

MOSDOS PRESS
Literature

Pearl

Student Activity Workbook
Companion to

PEARL

Mosdos Press
CLEVELAND, OHIO



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ISBN-10: 0-9671009-8-4

ISBN-13: 978-0-967-10098-2

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This content is included with purchase of the book.

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*adobe**drudgery**furrows**scampered**cherished**endured**plodding**shunned*

1. When the cleaning and cooking get boring and turn into _____, I think back to my childhood.
2. On those days when it's hard to make it through and I've _____ enough of life's pressures, I curl up on the couch and daydream.
3. The society I grew up in _____ fancy things and modern developments, so my childhood was very simple.
4. I used to play with my friends in the fields, skipping over the _____ and pretending to be farmers.
5. We were very creative with the ground. We took the old garden hose and mixed water with dirt, then we made mud pies and baked them in the sun. They got so dry they really should've been called _____ pies.
6. We had such fun, you would never find us _____ along in slow motion.
7. We _____ about, just running around having a good time.
8. I have always _____ those memories of my younger years. I hope my own children will look back on their childhood with the same fondness.

Name _____



Choose your answer from the list that follows the questions.

1. Who is **cherished** by a father?

2. What might you see **scampering** through your yard?

3. Where do people live in **adobe** huts?

4. When have people **endured** great hardships?

5. Why would someone be willing to work at a job that was sheer **drudgery**?

6. Why would someone be **plodding** along the road?

7. What would a farmer place in the **furrows** he has plowed?

Answer List:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| a. in Mexico | e. during wartime |
| b. he is tired or discouraged | f. seeds |
| c. a rabbit | g. he has no other way to earn a living |
| d. his children | |

HELLO, AGAIN!

The word **shunned** appeared in *Across Five Aprils*. Do you remember where the word **cherished** appeared?

Name _____

Banjo

Orville Reed stuck his fire-red head out the front door.

“Banjo!” he called, expecting a fluffy ball of white fur to rocket into the house.

“Banjo boy!” Orville called again, but there was no friendly bark in response.

Orville’s heart began to beat faster. Where could his dog have gone? He raced outside to the doghouse, but it was empty. He checked the chicken coop where Banjo loved to chase the birds, but there was no sign of the little puppy. At home, his mother tried to comfort him.

“You know Banjo—he’s probably out helping someone unfortunate. He’ll be back before you know it!”

She helped Orville hang up signs in the neighborhood, and they drove all over town, looking for the white puppy, but to no avail. The Reed family went about their day as usual, but their lonely hearts and sad faces showed how much they missed Banjo. That night, Orville couldn’t sleep. He felt so alone without Banjo.

A few blocks from the Reeds’ house, Steve Taylor sighed heavily and sat down on a bench. His thoughts raced, and he felt like crying. How could the company have fired him like that, after so many years of hard work? He felt alone in the world, and completely worthless. Losing his job was an enormous blow to his ego and his bank book. His sad thoughts were interrupted suddenly by a strange noise. Steve walked over to a nearby bush to investigate and was startled to see a puppy caught up in a mess of ropes around his legs and neck. Quickly, Steve pulled the dog loose and held the shaking puppy gently. The expression in the puppy’s eyes changed from mournful to grateful, and Steve felt a surge of happiness at having saved the helpless pup. Only a few minutes ago he’d felt rejected and useless, but now he realized that he still had much to offer to the world. He stroked the dog’s soft fur and scratched him behind the ears. Then he noticed the collar and tag around the fluffy neck.

“Looks like you’ll be needing to get back to your folks,” said Steve.

At noon, Orville heard the doorbell ring.

“Come down, Orville!” his mother called, and he shuffled down the steps reluctantly.

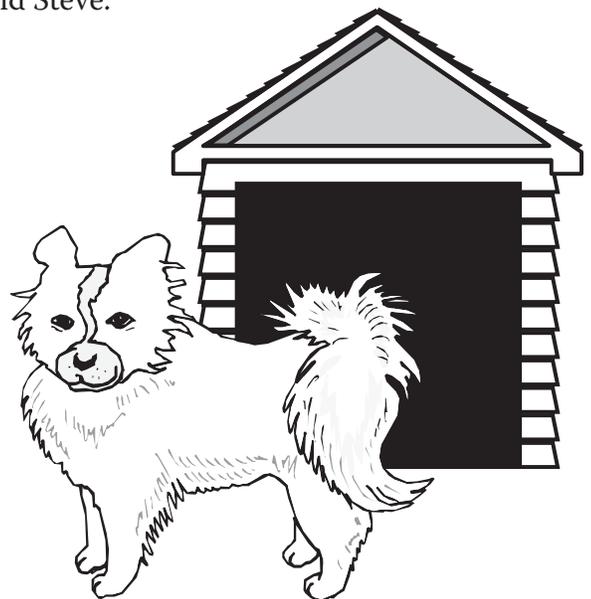
A man stood in the doorway holding a dirty but cheerful Banjo.

“Poor thing was shut up in some bushes for the night. Nothing a little love won’t cure,” said Steve.

Mrs. Reed watched Orville cuddle his beloved puppy.

“You’ve made him so happy, sir,” she said.

“Well,” said Steve slowly, “that dog’s done quite a bit for me, too.”



Answer the following questions about *Banjo* using complete sentences.

1. Both Orville Reed and Steve Taylor have a problem. What are their problems?

2. Compare Orville's feelings about losing his dog to Steve's feelings about losing his job.

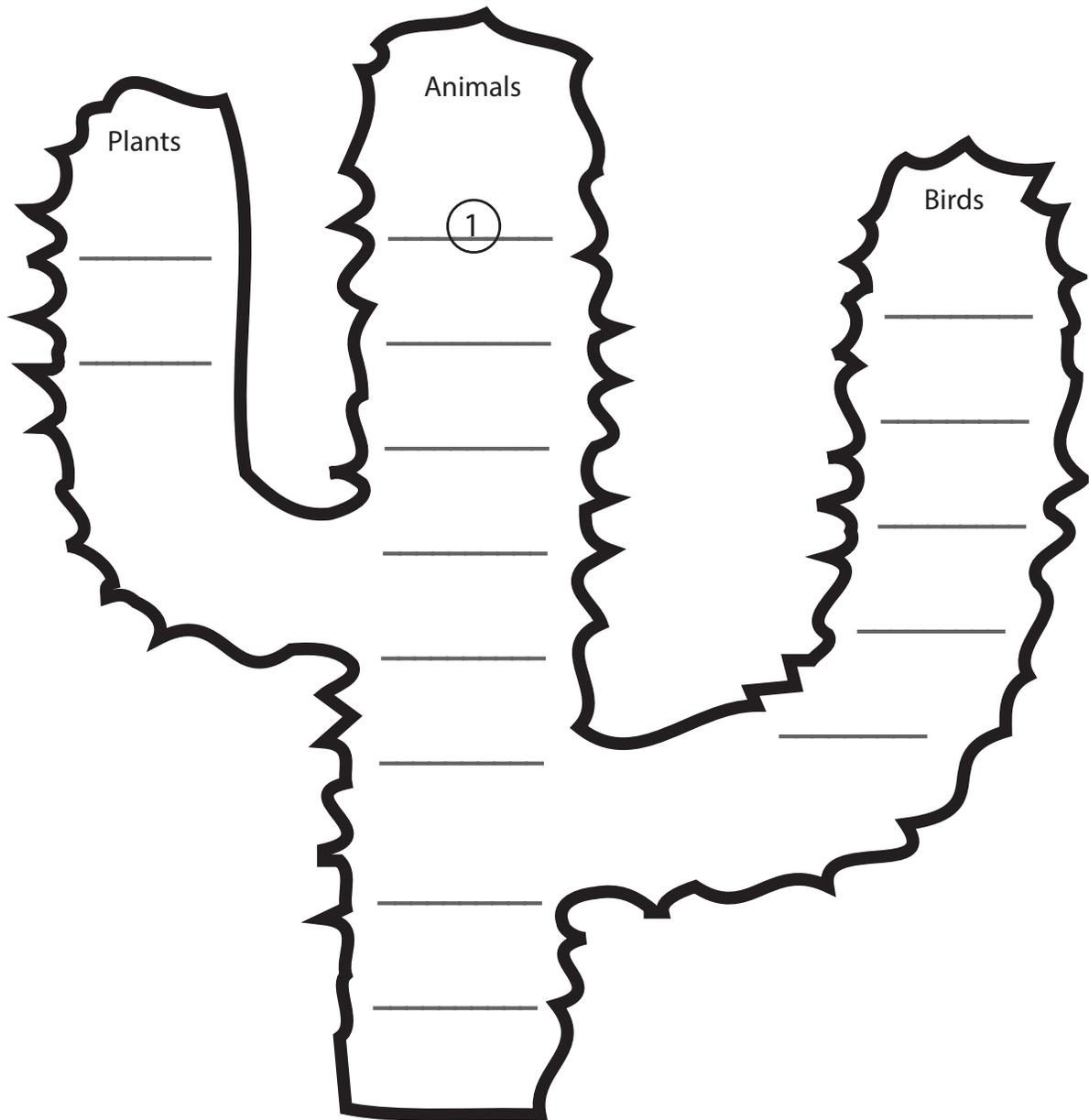
3. What did Orville do in an effort to solve his problem?

4. What do you think Steve will have to do to solve his problem?

5. What thoughts were preventing Steve from taking the steps necessary to help him solve his problem?

Name _____

There are many names of animals, birds, and bushes in *Alejandro's Gift*. Many of these names may be unfamiliar to you. Look over the list below and place each name in its proper branch of the "cactus." Place the number of the word on the list in the proper branch of the cactus. The first one is done for you.

**Word List**

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. burro | 5. pocket mouse | 9. thrasher | 13. doe |
| 2. roadrunner | 6. Gila woodpecker | 10. coatis | 14. mourning dove |
| 3. mesquite | 7. saguaro | 11. cactus wren | 15. fawn |
| 4. gopher | 8. coyote | 12. peccary | |

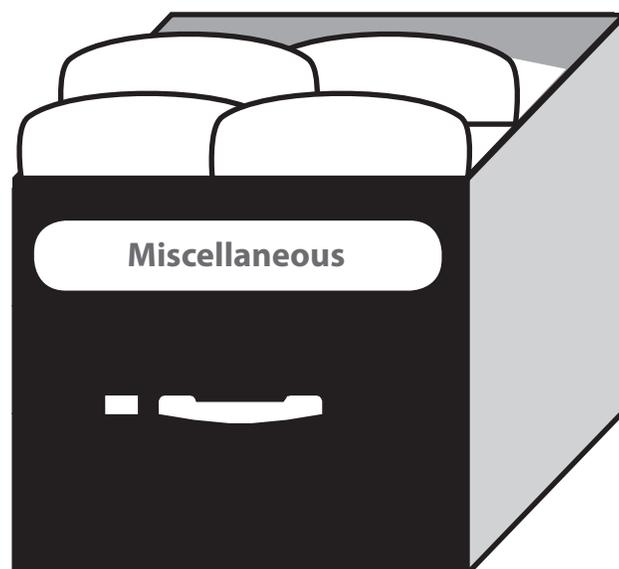
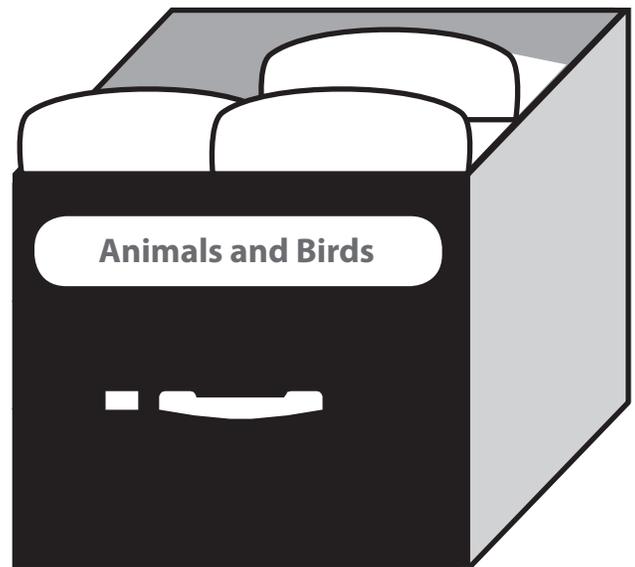
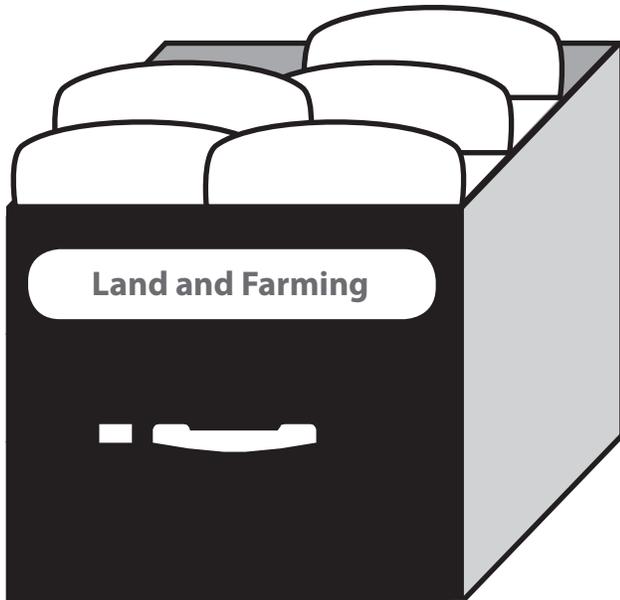
*barren**cowbirds**joists**rural**carcasses**deed**loam**themes**comprised**elated**pelts**tract*

1. The family farm is located on a large _____ of land in Cambridge, Vermont.
2. Cambridge is a _____ area, with rolling fields and barns dotting its landscape.
3. In the summer, the area is green and beautiful. In the winter, the fields lay snow-covered and _____, not a speck of life anywhere.
4. Our family has held the _____ to the land since 1854.
5. We have worked the land all these years and have taken ordinary soil and turned it into fine _____ in which to plant our crops.
6. The farm is _____ of a house, a barn, and many acres of fields.
7. Our family has been through some hard times on the farm, like the time the _____ in the barn gave way and the roof collapsed, just missing the horses.
8. Once, two of our cows got lost in a snowstorm and froze to death. We only found their _____ after the snow melted.
9. The following year, the _____ we were saving to make fur coats out of were stolen.
10. Yes, we've had hard times, but we can write many more _____ about the good times.
11. The _____ still sing their merry tune, and the sun still rises every morning.
12. We are all proud to be a part of our wonderful family, and _____ to be living on our wonderful family farm.

Name _____

Grouping Words by Association

The vocabulary words for this chapter fall easily into three groups. Label the “folders” in each drawer of the file cabinet with the vocabulary words that are associated with the topic of that drawer. For example, if the words *piano*, *sonata*, and *harmony* were part of the vocabulary list, you would “file” them in the drawer labeled “music.”



In the section below you will find an assignment for each group of words.

I. Land and Farming

You are a real estate agent in the business of selling land to farmers. Write an advertisement for a piece of land that you would like to sell. Include the five vocabulary words from the Land and Farming file cabinet in your ad.

II. Animals and Birds

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. What interesting fact about cowbirds did you learn from the story *What America Means to Me*?

2. Can you think of three items that are made from animal pelts?

3. Of what use could an animal carcass be to anyone?

III. Miscellaneous

Write the word that is most unlike the rest of the words in the group.

My Story

Congratulations to all of you in the audience. I know just how difficult it was for you to get here. I know that what is a simple act for other people is, for people like you and me, a sort of miracle.

Some people call us disabled, some people call us handicapped, some people call us blind or deaf or lame or all the other terms that speak only of what we cannot do. But we know different. We know what we CAN do. And it is that of which I shall speak tonight.

At the age of five I was in a terrible accident. Although my life was saved, my vision, hearing, and ability to walk were almost lost. For the next ten years, I endured operation after operation, relentless pain, and the highs of hope and the lows of disappointment. When I turned fifteen, my condition reached a plateau. There was little hope of any further improvement. Although I was no longer in pain, my hearing was impaired, I required thick glasses with special lenses, and I walked haltingly. Suddenly, I felt despair. I looked at my friends and knew I would never be just like them. The deep love I felt for my parents began to change to anger—at them, at my plight, and at the world. I decided that if I could not be perfect, I would be perfectly horrible.

I spent the next two years aimlessly attending classes and isolating myself from my friends. One teacher would not let me wallow in self-pity.

“I have a project for you,” he said to me. “I am working on my doctorate and I wonder if you’d help me with a little research.”

“What do you want me to do?” I asked in the tired, hopeless style I’d adopted.

“I’m doing a research paper in which I compare hospitalized children. One group of children receives the best medical treatment available. The other group receives the same quality medical treatment, but also is visited each day by a person who talks to them, plays with them, and encourages them. I want to see if encouragement actually helps a patient get better faster.”

“So you want me to help on the research?” I asked.

“No. I want you to be one of the visitors who talks and plays with the children.”

Reluctantly, I accepted the job. That was twenty-five years ago. From my first day on the job, I realized that I, who could neither see nor hear well, who would never ride a bike or run a race, could be one of the most important people in the world to these children. I finished high school, continued on to college and graduate school, all the while volunteering in the children’s hospital.

Today, I am the director of children’s services in a large city hospital. My handicaps help me better relate to the children in my care. What was a disability became, for me, an ability—an ability to understand, to feel, and to help. I wish all of you the tremendous happiness in life that I have found.

Good evening, and thank you for coming.

Name _____

Answer the following questions about *My Story* using complete sentences.

1. How did the speaker become disabled? What are some of the speaker's disabilities?

2. What does the speaker wish to speak about?

3. What reaction did the speaker have when, at age fifteen, it became obvious that further improvement to his condition was unlikely?

4. In your opinion, why did the teacher ask the speaker for assistance?

5. How did working with the hospitalized children change the speaker's attitude to his own disabilities?

6. What conclusion might be drawn from this speech about the source of a person's happiness?

What America Means to Me

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

One Step at a Time

Jesse Stuart, the child of two impoverished, uneducated parents, demonstrated unusual determination in his climb to achieve the fulfillment of his ideals and dreams. His success did not come about overnight. It came one step at a time. On the “stairway,” fill in the details that describe each step of Mr. Stuart’s life.

12. He became a famous and beloved _____

11. He published many _____ and _____

10. His greatest achievement was winning the _____

9. Later, his jobs in school included _____

8. He worked at the following jobs to support himself: _____

7. Finally he was admitted to _____

6. He applied to Kentucky Wesleyan but _____

5. During his four years in high school he wrote _____

4. At Greenup High School he wrote his first famous _____ that was published _____

3. By working on farms he learned about _____
He earned _____

2. At Plum Grove, his first school, he learned _____

1. His father was _____
His mother earned money by _____

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