Conclusions and Generalizations

Read the selection below.

**On the Trail**

May 28, 1849

Independence, Missouri

Dear Jack,

My family leaves for the Oregon Trail in a few days to start a new life out west. Since you are my best friend, I decided to write you a letter describing the trip so far. First, we took a boat from St. Louis to Independence, Missouri. While we were in town, we gathered food and water that we believe will last the entire journey.

There are many other families traveling with us. Some, like our family, want to buy land in Oregon. Others are headed for the California gold fields. We are glad that we aren’t alone because we must protect ourselves from wild animals and other dangers.

It is spring now. The journey west is over 2,000 miles by wagon train. We worry because we might have to travel over the winter months. We have packed plenty of warm clothes, blankets, and coats for the trip. Hopefully, we’ll be fine.

Your friend,

Nate

Complete the Idea-Support Map with text details from the letter. Draw a conclusion about travel on the Oregon Trail. Write complete sentences.

**Conclusion:**

**Text Detail:**

**Text Detail:**
A New Friend?

“Want to come over?” Sam asked Madi.

“Okay,” Madi said. She didn’t want to seem too excited, but she was amazed that Sam was asking her over. She had wanted this since September.

They walked to Sam’s house. It took them ten minutes to walk around the greenhouse and the stable. When Madi saw the house, her mouth dropped open.

“Let’s go to my room,” said Sam. “You have to see all my great stuff.”

All afternoon, Sam showed Madi her robotic dog, her widescreen TV, her laptop computer, her MP3 player, her video games.

“Let’s play one,” said Madi.

“Oh no,” said Sam. “I can’t let just anyone play with my stuff.”

“I should call my mom,” said Madi.

“Here,” said Sam. “I guess you can use my cell phone. Just say the number and it will dial it for you!”

Madi looked at Sam. And then she hit each number on the phone with her finger.

Analyze the characters’ words and actions to identify their true thoughts and feelings. Use an Idea-Support Map like the one shown to organize your thoughts. Answer the questions below.

1. When Madi saw Sam’s house, her mouth dropped open. What conclusion can you draw about Sam’s house?

2. At first, Madi is excited to be going to Sam’s house. How does she feel at the end of the story?
Antonyms

honest  thoughtful  borrow  healthy

genuine  ashamed  guilty  local

Read each sentence. Rewrite each using one of the antonyms above.

1. My wallet is made from fake leather.
   ____________________________________________

2. I was proud when I threw the baseball through my neighbor’s window.
   ____________________________________________

3. We went shopping at a distant mall.
   ____________________________________________

4. Monica asked if I could lend her my book.
   ____________________________________________

5. My sister was sick.
   ____________________________________________

6. I was lying when I said I liked to eat liver and onions.
   ____________________________________________

7. She is a very thoughtless person.
   ____________________________________________

8. My brother thinks that I am innocent of taking his baseball glove.
   ____________________________________________
Dear Mr. Winston

Spelling:

Vowel + /r/ Sounds

Basic  Complete the puzzle by writing the Basic Word for each clue.

Across
1. unkind
2. 
3. a piece of cloth worn around neck or head
4. 
5. to make something ready
6. to mend
7. 
8. 
9. back
10. to discover differences and similarities

Down
2. not enough
3. 
4. a flash of light
5. 
6. 
7. a warning signal
8. to frighten

Challenge 11–14. You have watched a movie about taking a submarine trip deep in the ocean. Write a story about it. Use four Challenge Words. Write on a separate sheet of paper.

Challenge Words
1. spark
2. prepare
3. cheer
4. tear
5. scarf
6. scare
7. repair
8. earring
9. scarce
10. weird
11. sharp
12. rear
13. spare
14. gear
15. hairy
16. compare
17. alarm
18. harsh
19. upstairs
20. square

Spelling Words
1. spark
2. prepare
3. cheer
4. tear
5. scarf
6. scare
7. repair
8. earring
9. scarce
10. weird
11. sharp
12. rear
13. spare
14. gear
15. hairy
16. compare
17. alarm
18. harsh
19. upstairs
20. square

Challenge
weary
startle
appear
barnacle
awareness

Grade 4, Unit 2: Do You Know What I Mean?
Spelling Word Sort

Write each Basic Word beside the correct heading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/ɪr/ spelled ear</th>
<th>Basic Words:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Challenge Words:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Challenge Words:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other spellings for /ɪr/</th>
<th>Basic Words:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/ɑr/ spelled ar</th>
<th>Basic Words:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenge Words:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Selection Words:</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<th>Basic Words:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possible Section Words:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenge  Add the Challenge Words to your Word Sort.

Connect to Reading  Look through Dear Mr. Winston. Find words that have the vowel + /r/ spelling patterns on this page. Add them to your Word Sort.

Spelling Words

1. spark
2. prepare
3. cheer
4. tear
5. scarf
6. scare
7. repair
8. earring
9. scarce
10. weird
11. sharp
12. rear
13. spare
14. gear
15. hairy
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Challenge
weary
startle
appear
barnacle
awareness
Proofreading for Spelling

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

I’m so jazzed! On our way to visit my grandparents, we saw a Grizzly Giant. You’re probably thinking we saw a huge black, hairy bear with sharp teeth. Or, that maybe we saw a very tall, weird person wearing a teardrop-shaped diamond earring. Nope. The Grizzly Giant is at least 200 feet tall and 30 feet around. It’s a Sequoia tree!

Dad shifted into first gear, pulled over, and stopped the car. We went for a walk to look at these giant trees and discovered that you can even walk through some of them!

We heard clapping and a loud cheer coming from the visitors center. Since we were on vacation and had lots of spare time, we decided to explore. Inside, the park ranger told us the upstairs theater had a short movie about the park. She looked at her square-shaped watch and said the next show started in five minutes.

1. _______________  6. _______________
2. _______________  7. _______________
3. _______________  8. _______________
4. _______________  9. _______________
5. _______________  10. _______________

Challenge
weary
startle
appear
barnacle
awareness

Dear Mr. Winston

Spelling:
Vowel + /r/ Sounds

Spelling Words
1. spark
2. prepare
3. cheer
4. tear
5. scarf
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Commas with Introductory Words and Names

Sometimes a sentence begins with an introductory word or words. Use a **comma** after any introductory words. When addressing a person, use one or two commas to set off the person’s name from the rest of the sentence.

Okay, that sounds like fun!
When are we leaving, Mom?
What should I do, Cindy, if you’re late?

1–5. Rewrite each sentence and add commas where they are needed.

1. David did you bring an extra sweater?

2. No that’s not my sweater Mr. Park.

3. Well someone left a sweater here on the chair.

4. Ask the girl Nancy if the sweater is hers.

5. Last week I lost a red sweater.
Commas with Dates and Places

Use a comma to separate the day and the year in a date. You should also use a comma to separate the city and the state in a place name.

My sister was born on January 17, 2009. We moved from Chicago, Illinois, to Houston, Texas.

1–5. Rewrite each sentence and add commas where they are needed.

1. On January 18 2009 we brought my sister home.

2. The hospital was in Pasadena Texas.

3. She has a checkup on January 25 2009.

4. Her checkup will be in Houston Texas with our family doctor.

5. On February 1 2009 we will have a party in Bellaire Texas at my aunt’s house.

Thinking Question
Do the commas remind you to pause?
Commas in a Series

Use commas to separate items in a series. You do not need to use a comma after the last word in a series.

She is going to the drugstore, bank, and library.
I like to read about space, other cities, famous people, and animals.

1–5. Rewrite each sentence and add commas where they are needed.

1. Alex Ginger Mark and I study together at the library.

2. Ginger is really good at math social studies and science.

3. We looked up new recipes for salsa guacamole tacos and bean dip.

4. To make salsa, we need to buy tomatoes onions limes and peppers.

5. We will make enough salsa for a snack now lunch tomorrow and the party this weekend.

Thinking Question
Did you notice that a comma is placed after the last item before and? That helps keep the meaning clear.

Dear Mr. Winston
Grammar: Commas

Lesson 9
PRACTICE BOOK

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Lesson 9
PRACTICE BOOK

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Grade 4, Unit 2: Do You Know What I Mean?
Kinds of Nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Nouns</th>
<th>Proper Nouns</th>
<th>Singular Nouns</th>
<th>Plural Nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>girl</td>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>apple</td>
<td>apples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>day</td>
<td>days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>day</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>class</td>
<td>classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>month</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>fox</td>
<td>foxes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1–3. Write each noun and tell if it is common or proper.

1. Joe and Sal each snuck a box into their classroom.
   - girl
   - city
   - day
   - month

2. Several holes had been poked into the lids with a pencil.
   - girl
   - city
   - day
   - month

3. That morning, Ms. Li heard a strange noise under her desk.
   - girl
   - city
   - day
   - month

4–6. Write the plural form of the noun in parentheses.

4. (sandwich) The children were eating their ________________.
5. (box) Then, the lids popped off the two ________________.
6. (frog) Suddenly, ________________ were jumping all over the room.
Conventions

Incorrect Use of Commas
Katie, bought a pet snake from a shop, in Austin Texas. She needs to feed the snake mice, frogs, fish, and lizards! Her mom said, “Katie you must be kidding.” The date on the store receipt is August 7, 2010. So Katie, has just three days left to get her money back.

Correct Use of Commas
Katie bought a pet snake from a shop in Austin, Texas. She needs to feed it mice, frogs, fish, and lizards! Her mom said, “Katie, you must be kidding.” The date on the store receipt is August 7, 2010. So, Katie has just three days left to get her money back.

Activity
Read the paragraph below. Add commas where they are needed for introductory words, addressing a person, dates, places, and series of words.

I want a pet snake, but I don’t know how to ask my dad for permission. What should I say? I can already hear him telling me, “Richard you know better than to bring another animal into the house.” You see I already have a dog a cat two hamsters a gecko and a frog. In fact I bought Moose, one of my hamsters, on April 1, 2010 - just one month ago! However a snake would really make my animal family complete. The pet store has gopher snakes python snakes and corn snakes from San Diego California. One of them could be mine!
Focus Trait: Organization
Opinions, Reasons, and Details

Good writers support their opinions with details and reasons. When you write your thoughts about a story, support your opinion with details from the text. List the opinion first. Then give the details that helped you form that idea or opinion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Cara in “Dear Mr. Winston” is a likeable character.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Detail</td>
<td>She tells Mr. Winston about her favorite TV show.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Detail</td>
<td>She makes an honest mistake when she accidentally tells him who sold her the snake.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read the opinions about *Dear Mr. Winston*. Write three different details to support each opinion.

1. **Opinion:** Cara truly wants to know more about her snake.
   - Detail ____________________________________________
   - ____________________________________________
   - ____________________________________________

2. **Opinion:** It’s interesting that Cara’s father is more upset than her mother is.
   - Detail ____________________________________________
   - ____________________________________________
   - ____________________________________________
   - ____________________________________________