

Name _____ Date _____

Theme

The World According to Humphrey
Comprehension: Theme

Read the selection below.

A Home for Melvin and Peanut

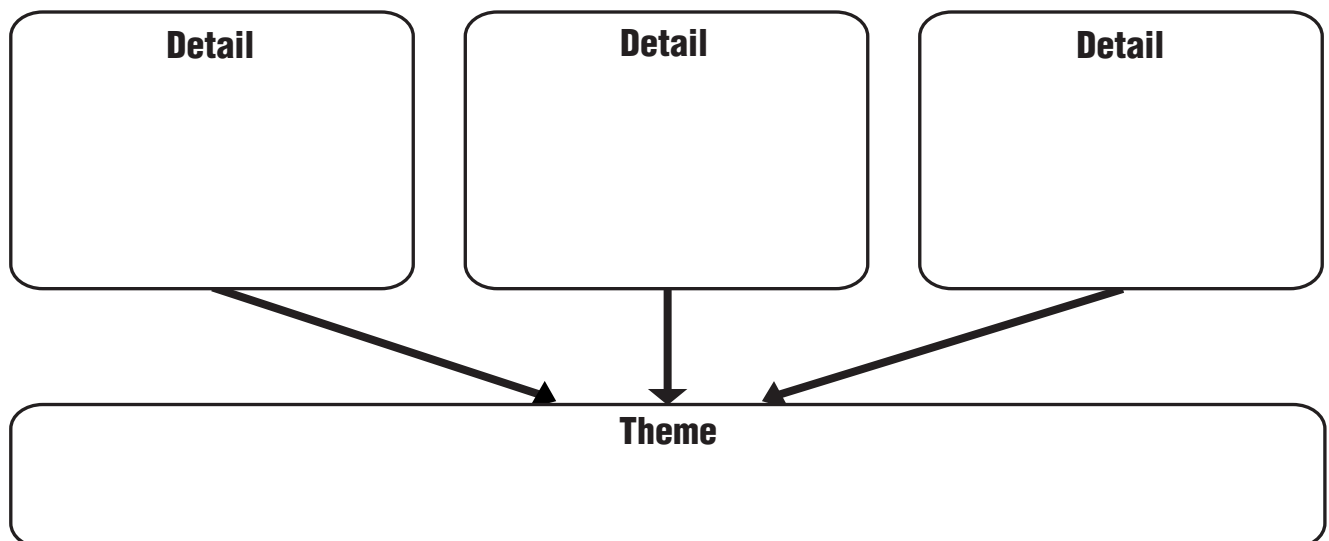
Brittany and her twin brother Josh decided to adopt some pets. Brittany got a dwarf hamster named Melvin, and Josh got a gerbil he named Peanut. To have the right cages and right food for each animal, the twins had read books and compared notes.

The twins learned how to make a home for their new pets. They put them into a clear tank with a mesh top to keep them from escaping. The holes in the mesh allowed the animals to breathe. Next, they put a layer of wood chips on the bottom of the tank and hung a water bottle with a metal spout on the

side of the tank. Then they placed a heavy bowl in the tank for food. Gerbils and hamsters like to climb, so they put rocks in the tank, too. Since gerbils and hamsters also like to run, the twins put in an exercise wheel. Josh got a piece of cardboard for Peanut to chew, too.

Brittany decided to get some vegetables, fruits, mealworms, and crickets for Melvin. Her brother added some cheese and bread for his gerbil. All their research helped the twins make Melvin and Peanut comfortable in their new home.

Use the Inference Map to explain details from the text that will help you understand the lesson that the characters learn. Then write the theme in the bottom box.



Name _____ Date _____

Theme

**The World According
to Humphrey**
Comprehension: Theme

Read the selection below.

A Soft Landing

I never knew life could be so easy! I began life in a cardboard box in a dirty alley. My cat littermates and I ran for our lives from dogs and huge boxes on wheels.

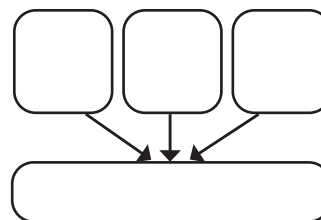
Then someone caught me and put me in a metal cage. I was in a big square box all day and all night. They fed me and washed me. They kept me away from dogs, but I missed my family. All the cats there were in cages and frightened.

Lots of people came to visit. Sometimes the people let me out of

the cage for a while. Then, one day, they unlocked my cage! They put me in an even smaller cage and carried me out of the building to one of the boxes on wheels!

We all traveled until we came to a nice, big place. It was clean and bright with soft furniture and carpeting. It had cats and people. Food and water were waiting for me, and there was not a box in sight! Boy, did I get lucky! Life can be good.

Use an Inference Map like the one here to explain details from the selection and determine its theme. Then answer the questions below.



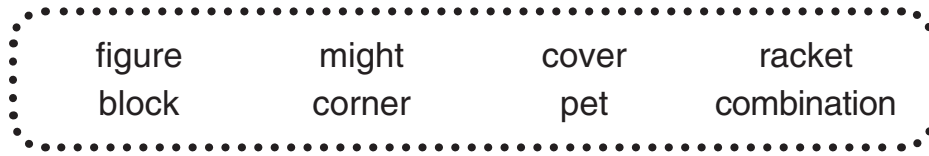
1. How does the title “A Soft Landing” explain what happens in the selection? Support your answer with text details.

2. What does the author want readers to learn from this selection? Support your answer with details from the selection.

Name _____ Date _____

Multiple-Meaning Words

**The World According
to Humphrey**
Vocabulary Strategies:
Multiple-Meaning Words



Each sentence below contains a multiple-meaning word. Read each sentence. Fill in the circle next to the definition that fits the way the word is used in the sentence.

- Alma was able to figure out a hard math problem.
 A. understand **B.** shape
- The two friends lived on the same block.
 A. get in the way of **B.** a section of a street
- He used all his might to pick up the heavy box.
 A. maybe **B.** strength
- I will put my desk in the corner of the room.
 A. place where two walls meet **B.** to trap
- The music was a combination of rock and hip-hop sounds.
 A. numbers used to open a lock **B.** a mix or blend of things
- You should cover your head with a hat when it is cold.
 A. a blanket **B.** to put something on top of something else
- My friend asked if he could pet my dog.
 A. to stroke an animal **B.** an animal kept by humans
- I left my racket at a friend's house.
 A. something used to play tennis **B.** a loud noise

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VCV Pattern

The World According
to Humphrey

Spelling: VCV Pattern

Basic Read the paragraph. Write the Basic Word that best replaces the underlined word or words in each sentence.

Moving to a new place was an (1) important occasion in my life. I was only a (2) person who studies when my family shot into space. We flew to the (3) heavenly body Zondora. The shuttle flight from Earth to Zondora was very (4) fast. We stayed in a hovering (5) resort. The workers there were (6) respectful and helpful. Zondora has large lava pits and (7) icy plains. It has a large shield to (8) protect against anything that could harm the planet. If the shield is threatened, a (9) device that makes a loud noise blares. The people (10) join together to keep Zondora safe.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Challenge 11–14. Your brother and your best friend are on opposing teams of a football game. Write a journal entry that tells how you cheered for both teams. Use four of the Challenge Words. Write on a separate sheet of paper.

Spelling Words

1. event
2. humor
3. rapid
4. music
5. relief
6. planet
7. detail
8. unite
9. frozen
10. figure
11. siren
12. polite
13. hotel
14. protest
15. punish
16. defend
17. relay
18. habit
19. student
20. moment

Challenge

- rumor
jealous
license
image
rival

Name _____ Date _____

Spelling Word Sort

The World According to Humphrey
Spelling: VCV Pattern

Write each Basic Word beside the correct heading.

<p>VC/V: Divide after the consonant</p>	<p>Basic Words:</p> <p>Challenge Words:</p> <p>Possible Selection Words:</p>
<p>V/CV: Divide before the consonant</p>	<p>Basic Words:</p> <p>Challenge Words:</p> <p>Possible Selection Words:</p>

Spelling Words

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Challenge

rumor
jealous
license
image
rival

Challenge Add the Challenge Words to your Word Sort.

Connect to Reading Look through *The World According to Humphrey*. Find words that have the VC / V and V / CV spelling pattern on this page. Add them to your Word Sort.

Name _____ Date _____

Proofreading for Spelling

The World According to Humphrey
Spelling: VCV Pattern

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

What a relief to be back at school! If only I could talk, I would ask Mrs. Brisbane for a moment of her time to protest the weekend's arrangement at the Thomases. Don't get me wrong now. The family treated me nicely, and they did not punish me when water spilled inside my cage. They actually thought it was an exciting event. Mr. Thomas thinks he has a great sense of humor, but here's a small detail that I'll only share with Mrs. Brisbane: His jokes are the corniest on the planet. Mrs. Thomas is very polite, but her taste in music is simply awful. And she also has a very bad habit of serving frozen pizza that isn't cooked through. "Look at our little hamster go!" Mrs. Brisbane said. "He's running a relay race on his wheel. I think he's glad to be back."

Spelling Words

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Challenge

rumor
jealous
license
image
rival

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 7. _____ | |

Name _____ Date _____

Comparative Forms of Adjectives

The World According to Humphrey

Grammar: Comparing with Adjectives and Adverbs

A **comparative adjective** compares one person, place, or thing to another. To form a comparative adjective, you can usually add *-er* to the adjective. If the adjective ends in *y*, change the *y* to *i* before adding *-er*.

Thinking Question

Are there two persons, places, or things being compared? Does the adjective end in -er?

adjective

Josh is tall.

The weather is dry today.

comparative adjective

Jacob is taller than Josh.

The weather is drier today than yesterday.

1–4. Write the comparative form of the adjective in each sentence.

1. I think that spring feels (warm) _____ than winter.
2. My dog seems hungry, but your dog looks _____.
3. Maddie is short, but Cindy is _____.
4. Her song is lovely, but I think your song sounds _____.

Some comparative adjectives are formed by adding the word *more*. Usually longer adjectives form the comparative this way.

Joe is more polite than Henry.

5–8. Write the comparative form of each adjective.

5. Sally felt (miserable) _____ when she knew she had the flu.
6. The company is (efficient) _____ than its competitor.
7. Will you feel (comfortable) _____ sitting here?
8. Tonight's dinner tastes (delicious) _____ than last night's.

Name _____ Date _____

Superlative Forms of Adjectives

The World According to Humphrey

Grammar: Comparing with Adjectives and Adverbs

When we use adjectives to compare **more than** two persons, places, or things, we use the superlative form of the adjective. To form a **superlative adjective**, add *-est* or write *most* before the adjective.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier	happiest
complex	more complex	most complex

Emily is luckier than Mary, but Alyssa is the luckiest of all.

Without a map, Gregory is more lost than Lew, but Edwin is the most lost.

Thinking Question

Are there more than two persons, places, or things being compared? Does the adjective end in -est?

1–5. Write the correct form of the adjective in parentheses to complete the sentence.

- A rose is pretty, but Tom thinks an orchid is (pretty)
_____.
- Susan says that of all the flowers, the peony is the (pretty)
_____.
- This tulip is the (bright) _____ shade of red I've ever seen.
- Carrie told him that lavender smells (wonderful)
_____.
- Trees grow the (tall) _____ of all plants.

Name _____ Date _____

Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adverbs

The World According to Humphrey

Grammar: Comparing with Adjectives and Adverbs

Adverbs often work with verbs and tell how, when, or where an action happens. They are used with action verbs, and many end with *-ly*. A **comparative adverb** compares the action of two or more things. The word *more* is often used. A **superlative adverb** compares the action of more than two things. The word *most* is often used.

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
slowly	more slowly	most slowly
soon	sooner	soonest
promptly	more promptly	most promptly

Thinking Question

Does the adverb end in *-ly*? Is the word *more* or *most* added?

Use a comparative or superlative adverb for each blank below. Use the list on the right to help you complete the sentences.

1. Although many musicians were loud, Donald played the trumpet _____.
2. Sarah could add numbers _____ than her brother.
3. Jerry ran _____ than his best friend.
4. Of all my friends, Carmin lives _____.
5. Marty worked _____ on his project than his partner.
6. Jeremy answered the question _____ of the three contestants.

louder
loudest
more quickly
most quickly
more completely
most completely
closer
closest
harder
hardest
faster
fastest

Name _____ Date _____

Kinds of Adjectives

**The World According
to Humphrey**
Grammar: Spiral Review

What kind	The small turtles had brownish-green shells and short legs.
How many	Ms. Roland rescued some turtles by the side of the road.
After <i>be</i>	The turtles were helpless .

1–4. Write each adjective and the word each adjective describes.

1. The young turtles tried to cross the busy, dangerous road.

2. Ms. Roland spotted the three turtles on her long walk.

3. She is kind to all animals so she carried them to safety.

4. The tiny creatures had wandered from the green, grassy marsh across the wide road.

Name _____ Date _____

Using Comparative/Superlative Forms to Provide Details

The World According to Humphrey
Grammar: Connect to Writing

Using more exact comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs can make your writing more interesting.

Less Exact	More Exact
Dinner smells <u>better</u> than lunch.	Dinner smells <u>spicier</u> and <u>more delicious</u> than lunch.
The big box is the <u>heaviest</u> .	The big box is the <u>most impossible</u> to fit!

Rewrite each sentence to make it more interesting. Try to use more exact adjectives and adverbs.

1. My favorite star is brighter than a light bulb.

2. It is maybe the brightest star in the world.

3. Don't you think the sun shines more clearly than your star?

4. The sun probably shines the strongest in the universe.

5. The sun's role in our lives is bigger than the moon's.

6. Sun energy is even better than wind energy.

Name _____ Date _____

Focus Trait: Ideas

**The World According
to Humphrey**

Writing: Write to Inform

You can make your ideas clearer if your paragraph has a topic sentence. Remove unimportant or unnecessary details to help support the main idea better.

Read the paragraph below. Circle the sentence that would make the best topic sentence to start the paragraph. Underline two details that do not belong in the paragraph.

One of the earliest toothbrushes was called the “chew stick.” It was made from a twig about the size of a pencil. One end of the twig was pointed. The other end was chewed until it became soft and brushlike. People brushed with the chewed end. They cleaned between their teeth with the pointed end. New Orleans dentist Levi Spear Parmly (1790–1859) is credited as the inventor of modern dental floss. You might be surprised to learn that people have been using toothbrushes for thousands and thousands of years. The Chinese were the first to make and use toothbrushes with bristles. The handle was carved from bone or bamboo. The bristles were made from animal hair and then attached to one end of the handle. These stiff bristles did a better job cleaning teeth than the chew stick. The first nylon toothbrush was called Doctor West’s Miracle Toothbrush.