

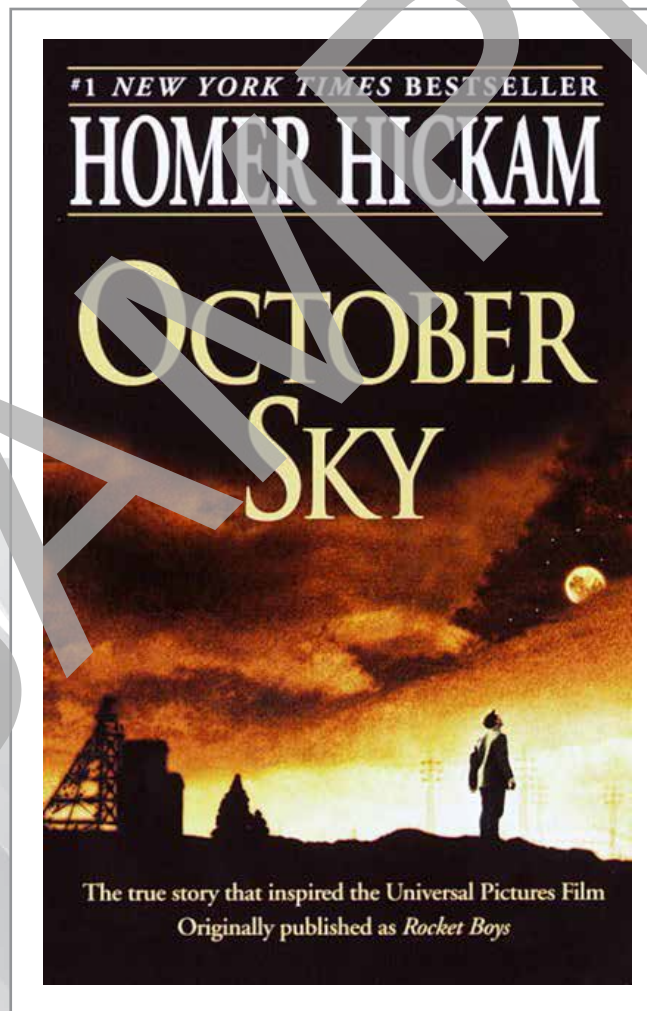


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

October Sky

Homer Hickam



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

October Sky

Homer Hickam

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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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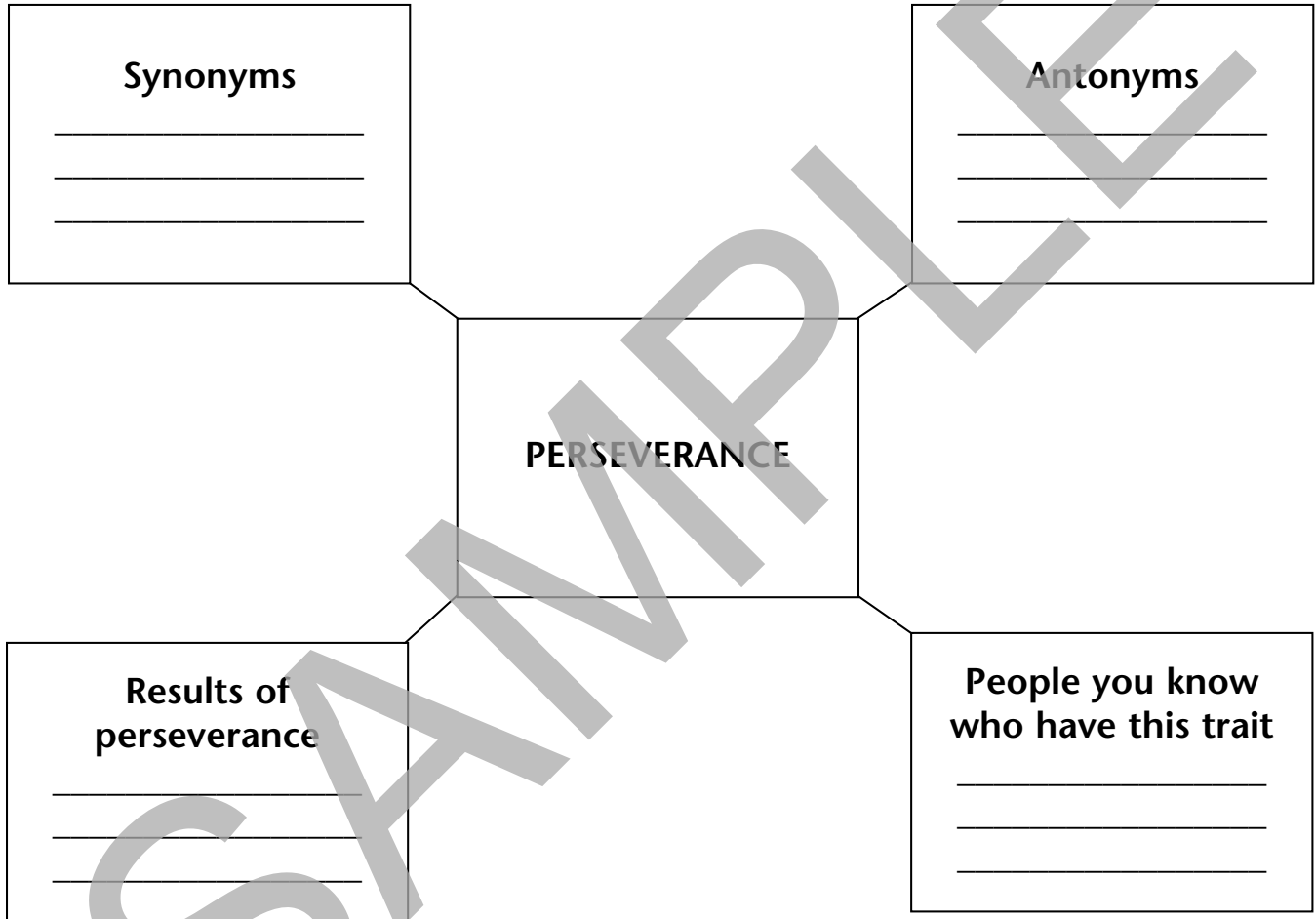
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Name _____

Directions: Complete the following chart for the word *perseverance*.



Name _____

truncated (207)	tensile (213)	aperture (214)	parameters (217)
thermodynamics (248)	isentropic (248)	adiabatic (248)	elliptical (253)
trajectories (253)	overt (254)	ebullience (257)	flange (268)
guile (273)	syncopated (279)	translucent (281)	accolades (288)
converging (299)	diverging (299)		

Directions: The teacher will assign you one word from the list above. Turn to the page on which the word appears in the novel and examine how it is used in context. Complete the word map for your word and share your results with the class.

<p>Synonyms</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Magazine cut-out, drawing, or symbol that shows what the word means</p>
<p>Word</p> <hr/>	
<p>Definition in your own words</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Word used in a sentence</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Name _____

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Starred questions indicate thought or opinion questions. Use your answers in class discussions, for writing assignments, and to review for tests.

Chapter 1, pp. 1–16

1. What is the setting of the book (place and time period)? Who is the narrator and how old is he when his memoir begins?
2. *What does the company own in Coalwood? What do you think this implies?
3. What “Indian” tribe does Sonny invent? What do the Indians do? Why do they disband?
4. *What one thing did every Coalwood family have to have? Do you think this was a fair stipulation?
5. *How old was Homer Hickam, Sr. when he started working in the coal mine? How do you think his work affects his family?
6. Who is Poppy and what happened to him?
7. *Who are the “Great Six”? What effect do you think they have on Sonny?
8. *Describe Elsie Hickam’s mural. What do you think this symbolizes to her?

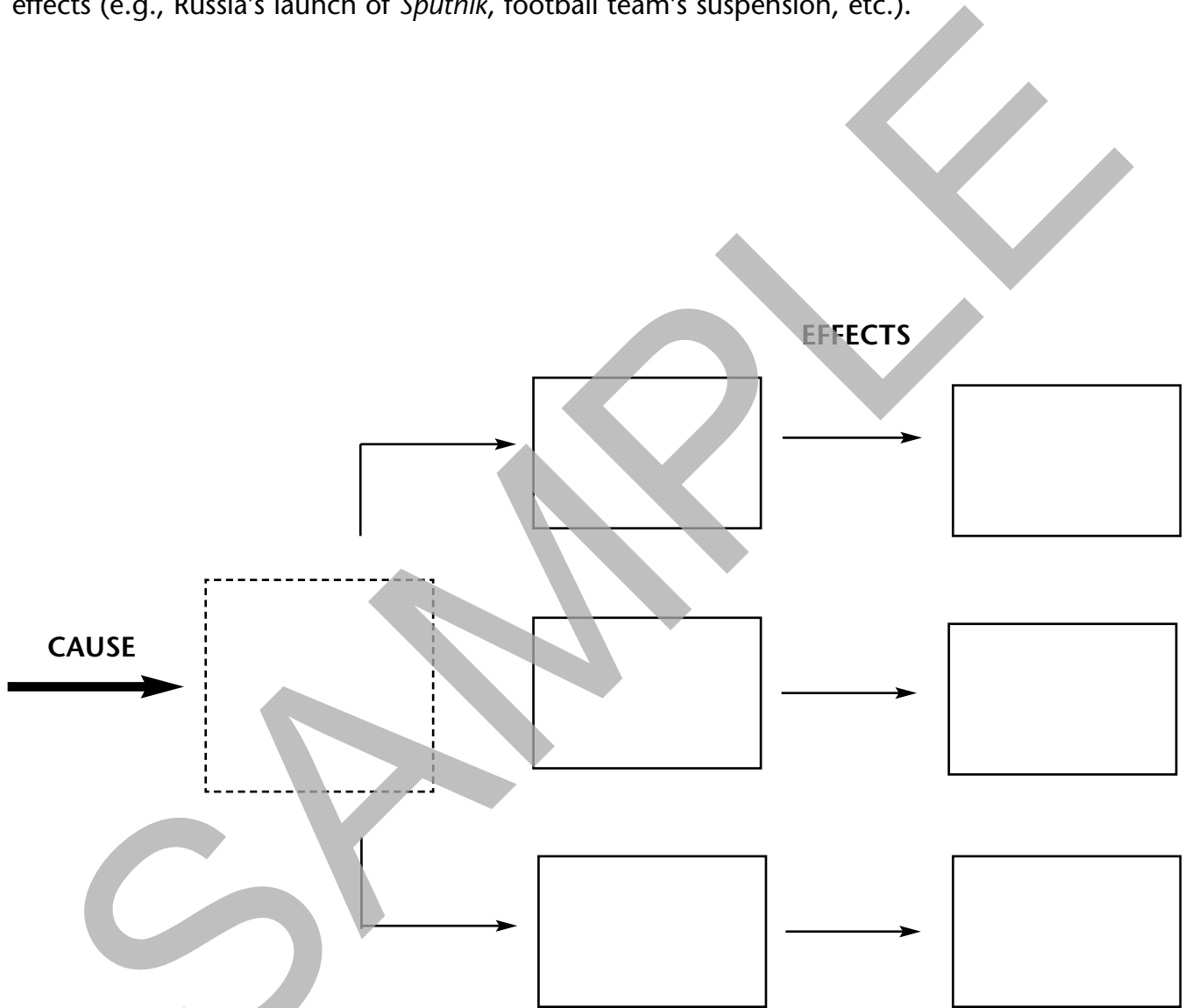
Chapter 2, pp. 17–44

1. Where did Sonny get his nickname?
2. Who makes up Sonny’s core group of friends? Briefly describe these friends.
3. *What date divides Sonny’s life into two distinct phases? Why? Why do you think this event has such an impact on him?
4. *Identify two differences between Jim and Sonny. How do you think Sonny feels about Jim?
5. *Why have Jim and Sonny entered into a truce? Explain why you do or do not think this truce will last.
6. Whom does Sonny consider to be the most beautiful girl in high school? How does he feel about her?
7. *Why is Big Creek High School’s football team in danger of losing out on the chance to become state champions? Explain why you do or do not think this is fair.
8. *What comment does Coach Morgan make about Sonny’s ability to play football? Explain how this would make you feel.
9. Why doesn’t Sonny quit football on his own? What causes him to quit? What does he do then?

Name _____

Cause/Effect Chart

Directions: Choose an incident from the book and identify the cause of the incident and its effects (e.g., Russia's launch of *Sputnik*, football team's suspension, etc.).



Name _____

Conflict

The **conflict** of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are three main types of conflict: person vs. person, person vs. nature or society, and person vs. self.

Directions: Working in a small group, define the words conflict, compromise, cooperation, and control. Complete the following chart outlining one of the book's conflicts (e.g., Homer/Sonny, Homer/Elsie, Sonny/Jim). Share your completed chart with the class.

Character:	
Conflict	Resolution

Character:	
Conflict	Resolution

Character:	
Conflict	Resolution