

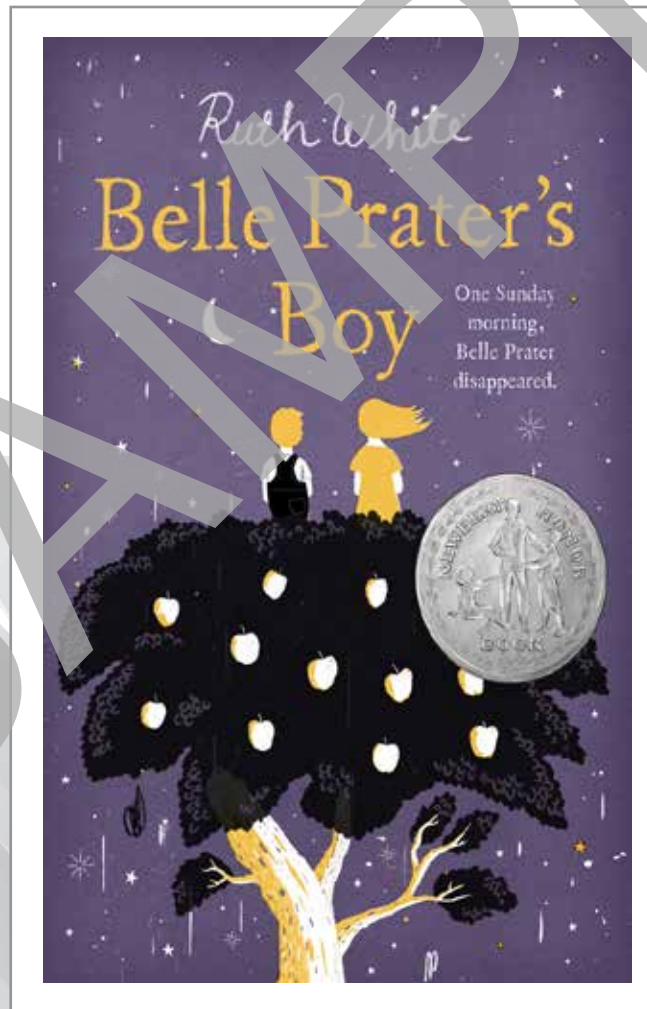


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

Belle Prater's Boy

Ruth White



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Belle Prater's Boy

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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4. Give some examples of Gypsy's childlike behavior. When does she act like a grown-up?
5. Who insults Woodrow by talking about his mama and his looks? Why do you think she does this?*
6. What secrets do Woodrow and Gypsy share in the tree house?
7. Why do Woodrow and Gypsy decide to meet at the tree house after everyone else is in bed?
8. *Prediction:* What will Woodrow explain about his mother's disappearance?*

Chapters 7–8 (Pages 58–74)

1. Explain the strange place that Woodrow calls the place "where two worlds touch."* (page 60)
2. Who is Blind Benny? How important do you think he will be in the story?*
3. Who was Ed Morrell? How did Belle compare herself to Ed Morrell?
4. If Belle left on her own, why did she leave Woodrow behind?*
5. Who finds Gypsy on her way back from the tree house in the middle of the night?
6. How is Woodrow helping Gypsy?
7. How does Woodrow handle the first day at school? How does he show that he is not shy and really quite clever?
8. *Prediction:* How will Woodrow's preoccupation with his mother's disappearance affect his life?*

Chapters 9–10 (Pages 75–90)

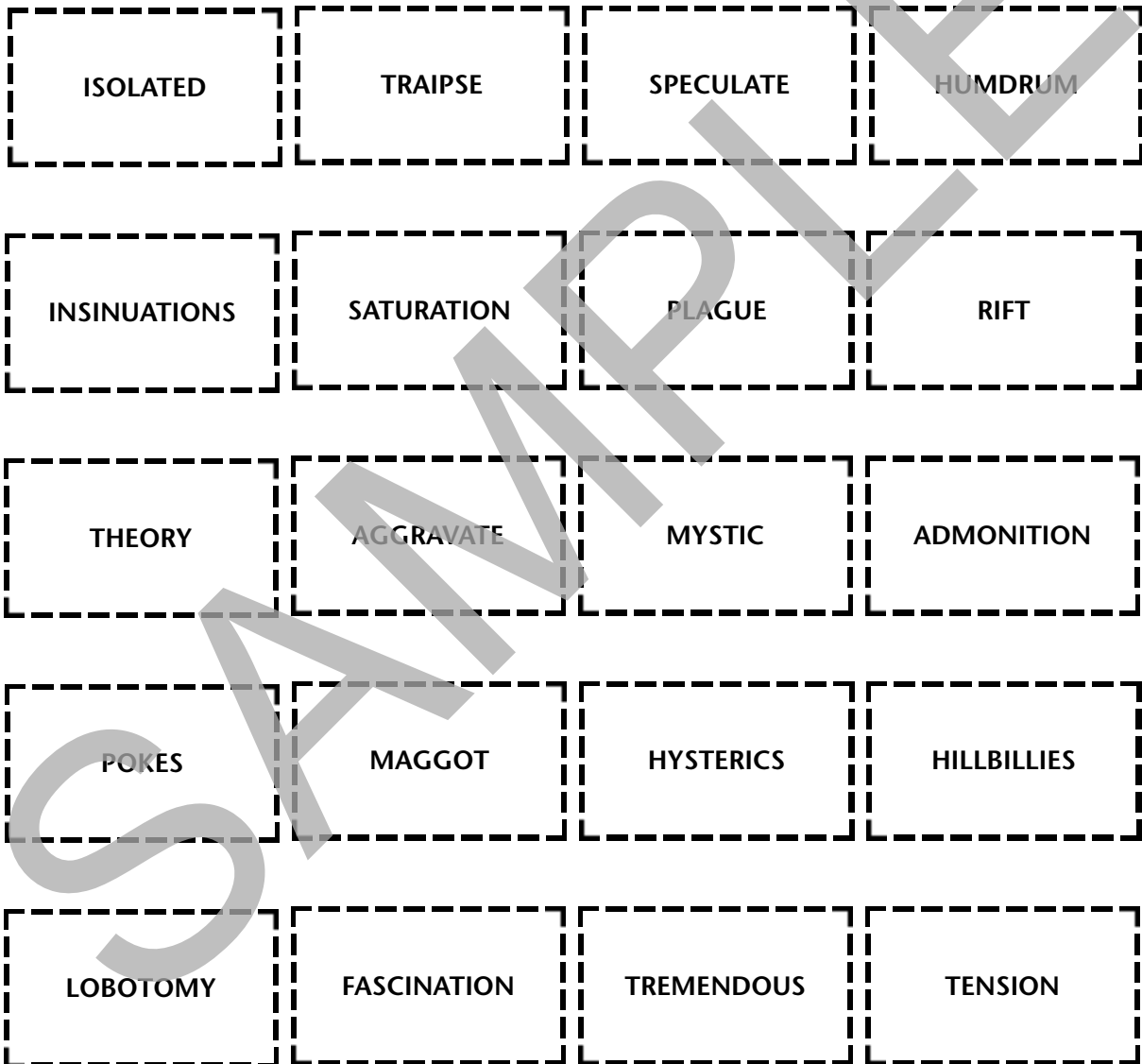
1. Why does Everett Prater come to visit? How does Woodrow treat his dad?
2. What disturbs Woodrow when he looks out the window while his father gets into the car?
3. Why does Gypsy accept Porter's invitation to go to the movies? What upsets her at the movie?
4. How is Gypsy's episode at the movie related to her nightmare?

"Guess Word"

Object of the Game: Guess the word on the card your partner is holding.

Step 1: Students form pairs.

Step 2: Cut out two identical sets of vocabulary cards (below), one set for each player.



Step 3: Each player lays out his or her cards face down.

The Great Prefix and Suffix Search

1. Use these suffixes to make nouns: -ion, -ment, -ise, -ance. Find examples from the book and examples from your own experiences.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. These suffixes are used to make adjectives: -ful and -ous. Locate several examples.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3. What do these prefixes mean? Find examples of each.

Prefix Meaning

Examples

in-

_____	_____
-------	-------

inter-

_____	_____
-------	-------

ex-

_____	_____
-------	-------

trans-

_____	_____
-------	-------

non-

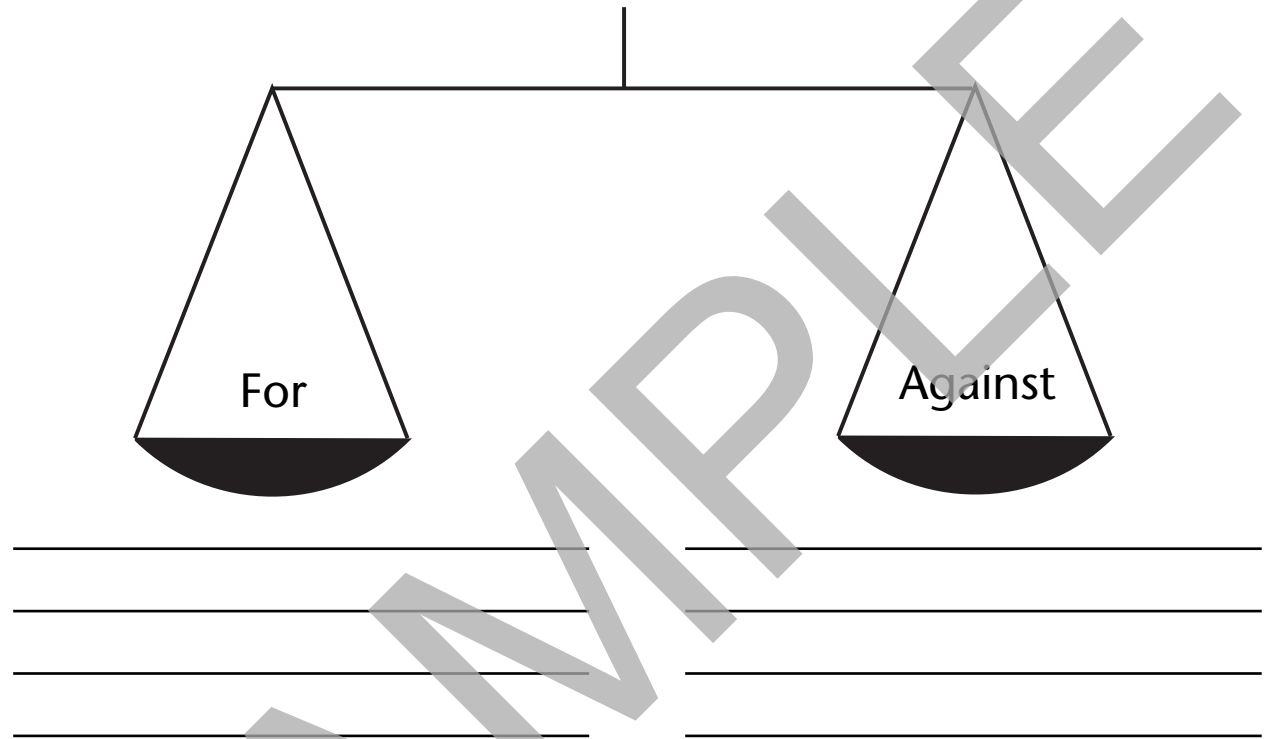
_____	_____
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dis-

_____	_____
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Directions

Before Belle Prater decided to disappear, she must have thoughtfully weighed the reasons for and against such an action. List the reasons *for* and the reasons *against* doing this. (Include reasons mentioned in the novel, as well as others you can think



What reason do you think is most compelling?

What other alternatives did Belle have?

Did Belle make the best choice? Explain why or why not in a short paragraph.

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