4. Choose one problem either Trevor or Sam has faced and explain how they solved it (or attempted to).

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5. Give on example of cause and effect from the story.

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Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: jittery

List a synonym and an antonym for each vocabulary word.

	<u>synonym</u>	<u>antonym</u>
1. complicated	_____	_____
2. emerged	_____	_____
3. mechanically	_____	_____
4. jangling	_____	_____
5. horrified	_____	_____
6. marveling	_____	_____
7. billowing	_____	_____
8. desperately	_____	_____

-----  
Discussion Questions:

1. Trevor changes his mind about their mother. What does he ask of Sam? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does Sam say is the best way to get back at Dorian Klum? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How does Trevor and the team do against Palos Verdes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where does Sam get to go, how does he get there, and who does he meet? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. At this point in the story, who do you think is getting the better part of the deal, Sam or Trevor?  
Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Literary Concept: Figurative Language

What is a simile? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a metaphor? \_\_\_\_\_

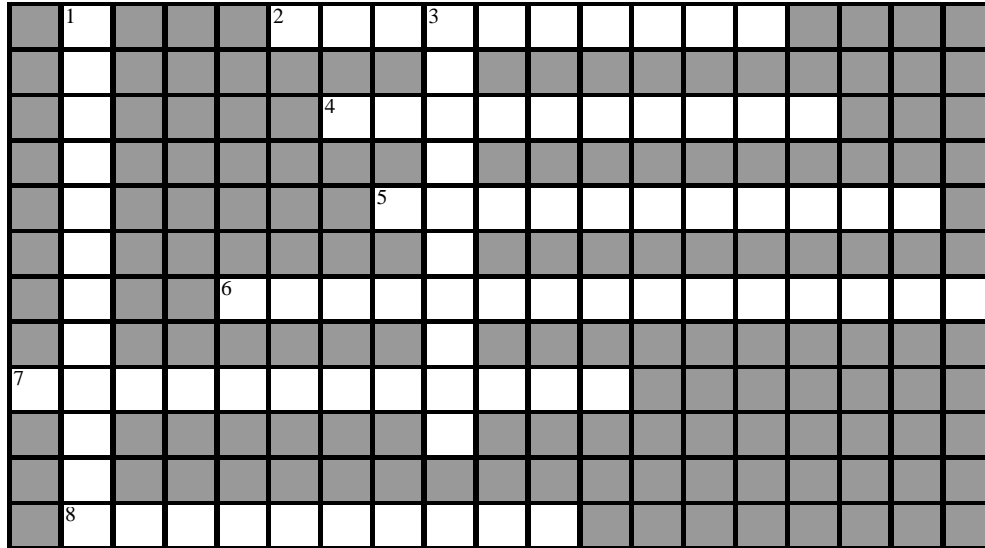
In each box, write a figurative language example from the book and circle which type it is. You can choose your examples from this section or previous sections. Then illustrate one of them in the box below.

1.	Simile
m e t a p h o r	

2.	Simile
m e t a p h o r	

Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: downtrodden



**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

- 2. happening at irregular intervals, now and then
- 4. particularly, exceptionally
- 5. the identification of something previously seen, heard, or known
- 6. spoken in strict privacy or secrecy
- 7. of or relating to the president or presidency
- 8. causing great injury, very unfortunate, calamitous

- 1. carefree, cheerful
- 3. to be grateful or thankful for

- 1. presidential
- 2. lighthearted
- 3. appreciate
- 4. confidentiality

- 5. recognition
- 6. occasional
- 7. especially
- 8. disastrous

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Trevor's father already know about? \_\_\_\_\_



Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: terrace

Illustrate the vocabulary words on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1. generous
- 2. hesitated
- 3. intimidating
- 4. ferociousness
- 5. skulking
- 6. paranoid
- 7. betrayal
- 8. brutal

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Discussion Questions:

1. Describe the roller coaster of thoughts and emotions Sam has about Trevor's father and the search for their biological mother?

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2. While enjoying his access to whatever he wants, Sam enjoys a grape soda and Twinkies. If you had unlimited access to one food and beverage, what would it be?

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3. According to Trevor's father, what is the worst thing someone can do to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why does Trevor think that Sam's father deserves to have his script made into a movie?

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5. What was it about Sam's life that made Trevor not want to switch back? \_\_\_\_\_

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Literary Concept: Foreshadowing and Cliffhangers

Authors often give clues about what is going to happen. This foreshadowing is often combined with a cliffhanger in which the author leaves you in suspense and you have to guess what might happen.

1. What do you think is the problem Trevor is referring to when he calls McKenna? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Our author uses the cliffhanger technique often. Which one left you most in suspense? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Do you think Sam and Trevor will be able to successfully complete their switch? What evidence does the other give that makes you think they will/will not?

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4. How do you feel about cliffhangers? Do they make you want to keep reading? \_\_\_\_\_

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Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: downtrodden

Match the vocabulary word with the correct definition.

1. pleasant - \_\_\_\_\_

a. to scrape something with one's foot

2. staggered - \_\_\_\_\_

b. walked, moved, or stood unsteadily

3. hulking - \_\_\_\_\_

c. the estimation in which a person or thing is being held

4. muffing - \_\_\_\_\_

d. to make explosive popping or sizzling sounds

5. scuffed - \_\_\_\_\_

e. heavy and clumsy, bulky

6. sputtering - \_\_\_\_\_

f. a bungled or clumsy action or performance

7. arrogance - \_\_\_\_\_

g. agreeable or enjoyable

8. reputation - \_\_\_\_\_

h. display of superiority or self-importance, overbearing pride

-----  
Discussion Questions:

1. What major problem arises that causes the need for Sam and Trevor to switch back early?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How many times does Trevor call Sam? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What news does Sam get from his private investigator? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What good news does Stu bring? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How does Trevor cover for his phone use? \_\_\_\_\_



Literary Concept: Story Map - Fill in each section with the appropriate information

A. Setting - When and where does the story take place?



B. Characters - Identify the main characters and give two characteristics of each

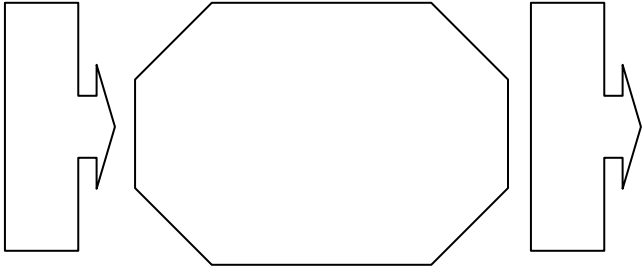


C. Character Goals - Using the same two characters, identify the main goal/problem each has.



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D. Solution - Have they solved the problem/met their goal? If so how? If not, how will they?



Quiz: Sections 11-14

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Part 1: Vocabulary - write a definition for each word.

1. emerged - \_\_\_\_\_

2. confidentiality - \_\_\_\_\_

3. skulking - \_\_\_\_\_

4. arrogance - \_\_\_\_\_

5. paranoid - \_\_\_\_\_

Part 2: Story Content Questions

1. In this section, we meet Trevor's father. What are Sam and Trevor's different views on the man?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What, according to Sam, is the best way to get back at Klum? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the worst thing someone can do to you, according to Mr. Goldman? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do Sam and Trevor need to switch back early? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What news does Sam receive about his mother? \_\_\_\_\_

Part 3: Literary Concepts

1. What is a simile? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is foreshadowing? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Give an example from the story.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Number the following events in the order in which they happened.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam tells Mr. Goldman that he just wants to know about his mother, not meet with her.

\_\_\_\_\_ The USC coaches come a game early to pick the MVP.

\_\_\_\_\_ Trevor hit the game-winning RBI single

\_\_\_\_\_ Stu Lisson tells Sam and McKenna that he got a deal for *Dark Cellar*

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam finds out his biological mother is dead.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sam hears Trevor's dad talking about being lied to.

Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: scholarship

- 1. distract
- 2. circumstances
- 3. skidding
- 4. vaguely

- 5. flubbed
- 6. adrenaline
- 7. slithering
- 8. horrified

- 1. Due to unforeseen \_\_\_\_\_, the game has been cancelled.
- 2. With a final burst of \_\_\_\_\_, he crossed the finish line ahead of the others.
- 3. He looked \_\_\_\_\_ familiar, but Kate could not remember where they had met.
- 4. The anti-lock braking system is designed to keep the car from \_\_\_\_\_ on the ice.
- 5. She was \_\_\_\_\_ about the idea of giving a presentation to her classmates.
- 6. He was embarrassed after he \_\_\_\_\_ the easy word and was out of the Spelling Bee.
- 7. Please do not \_\_\_\_\_ your classmates during the test.
- 8. The snake was \_\_\_\_\_ through the grass in search of lunch.

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Discussion Questions:

1. How are Sam and McKenna able to get Sam away from the movie studio? What favor does Sam cash in on?

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2. Who figures out that Sam is not really Trevor? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was Trevor hoping for once the game started? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Make a prediction about how you think the story will end. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Literary Concept: Theme - Think Big Picture



1. What is the author trying to teach the readers in this story? What is the moral of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the story about? Don't give a summary. Rather, what emotion, attitude, or attribute does the story focus on?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How does the author teach that moral? How does he bring attention to the lesson he is teaching?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





Vocabulary:

Challenge Word: quartet

Write your own definition using context clues and then write the dictionary definition:

1. disqualified - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

2. neutralize - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

3. ruckus - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

4. muttering - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

5. hunkered - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

6. glimmering - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

7. elite - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

8. obvious - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Discussion Questions:

1. What did McKenna say to distract everyone on the movie set? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why can't Sam and Trevor simply come clean and switch places? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does Coach Sharp ask Trevor to do that he has never done before? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How do Sam and McKenna delay the game? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How are Sam and Trevor able to switch back? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Describe how the rest of the baseball game goes. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What causes the USC coach to change his mind about who won the MVP? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Did you like the ending? Why or why not? Would you have changed anything? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Would you recommend this book to a friend? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Teachers' Note:** There are three options to use as a final test when students finish reading the test. Choose which option(s) you want to use for your classroom.

End-of-Book Test Option A: Characters

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Trevor Goldman \_\_\_\_\_

a. movie director

2. Sam Palomaki \_\_\_\_\_

b. friend and teammate of main character

3. McKenna Steele \_\_\_\_\_

c. famous actor, switches places with his twin

4. Dorian Klum \_\_\_\_\_

d. teammate of main character, bully

5. Stu Lisson \_\_\_\_\_

e. actress, friend of the main character

6. Dolph \_\_\_\_\_

f. personal assistant to main character

7. Gabriel \_\_\_\_\_

g. agent for main character, 'like a Super Ball in a coat closet'

8. Pierce Everette \_\_\_\_\_

h. baseball player, switches places with his twin

9. RJ Schmelling \_\_\_\_\_

i. publicist for McKenna Steele

10. Sara Grant \_\_\_\_\_

j. on baseball team with main character, friend with bully

11. Scotty Needum \_\_\_\_\_

k. private investigator

12. Dale Moffit \_\_\_\_\_

l. Driver/chauffeur for main character

End-of-Book Test Option B - Vocabulary Test

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. battered \_\_\_\_\_
2. dignified \_\_\_\_\_
3. brimming \_\_\_\_\_
4. descended \_\_\_\_\_
5. towering \_\_\_\_\_
6. charitable \_\_\_\_\_
7. bystander \_\_\_\_\_
8. bombarded \_\_\_\_\_
9. manuscript \_\_\_\_\_
10. unmistakable \_\_\_\_\_
11. jangling \_\_\_\_\_
12. lighthearted \_\_\_\_\_
13. skulking \_\_\_\_\_
14. sputtering \_\_\_\_\_
15. adrenaline \_\_\_\_\_
16. muttering \_\_\_\_\_

- a. original text of an author's work; text not printed
- b. full to the upper edge or rim
- c. to beat persistently or hard; pound repeatedly
- d. a person present but not involved; onlooker
- e. characterized or marked by honor; stately
- f. hormone released in response to stress
- g. very high or tall; lofty
- h. generous in donations or gifts for those in need
- i. attacked or battered with artillery fire
- j. clear, obvious
- k. passed from higher to lower; came down
- l. to produce a jarring effect on
- m. carefree, cheerful
- n. to utter words indistinctly or in a low tone
- o. to make explosive popping or sizzling sounds
- p. to lie or keep in hiding, as for some evil reason

End-of-Book Test Option C - Explain the meaning of each of these quotations from *Pinch Hit*.

**Chapter 2:** "To Sam, pitch meetings were like pennies. If you had enough of them, they would probably add up to something, but each one held so little value that it was hard to get excited about.

**Chapter 5:** "Trevor started to say he'd go wherever they needed him, then stopped himself. They didn't *need* him anywhere."

**Chapter 6:** "Yes, I do, they're almost identical, and his father's in the business.....No, you'll have a tough time telling them apart, I promise. It's amazing."

**Chapter 14:** "I want us, you and me...to trade places."

**Chapter 19:** "Oh, angel, look at you. Don't you feel well?"

**Chapter 23:** "*They* were all originals, and so am I, Sam. So am I. Trevor Goldman has us blackballed one minute and we're going to go crawling to him the next? No siree."

**Chapter 25:** "I like to return you favor one day. I like very much."

**Chapter 26:** "Sam remembered her words from the stairwell -- "You'll get yours" -- and he stopped laughing."

**Chapter 37:** "In the white blur of the ball, Trevor saw it. He actually saw it!"

**Chapter 45:** "Wow," Sam said. "Guy's like a Super Ball in a coat closet."

**Chapter 47:** " 'Klum shook his head and dropped his voice into a crazy, hateful whisper. 'Don't think that *at all*.' "

**Chapter 59:** "Trevor beamed back at them all, not Sam's teammates anymore, not Sam's coaches, but *his*."

**Chapter 62:** "Trust me, no one has mistaken my dad for a sweet guy since he stopped wearing diapers, and even then I highly doubt it."

**Chapter 67:** " 'I've got thirteen missed calls, all from Trevor.' McKenna's smile went out. 'Then something *is* wrong.' "

**Chapter 69:** "Finally Moffit said, 'I'm sorry, Trevor. I hate to tell you this.' "

**Chapter 85:** "Wolf?"

**Chapter 94:** "The center is a place not only for the most skilled players but for players with *character*, who embody everything good about the game."

**Teacher Note:** Choose an appropriate number of quotes for your students to respond to.

End-of Book Activities:

1. What happens next? Write a continuation of the book, answering some of the following questions:
  - a. Does Trevor continue acting? or does he become a baseball player?
  - b. Does Sam make it to the Majors?
  - c. What happens with Sam/Trevor and McKenna's relationship? Do they all stay friends? Does McKenna marry either one?
  - d. Does *Dark Cellar* become a hit? Does Sam's dad really get into the business, or does he continue as a teacher?
  - e. Do Sam's dad and Trevor's parents get along? What conflicts may arise between them?
  
2. Imagine you are a script writer. You finished writing *Pinch Hit* and are trying to sell it to a movie producer. Write a scene between you and the producer as you try to convince him to make it into a movie. Include dialogue with proper punctuation.
  
3. Design a DVD/Blue-Ray disk jacket for *Pinch Hit*. Be sure to include:
  - a. movie rating
  - b. cast
  - c. summary of movie
  - d. artwork portraying certain book/movie events
  - e. length of movie
  - f. awards won
  - g. critics thoughts
  - h. tagline
  
4. Study and act out a scene from the book with a group of classmates. Present your 'play' to the rest of the class.
  
5. Choose three different scenes from the book and illustrate them. Be sure to include specific details from the text.
  
6. Design your own board game based on the events in the book. You can use an existing model (i.e. monopoly, trivial pursuit) or come up with an original idea.
  
7. Write an outline for a story with the same plot but a different setting. What would be the same? What would change?
  
8. Characterization: Describe how Sam and Trevor changed throughout the story. Who changed the most? Was it good change? or not so good?

Answer Keys:

Quiz: Section 1-5

Vocabulary

1. glittering - to reflect with a brilliant, sparkling luster, sparkle with reflected light.
2. obviously -easily seen, recognized, or understood
3. brimming - full to the upper ridge or rim
4. executives - a person or group of persons having administrative or supervisory authority
5. slightest - small in amount, degree, or of little importance

Story Content Questions

1. Trevor Goldman and Sam Palomaki
2. Accept any reasonable answers - examples - both are boys, look exactly alike, Trevor is an actor, Sam plays baseball, both are adopted, etc.
3. Trevor - play real baseball Sam - get *Dark Cellar* made into a movie
4. Sam - cuts his hair, McKenna adds birthmark, tanning spray Trevor - covers birthmark with makeup

Literary Concepts

1. Los Angeles, CA Trevor lives in mansion in Hollywood, Sam lives in trailer
2. Trevor wants to live a normal life, to do things on his own like Sam. Sam hates smell, doesn't like the constant pitch meetings
3. Accept any reasonable answers
4. Accept any reasonable answers

Section 6-10 Quiz:

Vocabulary - Accept any reasonable answer

1. neglected - examples - dying plant, mistreated pet, dirty bedroom, etc.
2. intently - examples - listening closely, paying attention, etc.
3. inspirational - examples - sports stories, recovery from injury or illness, etc.
4. perseverance -examples - overcoming injury, setbacks, or difficulties
5. intention - examples - meant to clean room, finish homework, etc.

Story Content Questions

1. Trevor's driver. Dolph's dog scares Sam. Dolph asks for autographed picture, Sam gives him autographed jersey instead.
2. Dark Cellar. Horror
3. Accept any reasonable answer. examples, Trevor's mom ask if Sam is sick, makeup artist asks about birthmark, Sam's Dad asks, "Where is Sam?"
4. Accept any reasonable answer. Example - Couldn't hit a curveball. Gets hit by pitch from Klum.
5. William Shakespeare
6. Henry the 4th. Troilus and Cressida. Measure for Measure. Hamlet

Part 3: Literary Concepts:

1. Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. Society, Man vs. Self

2. Accept any reasonable answer
3. Accept any reasonable answer
4. Accept any reasonable answer
5. Accept any reasonable answer

Quiz: Sections 11-14

Vocabulary - write a definition for each word.

1. emerged - to come forth into view or notice
2. confidentiality - indicating confidence, entrusted with secrets or private affairs
3. skulking - to lie or keep hidden, as for some evil reason
4. arrogance - offensive display of superiority or self-importance, overbearing pride
5. paranoid - exhibiting undue suspicion, fear of persecution, etc.

Part 2: Story Content Questions

1. Sam thinks Mr. Goldman understands, he's a great guy, a sweet guy, reasonable. Trevor says his dad has never been mistaken for a sweet guy. He's generous with him and mom, but ruthless.
2. Win the MVP and get into the USC Training School.
3. Lie to you
4. USC coaches came a game early
5. She is dead.

Part 3: Literary Concepts

1. A comparison using like or as.
2. The author gives hints and clues to what is going to happen next
3. Accept any reasonable answer.
3. 3 -- Sam tells Mr. Goldman that he just wants to know about his mother, not meet with her.  
4 -- The USC coaches come a game early to pick the MVP.  
1 -- Trevor hit the game-winning RBI single  
6 -- Stu Lisson tells Sam and McKenna that he got a deal for *Dark Cellar*  
5 -- Sam finds out his biological mother is dead.  
2 -- Sam hears Trevor's dad talking about being lied to.

End-of-Book Test: Characters

1. C
2. H
3. E
4. D
5. G
6. L
7. F
8. A
9. B
10. I



- 11. J
- 12. K

End-of-Book Test: Vocabulary

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 9. A  |
| 2. E | 10. J |
| 3. B | 11. L |
| 4. K | 12. M |
| 5. G | 13. P |
| 6. H | 14. O |
| 7. D | 15. F |
| 8. I | 16. N |

End-of-Book Test: Quotations    Accept any reasonable answers