Critical-Thinking Questions: After reading “Veronica’s Pack,” think about the whole story to answer the questions below.

1. Why do you think the author includes magical elements, like talking animals, in this story? Do you think the story would be as good without them?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Why do you think the story is titled “Veronica’s Pack”? Why might someone need a pack?

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________________________________________________________________________________________________________
**Pick Your Own Vocabulary Words**

**Directions:** We’ve given you the definitions of five important words from this issue’s story “Veronica’s Pack.” Look for the words as you read. Then pick out three more words that are new to you. Write their definitions, using context clues or a dictionary to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>PAGE NO.</th>
<th>IT MEANS . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. bashful</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>shy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. collective</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>done together by a group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. deforested</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>cleared of trees; having had trees cut down or burned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. pleasantries</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>agreeable or polite things people say to make light conversation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. tranquility</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>calmness and quiet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MY OWN WORDS:**

6. 

7. 

8. 

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In the story “Veronica’s Pack,” author Lauren Magaziner often describes Veronica using figurative language. That means her words have a meaning other than what they actually say on the page. Sometimes you have to think about what she means. This activity will help you do that.

**Directions:** Read each line from the story below. Think about what each one means. Then answer the questions that follow.

1. “Like a deer in headlights.” (p. 11)
   Deer are known for stopping suddenly when they see car headlights coming toward them. What does the comparison tell you about how Veronica feels and acts in this moment? ______________
   ____________________________________________________________________________
   Find at least one other sentence in the same paragraph that helps you understand what the phrase “deer in headlights” means. Write it here. ____________________________________________________________________________

2. “Being quiet and shy all her life, she had never charged into battle like this before.” (p. 13)
   What do the words charge and battle tell you about Veronica’s attitude toward what she is about to do?
   ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

3. “She was freezing up again, like a block of ice.” (p. 14)
   How does comparing Veronica to a block of ice help you understand her reaction?
   ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

4. “She started to shrink into her sweatshirt.” (p. 14)
   Veronica isn’t really shrinking! What does this line tell you about how she feels?
   ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________
**Very Veronica**

**Directions:** Answer the questions in the chart below to help you figure out how Veronica changes in "Veronica's Pack." Use specific examples from the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How does Veronica react when Gabby asks her to pick a kickball team?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does she react when she sees the forest being cut down?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do the animals ask Veronica to do? How does she respond at first?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does she realize by the end of the conversation?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does Veronica do to try to save the forest? What obstacles does she have to overcome?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does she feel afterward?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bonus!** What do you think Veronica will do next to save the forest? Write a prediction on a separate sheet of paper, making sure to include Veronica's feelings and how she responds to those feelings.
Veronica’s Plot

**Directions:** The action of a story is called the plot. Most plots involve a problem. After some complications and important events, a solution is found. Fill in each block in the pyramid below to identify the problem and solution that make up the plot of “Veronica’s Pack.” Use the prompts to help you.

1. **Setup**
   What fear does Veronica face at the beginning of the story, at Gabby’s house?

2. **The Problem**
   What problem does Veronica learn about in the forest? What do the animals tell her to do?

3. **Climax**
   What does Veronica do to try to solve the problem?

4. **The Solution**
   How do the others in the forest respond to Veronica’s efforts?

5. **Conclusion**
   What does Veronica believe she has gained by the end of the story?
**Finding the Theme**

**Directions:** The theme of a story is the big, important idea you take away from reading it. Answer each of the questions in the chart below about “Veronica’s Pack.” Then respond to the questions that follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>At the beginning of the story</th>
<th>By the end of the story</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What does Veronica do when she is asked to speak in front of other people?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How does Veronica feel about being part of a group?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Does Veronica think she can help the animals? Why or why not?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. On page 14, Veronica thinks about how, as a shy person, she has “never charged into battle.” Why does she charge into battle this time? How does she do it?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

5. Think about your answers above. Then write one sentence that states a theme, or big idea, in the story.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
**“Veronica's Pack” Quiz**

**Directions:** Read the story “Veronica's Pack” in the May/June 2019 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Which word best describes Veronica at the beginning of the story?
   - A chatty
   - B angry
   - C athletic
   - D shy

2. When Veronica first sees the loggers, she wants to tell them to stop, but ______.
   - A she gets embarrassed and runs away
   - B her quiet voice can't be heard over their chain saws
   - C they won't listen to her
   - D she doesn't know what to say

3. What happens when Veronica touches the glowing stone?
   - A The forest becomes quiet.
   - B She stops feeling shy.
   - C She can understand what the animals say.
   - D She trips and falls down.

4. The sentence “She led them through the trees, to the area that was being deforested,” tells you that this part of the forest will soon have no _____ in it.
   - A trees
   - B sunlight
   - C animals
   - D loggers

5. Which word best describes Veronica at the end of the story?
   - A confident
   - B embarrassed
   - C sad
   - D tired

6. This story is most likely titled “Veronica’s Pack” because Veronica has _____.
   - A a backpack with a magic stone inside
   - B friendships with the wolves of the forest
   - C a group of people who will come together and help when needed
   - D an agreement with the loggers

**Constructed Response**

**Directions:** On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the story.

7. Why does Veronica like being in the forest?

8. Explain what the wolf means when it says, “When the whole pack howls together, it’s hard to ignore.”
"Veronica's Pack" Quiz

Directions: Read the story “Veronica’s Pack” in the May/June 2019 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. What is the setting for most of the story?
   A  a local mall
   B  a local forest
   C  Veronica’s bedroom
   D  Gabby’s backyard

2. At the beginning of the story, Veronica runs into the woods because ______.
   A  she is tired of being captain of the kickball team
   B  Gabby is mean to her
   C  she feels shy around the other kids
   D  the other kids chase her away

3. In the sentence “The noise echoed through the forest, breaking the tranquility of the woods,” tranquility means ______.
   A  peace
   B  trees
   C  sounds
   D  loneliness

4. The simile “. . . as though one of the trees the men were felling dropped right on top of her” tells you that Veronica is ______.
   A  in pain
   B  extremely upset
   C  in love
   D  very confused

5. What makes Veronica able to understand the forest animals?
   A  She feels a special connection with the forest.
   B  She is very quiet.
   C  She touches a rock with special powers.
   D  She trips and hits her head.

6. When Veronica’s friends and family see the fallen trees in the woods, they feel ______.
   A  sad and hopeless
   B  accepting of change
   C  confused and helpless
   D  upset but determined

7. Which line from the story supports your answer to question 6?
   A  “They didn’t laugh . . .”
   B  “Her parents looked at the fallen trees in horror.”
   C  “The people in her town stood in a line, linking arms.”
   D  “She led them through the trees . . .”

8. This story is most likely titled “Veronica’s Pack” because Veronica has ______.
   A  a backpack with a magic stone inside
   B  friendships with the wolves of the forest
   C  a group of people who will come together and help when needed
   D  an agreement with the loggers

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the story.

9. How is Veronica’s group like the wolf pack she meets in the woods?

10. How does Veronica change from the beginning of the story to the end?