

Migration Paragraph Frame

My name is _____. My family migrated to _____
because _____
_____.

When we first moved here, I felt _____
_____.

Where we used to live, in _____, it was _____
_____.

One thing I like better about where we live now is _____
_____.

But I really liked _____
about our old home. I feel really _____ that we moved here because

_____.

Character Traits Recording Sheet **Answer Key**

Story Passage	Mama's Feelings or Traits
<p>Emily watched Mama. Mama was sitting very straight, not taking her eyes from the ruts that showed where the road was. "John," she said, "for five years now we've had a house with a flush toilet." Her voice sounded odd and tight. Almost as if she were going to cry, thought Emily</p>	<p>Accept any reasonable answers:</p> <p>Mama: angry, sad about leaving the house and worried about new surroundings, scared, timid of new challenges</p>
<p>Mama took a deep breath and pulled Jane close. "When I was a girl we lived for a time on a ranch," she said, "and we had a tennis court. John, do you suppose we could lay out a court here for the girls?" So Emily knew it was decided.</p>	<p>Mama: encouraging, resigned to living there, compromising with John, "make do" attitude, loving</p>
<p>Supper the first night was late; Mama had a hard time getting the kerosene stove to work. She kept humming all the time she was cooking, so Emily knew she'd better behave. Humming didn't mean Mama was happy. When she was happy, she sang.</p>	<p>Mama: unhappy, having a hard time adjusting to new house, feeling stressed</p>
<p>She whispered, so as not to worry the others. "Papa hasn't ever been a farmer. Can he really get things to grow here? There isn't even any water."</p> <p>"Of course he can," Mama whispered back. "Your father is a very capable man." She kissed Emily. "Anyway, the Prests have the land right next to ours. Mr. Prest will help. Everything's going to be all right."</p>	<p>Mama: inspiring confidence, protective, loving, problem solver</p>

<p>Emily invented a system. She and Mama would get two flatirons. Emily would wait indoors next to the screen while Mama, humming bravely, tiptoed outside. On signal, they clapped their irons together and flattened the invader. Everybody cheered but Mama.</p>	<p>Mama: brave or pretending to be brave, problem solver, enduring hardships, helpful, resourceful</p>
<p>Mama helped them make wreaths from greasewood. They put one over the mantel and one on the door and carried the other two over to Mr. and Mrs. Prest, for presents. The Prests came over to their house on Christmas Eve, and everyone squeezed around the piano to sing carols. Mama had baked mince pies, so the house smelled like Christmas.</p>	<p>Mama: homemaker, liked traditions, hospitable, loving, caring, friendly</p>
<p>Spring was starting when Emily heard Mama singing, a song she used to sing in the old house. "Won't you come home, Bill Bailey, won't you come home," she sang. At supper that evening she told Papa a letter had come from Cousin Fletcher, back east. He wanted to lend them money so that they could buy the land outright, instead of having to homestead it. "I'm sure that Mr. Prest would tend the crops for us," said Mama. "If you feel you'd like to move back to town, the house is only leased out until June. We could."</p>	<p>Mama: happier, relieved, eager to move back to town, hopeful, looking to the future</p>

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Teacher Guided Questions

To develop the geographic concepts as you read *The Year on the Ranch* aloud, ask the following questions at the appropriate point in the story. Possible answers are included in parentheses.

1. Where is the family moving and why are they moving there? (*Out to the desert or country to live on a ranch. Papa wants to homestead the land to get it free. Papa wants to grow crops in the desert.*)
2. Where does the story take place? How do we know? (*The desert, Arizona, Yuma, junction of the Colorado and Gila Rivers. The story says the ranch is close to the junction of the Colorado and Gila Rivers.*) You can point out this location on a map of Arizona.
3. What does Papa mean when he says, “The desert shall bloom as the rose?” (*He thinks the desert can grow plants. He hopes to change the desert by growing crops.*)
4. What is his plan to make the desert bloom like a rose? (*He wants to bring water from the rivers – Colorado and Gila.*) What is the term for bringing water from a river to grow crops? (Irrigation)
5. When the girls were grandmothers and returned to the ranch, what did they see? (*“Orchards and fields watered green by the waters of the rivers”*)
6. Was Papa correct about his dreams for the desert? (*Yes, it did blossom like a rose.*)

Student Assessment

Name _____

1. What caused the family to move to the land outside of Yuma?

2. What was an effect of the move on the family members?
 - A. Momma was very happy.
 - B. Papa was excited and happy.
 - C. The girls no longer attended school.
 - D. The children had many new friends to play with.

3. Was the ranch house as nice as the family's home in town?
How do you know? Use examples from the story.

4. Was Momma happy living at the ranch? How do you know? Use examples from the story.

5. What was Papa's plan to grow crops in the desert?

6. Which sentence best tells what the story was about?
- A. The family moved to a ranch because Papa lost his job in town.
 - B. The family moved to a ranch because Momma loved the desert.
 - C. The family had a bigger, better house on the ranch.
 - D. The family's life changed a great deal when they moved to a ranch.
7. Which sentence about the location of Yuma is written correctly?
- A. yuma is located where the Gila River joins the Colorado River.
 - B. Yuma is located where the Gila river joins the Colorado river.
 - C. Yuma is located where the Gila River joins the Colorado River.
 - D. Yuma is located where the gila river joins the colorado river.

Student Assessment Answer Key

Accept reasonable responses.

1. Papa wanted to homestead the land. He wanted to plant crops and see the desert blossom as a rose. His father was a farmer until a flood destroyed his farm. Papa's land is higher.
2. An effect was:
B.
3. The ranch house was not as nice as the family's house in town.
Some examples from the story are:
 - The ranch house was a shack, a patchwork of old lumber.
 - It wasn't big enough for the 6 family members.
 - There was no bathroom.
 - There wasn't room for all of their furniture.
 - At first, water had to be carried from town.
4. Mama was not happy living at the ranch.
Some examples from the story are:
 - On the trip to the ranch, Mama's sat very straight and her voice sounded odd and tight. Emily thought Mama was going to cry.
 - Mama kept humming while she cooked on the kerosene stove. Mama didn't hum when she was happy, she sang when she was happy.
 - Everybody but Mama cheered when they killed scorpions on the screen. Mama hummed bravely when she went to kill one.
 - Mama was happy and sang when her cousin offered to lend them money so they could buy the land and move back to town.
5. Papa hoped to bring water from the Gila and Colorado Rivers to irrigate his crops.
6. D
7. C