

Koch / Peak
Grade 6

Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Period: _____

NTI DAY #1
(weather-closed school day)

6

PACKET ONE

(English/Language Arts)

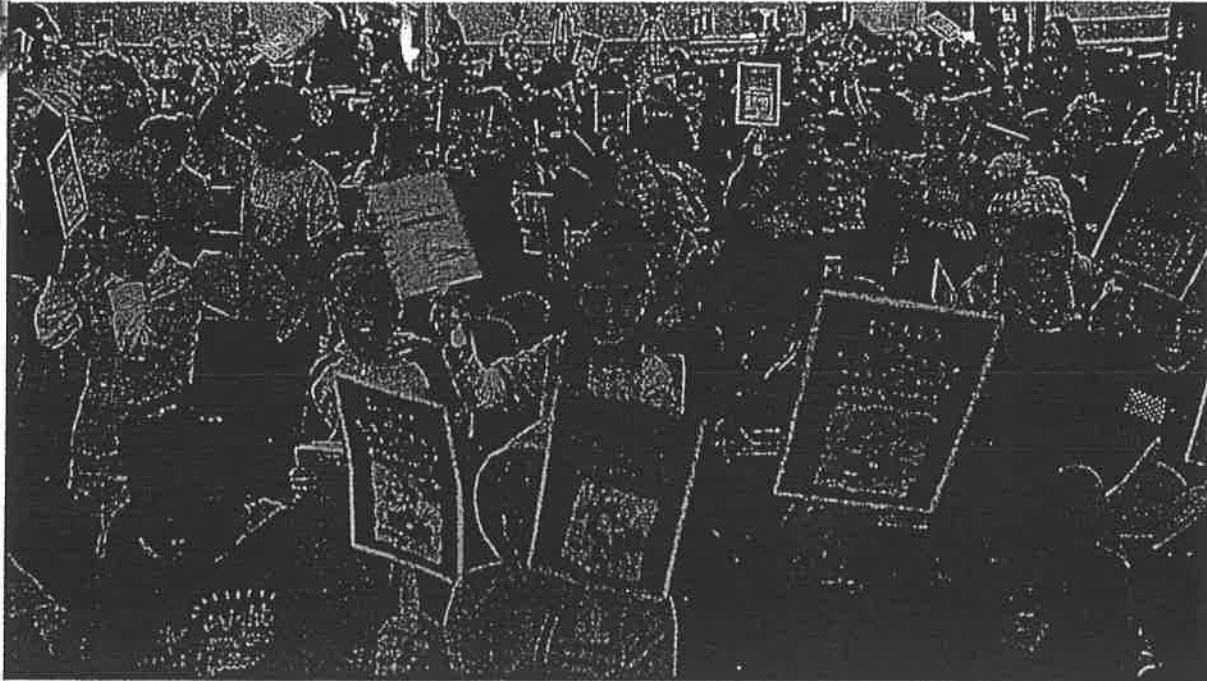
General Directions:

Due to weather, Harrison County Schools are closed. In an effort to utilize this day on the school calendar, your child is assigned and should work on this "packet" of school work today. It will count as a grade for this subject. The work attached is specific to the subject listed above. Please contact your child's teacher of this subject at 234-7110 in the event you/your student have questions on this packet. Staff and teachers reported to HCMS today and are available should you have questions.

Wimpy no more: Jeff Kinney is now a famous author who makes millions

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 11.07.16

Word Count **794**



Hundreds of students celebrate the arrival of Jeff Kinney at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Photo: Washington Post by Astrid Riecken

Jeff Kinney wears his pants properly now, not with the waistband up near his belly button. He is no longer super skinny.

And when he walked into his old elementary school gymnasium on Tuesday as a successful writer, not the Dungeons-and-Dragons-playing goofball he once was, he was greeted like a star. More than 200 children screamed with excitement.

"Now that is so cool," he said as the cheering wouldn't stop.

Kinney returned to Potomac Landing Elementary School in Fort Washington, Maryland, to launch "Double Down," the 11th book in his "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series. The books have sold 180 million copies in 52 languages. He earned nearly \$20 million last year, making him the second-highest-paid book writer in the world, according to Forbes magazine.

His new book became the top-seller on Amazon just hours after it came out.

Greg's Character Is Based On Kinney When He Was A Kid

Kinney, 45, built an empire - of books, three movies, a musical and even an upcoming animated TV series - based on the awkwardness of his childhood. Greg Heffley, Kinney's main character, does and says things like Kinney did.

With the children sitting on the gym floor where Kinney used to shoot hoops, Kinney told stories that he's put into his books. He described the time he hid in a swimming pool bathroom and wrapped himself in toilet paper because it was cold.

"Can you tell why I called the book 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid'?" Kinney asked them.

The students howled with laughter.

Booksellers and publishing experts say what has made Kinney so successful is how unusual the series was when it launched in 2007. The books are Greg's diaries. The pages have lines like a notebook with handwriting and doodles.

"Wimpy Kid" Books Were Groundbreaking

To readers, especially boys, that didn't look like any of the books at school.

Greg is bumbling. He is not very popular, but he is bold.

"Let me just say for the record that I think middle school is the dumbest idea ever invented," Greg writes on the third page of the first book.

Jacob Baxter, 10, one of the children in the Potomac Landing gym, explained his interest in Kinney in a letter he wrote to him in September.

"I can read your books in two days," he wrote, adding that he had finished all the books, "so I started all over."

Kinney Started Out Drawing Comics

Kinney grew up reading newspaper comics every morning with his father. In college, Kinney studied computer science and drew a comic for the student newspaper. It featured an awkward student like Greg.

Kinney wanted to draw comics for newspapers. Instead, he became a computer programmer. In his spare time he began making something like a graphic novel for adults. It featured dorky but lovable kids.

In 2004, he began putting parts of the book on a website. Hoping to find someone to print a book, Kinney went to Comic-Con, a convention for comic book writers and fans. There, he handed his book to Charles Kochman, a well-known editor.

"I just instantly loved it," Kochman said. "There was nothing like it out there."

Kochman and Kinney saw it as a humor book for grown-ups. But others in the book business suggested Kochman try it as a kids' book. Kinney was surprised. It had never occurred to him that what he had written was for kids.

Readers Can Relate To Greg

Looking back, Kinney realizes that not writing the book for kids is actually what made it so popular with kids. He wasn't talking down to them.

Also, kids could see their own lives in Greg's.

"The kids might know they aren't as bad as him, but even if they are, then it's comforting," Kochman said.

At first mostly boys read Kinney's work, but Kochman said almost half of readers now are girls. "The humor is universal," he said.

Best Buddies From Way Back

It all comes back to the house on a hill where Kinney grew up. His best buddy then was Ryan Coudon. They played on computers and built forts.

Though they lost touch in their later school years, Coudon has followed Kinney's work with awe.

Coudon has watched his own life unfold in Greg's books - and again on Tuesday at their old school. Coudon attended the event with his wife. Kinney told the story about the time he rolled a soccer ball at the wheels of Coudon's bike while he was riding it. Coudon fell. Bones were broken.

"I'm here to say, 'I'm sorry,'" Kinney said. "Is your wrist working now?"

Again, the audience howled.

Kinney left the gym with his old buddy. They walked past the library, swapping stories that might one day wind up in a book.

This article was written by a reporter for the newspaper, The Washington Post. What was the reporter's (the author) purpose for writing this article? Cite evidence from the article to support your answer.

Quiz

- 1 What is the connection between Kinney's childhood and his books?
- (A) Kinney's main character is based on a kid that lived down the street from him when he was a child.
 - (B) Kinney has his characters behave in the opposite way of how he behaved during his childhood.
 - (C) Kinney uses his own experiences as adventures for his main character.
 - (D) Kinney writes about what he wishes his childhood had been like.
- 2 Which sentence from the article BEST supports the idea that Kinney's books were unusual?
- (A) His new book became the top-seller on Amazon just hours after it came out.
 - (B) To readers, especially boys, that didn't look like any of the books at school.
 - (C) Kochman and Kinney saw it as a humor book for grown-ups.
 - (D) At first mostly boys read Kinney's work, but Kochman said almost half of readers now are girls.
- 3 According to the article, how does Kinney's friend Coudon feel about Kinney and his books?
- (A) Coudon is angry that Kinney is writing fictional stories about him and wants Kinney to stop.
 - (B) Coudon is jealous that Kinney is making a lot of money from stories about their childhood and wants to be paid for them.
 - (C) Coudon is happy for his old friend Kinney and keeps up with Kinney's work.
 - (D) Coudon is excited that Kinney writes about their friendship and wants to help with future books.
- 4 Read the section "Readers Can Relate To Greg." Which paragraph BEST supports the conclusion that Kinney's books are popular because of the language Kinney uses in his writing?

LESSON

9 Complex Sentences

TRY IT OUT

FANBOYS = Compound AAAWWUBBIS = Complex

Part 1 No comma w/ conjunction = Simple

Read each sentence. Underline the conjunction. Decide if the sentence is compound or complex. Write the label *compound* or *complex* on the line.

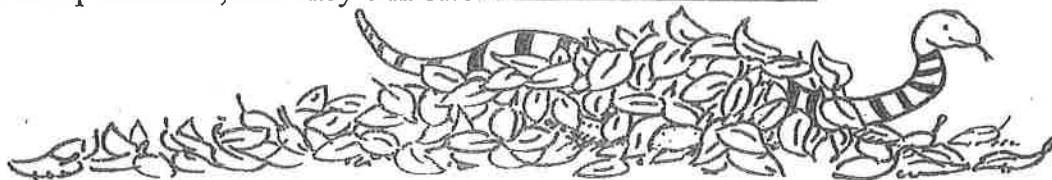
Example: I saw a brown snake yesterday, and it moved quickly under some leaves.

compound _____

1. I am frightened when I see a snake. _____
2. If I see a snake, I run. _____
3. When it is warm out, snakes like to sit in the sun. _____
4. If it's cold, snakes move slowly. _____
5. A snake usually lives in a hole, or it lives under rocks and in caves.

6. My friend feeds worms and bugs to her pet snake when it is hungry.

7. If a snake moves its tongue, it is smelling the air. _____
8. These snakes are not poisonous, but they can bite. _____



Part 2

Write two complex sentences about snakes. Underline the subordinating conjunctions.

LESSON

9 Complex Sentences

ON YOUR OWN

FANBOYS = Compound AAAWWUBBIS = Complex
 No comma w/ conjunction = Simple

Decide if each sentence is simple, compound, or complex. First, write the label *simple*, *compound*, or *complex* on the line. Then, for each compound or complex sentence, write the conjunction.

Example: A rattlesnake shakes its tail before it strikes. complex before

1. Before the cobra bites, it moves back and forth.

2. After a cobra bites, it moves back quickly.

3. A python eats, and then it rests for several days.

4. A garter snake caught a small mouse in our garden.

5. When I saw the snake, it curled up.

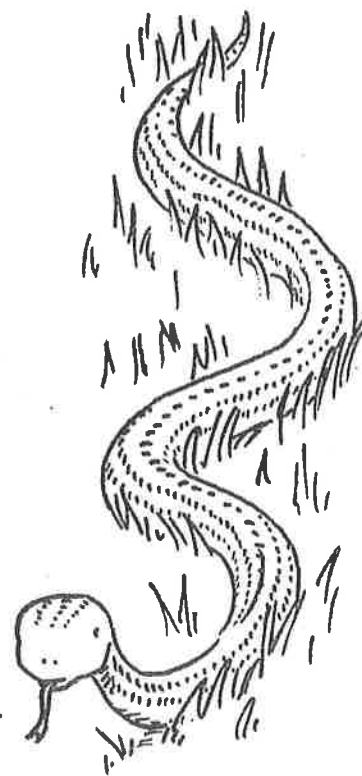
6. Although most snakes lay eggs, garter snakes don't.

7. Some snakes live in the water, but others live only on land.

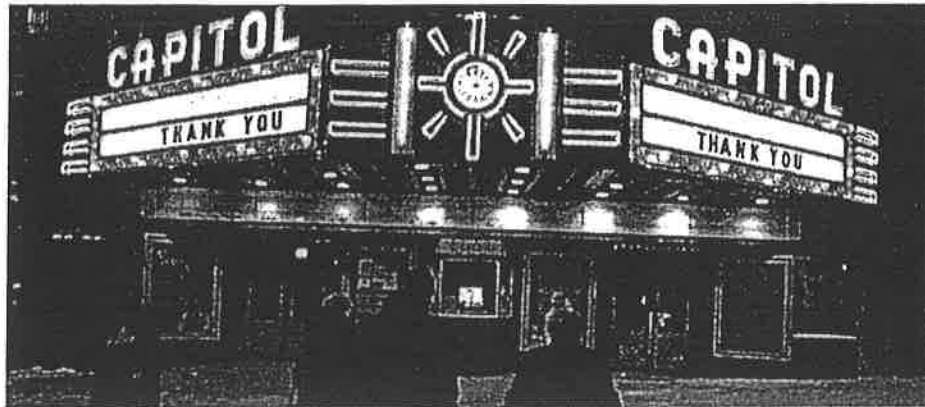
8. While we were visiting the zoo, we saw a boa in a tree.

9. The zookeeper picked up the boa very carefully.

10. Since I have learned about snakes, I find them more interesting.



The Film Editor



When deciding whether a movie is good or not, most people think about the storyline. They think about the quality of the acting. Some might even remark on how well the movie was directed. Almost no one says: “Boy, that movie was really well edited!”

This is a dilemma that every film editor faces. Their work, while crucial to the success of a film, is rarely celebrated. Many don’t even know that the job title “Film Editor” exists. People win Academy Awards for Best Actor and Best Director. No one seems to care about the Best Editor.

“Everyone knows that Meryl Streep has won three Academy Awards for acting,” says Marc Rodriguez, a professional film editor based in New York City. “Nobody knows that Michael Kahn has won three Academy Awards for film editing.”

Rodriguez graduated from film school at New York University in Manhattan. As a teenager, he was always shooting footage of his friends on his family’s video camera. He worshipped legendary directors like Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg. Someday, he thought, I will make films of my own.

So after graduating from film school, Rodriguez took a job as an editor of television commercials. The idea was to make some money to afford making a feature-length film. But as he got more involved in editing, he fell in love with it. At 37 years old, he still hopes to direct a film. But film editing has become both his passion and his full-time job.

Speaking over the phone from his office in Brooklyn, Rodriguez explained what exactly a film editor does.

"I don't want to take too much credit," says Rodriguez, a stocky guy with floppy red hair, "but we essentially bring the film to life. For a big feature film, a director will often shoot over 100 hours of footage. Documentary filmmakers tend to shoot even more hours, because they don't know what the story is when they start. As the editor, it is my job to cut all that footage down to an hour and a half."

"As you can imagine," Rodriguez adds, "this requires a lot of time and patience."

Luckily, Rodriguez is a patient man. Directors tend to have less patience. Their job involves gathering footage and making sure the actors get along. But after the film shoot is over, the director's job is pretty much done; he or she hands over the footage to the editor. The editor is then tasked with taking out everything that doesn't fit in the story.

Rodriguez works alone in a small, quiet office. His job requires intense amounts of concentration. On his desk, he keeps two computer monitors. One allows him to check the Internet and answer emails. The other is for editing films.

A typical day involves editing a 20 to 30 second scene of a movie. That's right: an entire day spent going over the same 20 or 30 seconds of a movie. In the end, this is how movies get made. As the editor, Rodriguez matches the sound with what is happening on-screen. He makes sure the storyline flows from scene to scene. He ensures that the stars of the film appear in as flattering a light as possible.

"For me, editing is like putting together a giant puzzle in which most of the pieces don't fit," he says with a laugh. "You look closely at all the footage. You examine it to see whether it should go into the final cut, as we call it. In the end, though, only a tiny percentage of the original footage makes it into the actual film."

Now and then, Rodriguez says, he decides that he does not have enough footage to make a film. In such cases, the director is forced to film new scenes. This can be stressful for everyone involved. The actors may already be acting in other films or TV shows. The camera operator—the person who holds the camera—may have moved on as well. And yet the director must get everyone back together to shoot the final scenes. Otherwise the movie may never be completed.

"You really don't want to tell directors that they have to shoot more footage," Rodriguez says. "It's something they really do not want to hear. Hopefully they understand it's for the sake of

the film. After all, no one wants to get a bad review! If it comes down to shooting more footage or getting ripped apart by movie critics, most directors will gladly shoot more scenes.”

Speaking of bad reviews, critics almost never mention the film’s editor in their reviews. To the press, the director and the writer are responsible if a film fails. The editor is left blameless. Of course, when a film is praised and wins awards, the editor does not receive much credit either.

Rodriguez understands that his profession will remain underappreciated. But he does make a good living. And he enjoys the challenge of putting a movie together. Seeing the final product on screen can be a thrilling experience. Then again, seeing all his intricate editing work projected onto a giant movie screen before a crowd full of people can come as a shock, too.

“You always see a thousand little mistakes,” he says. “But of course, the audience never notices, since they didn’t put the thing together. And even if they did notice the mistakes, they probably wouldn’t blame me. As I always say, no one blames the editor!”

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does a film editor do?

- A shoots footage for a film
- B raises money to produce a film
- C pieces together the footage into a finished film
- D directs the production of a film

2. How does the author contrast directors and editors?

- A Directors are brilliant artists while editors are just paid laborers.
- B Directors are the ones who make a movie good or not while editors don't do that much.
- C Directors are not as patient as editors.
- D Directors make a lot more money than editors.

3. A film editor can spend an entire day working on just twenty to thirty seconds of a film.

What can be concluded from this information?

- A Editing a film is simple.
- B Editing a film is a quick process.
- C Editing a film requires a lot of patience.
- D Editing a film can be boring.

4. Why is the job of an editor important to the success of a film?

- A The editor pieces together the director's footage into a story.
- B The editor has the final say in what the movie will look like.
- C The editor can make the movie stars look bad if he wants to.
- D The editor is the person who helps the director gather footage.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A the job of a film editor
- B all of the steps it takes to make a movie
- C the importance of a film director
- D the way to get into the film business

6. Marc Rodriguez uses a metaphor to compare editing a film to something else. What does he compare it to?

- A piloting a large plane with many passengers
- B writing a novel in a different language
- C making a map of an unexplored country where he has never been before
- D putting together a giant puzzle in which most of the pieces don't fit

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

_____ a film editor begins his work, a director will shoot hundreds of hours of footage.

- A Finally
- B Before
- C After
- D However

8. Explain what happens if an editor decides that he does not have enough footage to make a film.

9. What is the director's job?

10. Explain how the work of *both* the director and the editor is crucial to the making of a film. Use information from the text to support your answer.

Vocabulary List #1

annual: happening once a year

- The clothing store holds an **annual** back-to-school sale every September.
- “My dad makes more money **annually** than your dad,” Percy bragged.

grotesque: weird; distorted

- The costume store had a lot of really **grotesque** masks. Julie wanted the one of the zombie with acid on its face.
- When Marco looked at the **grotesque** angle of his arm, he knew it had to be broken.

gawk: to stare stupidly

- Kendra and Jessica **gawked** at Brad Pitt when he entered the elevator with them.
- Matthew was **gawking** at the New York skyscrapers when he stepped into an open manhole and broke his leg.

obese: very fat

- Eddie Murphy plays an **obese** man in *The Nutty Professor*.
- The health teacher blames potato chips and afternoon TV for so many of today’s young people being **obese**.

toxic: poisonous; unhealthy; harmful

- In the movie, *Batman*, the Joker fell into a large vat of **toxic** green stuff that melted his skin.
- Be careful when eating wild mushrooms. Some of them are **toxic** and may harm you.

blunder: a stupid or clumsy mistake

- The TV show “The Fresh Prince of Bel Air” usually ends with footage of all the **blunders** the actors made while rehearsing.
- Nobody’s perfect. Everyone makes a **blunder** every once in a while.

List #1 continued

bicker: to fight or quarrel over something silly

- The children **bickered** over the cupcake until their mother got so irritated she took it away, and neither child got any.
- Even though he felt it was unfair, Lucas refused to **bicker** with his English teacher about his test grade.

brutal: vicious; cruel

- Southern Californians may never understand how people can survive the **brutal** cold and heavy snow of Minnesota winters.
- After the **brutal** soccer match, Joanna was bruised and sore.

feline: cat-like; a member of the cat family

- The dog preferred **feline** food to its own Puppy Chow.
- When they lost a second **feline** to leukemia, the Wanners decided not to get any more pets.

tyrant: a ruler who abuses power

- When Charlie is put in charge of his younger sisters and brothers, he often behaves like a **tyrant**.
- "My dad is a **tyrant**," grumbled Ross. "His word is law in our house."

Bonus Words

★ **dumbfounded:** speechless because of shock or amazement

- Because the lottery winner was **dumbfounded**, the reporters couldn't get a direct quote from her.
- Cherisse was **dumbfounded** when she discovered someone had painted her Volkswagen purple and green.

★ **waiver:** a document that shows a person voluntarily gives up a right, claim or privilege

- Tawnie signed a **waiver** of her right to an attorney. She wanted to represent herself in court.
- Patricia's **waiver** of parental guardianship made adoption of her child much easier for the Edmonds.

Name _____

Test

Matching

Match each word in the left column to its correct definition in the right column.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. bicker | a. happening once a year |
| ___ 2. tyrant | b. very fat |
| ___ 3. feline | c. very blonde |
| ___ 4. annual | d. vicious; cruel |
| ___ 5. gawk | e. a document that shows a person voluntarily gives up a right, claim or privilege |
| ___ 6. brutal | f. weird; distorted |
| ___ 7. toxic | g. to fight or quarrel over something silly |
| ___ 8. obese | h. a stupid or clumsy mistake |
| ___ 9. grotesque | i. poisonous; unhealthy; harmful |
| ___ 10. blunder | j. a ruler who abuses power |
| | k. to stare stupidly |
| | l. cat-like; a member of the cat family |
| | m. armadillo-like; a member of the armadillo family |
| | n. speechless because of shock or amazement |
| | o. cheesy |

★ Bonus words

- ___ 11. waiver
___ 12. dumbfounded

Fill-in-the-Blank

Directions: The first 10 words listed above belong in the story below. Read the story and use the clues in the text to place each word in the correct blank space provided. You may change the form of a word to fit the story, if you need to. (For example, you might need to add *ed*, *ing*, *ly* or *s*.)

Killer Kitty

Jason couldn't believe his eyes. He (1) _____ at the blubbery mound in the alley. He'd never seen such an (2) _____ animal before in his life. What was a baby walrus doing in the alley behind his house? Then it hit him — it wasn't a walrus at all. It was a giant furry (3) _____ that must have weighed at least 25 pounds!

List #1 continued

“That’s not a cat, you dimwit,” grumbled his brother Scott. Scott was a year older and bigger than Jason, and he thought everything that Jason did or said was wrong or stupid. “Cats are prissy, fluffy little things that play with balls of yarn. That (4)_____ thing is ragged and matted and looks like an old rug someone threw out. You’re always making stupid (5)_____ like this,” Scott said. “Go back in the house right now before I feed you to this thing.”

Scott’s last comment didn’t scare Jason. Scott always tried to act like a (6)_____, but by now Jason was smart enough to know when Scott’s threats were empty. “Look,” Jason said. “It’s got whiskers and a long tail, and it’s shedding, which is why it looks so awful. It is a cat.”

“It is not!”

“Is too!” Jason hated (7)_____ with his brother, but what else could he do? Big brothers were pretty much a pain in the neck.

“It looks like it fell into that pit full of (8)_____ waste down by the factory,” he continued. “The factory had its (9)_____ drain and pipe cleaning a few days ago. The cat must have fallen into the pit, and the chemicals probably ate away part of its fur.”

“Oh yeah?” said Scott. “I’ll prove to you that it’s not a cat. I’ll go over and take a closer look.”

“I wouldn’t do that if I were you,” Jason warned. “It doesn’t look too friendly.”

“Oh, you’re nothing but a big chicken. Let your big brother take care of it for you.”

Scott headed toward the large blob. Just as he was about to touch it, the blob sprang into the air and sank its claws into Scott’s jeans. Scott let out a scream and tried to shake the cat off, but the cat held on for dear life. After a (10)_____ assault on Scott’s

