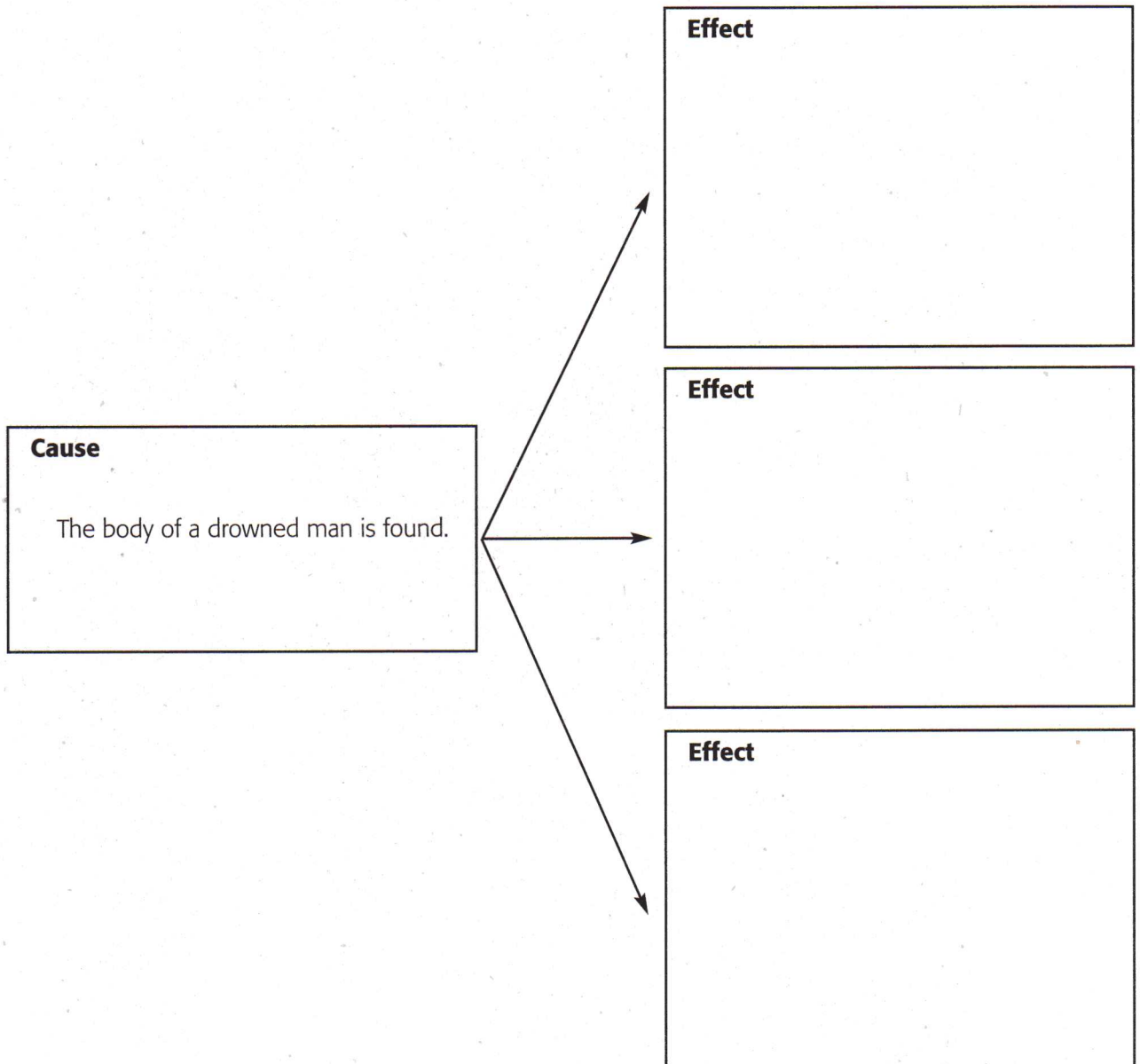


The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World (page 1346)

Active Reading SkillBuilder

Understanding Cause and Effect

Events in a story are often related by **cause and effect**, which means that one event is the reason that another event happens. The first event is the cause; the events produced by the cause are the effects. In a story, as in real life, a single cause may have more than one effect. In "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World," the discovery of a drowned man has many effects on the people in a small village. Use the chart below to record three effects.



Follow Up: Can you think of any other effects? Write them on the back of this sheet.

The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World (page 1346)**Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Symbol**

A **symbol** is a person, place, or object that represents something beyond itself, such as an idea or a feeling. For example, a dove is a symbol of peace, and a national flag is the symbol of a country. Such visual symbols have standard interpretations. In a literary work, however, you have to figure out a symbol's meaning by thinking about the ideas the symbol represents. In this selection, the drowned man is an important symbol. What ideas or feelings does the drowned man represent? Use the activities on this page to help you figure this out. Take notes in the chart below. Then use your notes to help you complete the page.

<p>What are the drowned man's physical qualities? What other qualities do the villagers think he has?</p>	<p>How do people react to the drowned man?</p>	<p>How does the drowned man's presence change the village and the villagers?</p>
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I think the drowned man is a symbol of _____

<p>What evidence in the story supports your interpretation?</p>
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Words to Know SkillBuilder

Words to Know

arid

haggard

improvise

labyrinth

virile

A. On each blank line, write the word from the word list that seems to go with each clue.

1. This describes the way you look if you stay awake for 48 hours. _____

2. You might use this word to describe a male body-builder. _____

3. A place that gets very little rain might be described as this. _____

4. This is something you might get lost in. _____

5. If you can do this, you are a problem-solver. _____

B. Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct Word to Know.

1. Andy looked _____ after being lost in the woods for three days and having almost nothing to eat.

2. Mitch doesn't have a tent, so he will have to _____ one by leaning some branches against a tree trunk and then covering the branches with leaves.

3. The big old house had many rooms and hallways, and Emma was always getting lost in its _____.

4. The quarterback of the university football team was tall, strong, and _____.

5. Val lives in the desert where there is little rainfall and the air is _____.

C. Write a diary entry from the point of view of one of the inhabitants of the town. In your entry, describe the arrival of the drowned man and your reactions to him. Use at least **two** of the Words to Know in your diary entry.

The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World (page 1346)**Selection Quiz**

Recall events in the story. Then answer each question in sentences or phrases.

1. How do the children treat the drowned man when they find him?

2. What is it about the drowned man's looks that make him seem special?

3. How do the women in the village react to the drowned man?

4. How do the men in the village react to the drowned man?

5. What do the villagers decide to do after they bury the drowned man?

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Selection Test

A. Think about the qualities of the drowned man and what he symbolizes in the story. Then write notes to answer the questions in the boxes below. (25 points)

Questions	Notes
<p>1. What does the drowned man look like?</p>	
<p>2. How does the village change as a result of the drowned man's presence?</p>	
<p>3. What does the drowned man symbolize?</p>	

B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (5 points each)

- _____ 1. Who discovers the drowned man?
- the men of the village
 - the women of the village
 - the children of the village
 - the dogs of the village
- _____ 2. Which of the following **does not** describe the drowned man?
- tall
 - well-built
 - handsome
 - funny-looking

- _____ 3. Which statement is a main theme of this story?
- Death is inescapable.
 - Beauty and hope enrich people's lives.
 - Adults can learn some important lessons from children.
 - Always be kind to strangers.

C. Words to Know. Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- _____ 1. A labyrinth is something you can
- put in your pocket.
 - get lost in.
 - taste.
- _____ 2. An example of something that could be described as virile is
- a healthy baby.
 - a large pumpkin.
 - a strong man.
- _____ 3. An example of a place that is arid is
- a desert.
 - a lake.
 - a garage.
- _____ 4. When you improvise the solution to a problem, you
- create the solution.
 - forget the solution.
 - steal the solution.
- _____ 5. If you look haggard, you probably feel
- ecstatic.
 - cautious.
 - exhausted.

D. Answer one of the following questions based on your understanding of the selection. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

- Why do you think the villagers are changed by their experience with the drowned man? Think about how they feel about the drowned man, how the drowned man changes their perceptions of their own lives, and how they plan to change their village.
- What do you think the drowned man represents to the villagers? Consider the following:
 - why they think the sea and the wind respond to his presence
 - why both men and women are left breathless at the sight of his face
 - the imagined qualities that both men and women attribute to him

Support your ideas with information from the story.

E. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

Is beauty important in life? Explain your thoughts and be specific.