Write On!

Before Reading: As you come across words in bold in *The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs*, ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Then check their meanings here.

1. carpenter: “Don’t forget we need to pay the **carpenter** for the new furniture.” *(p. 24)*
   
   **Meaning:** a person whose job is to make and repair wooden objects and buildings

2. demolished: “They look at their **demolished** house and ripped-up cornfield.” *(p. 25)*
   
   **Meaning:** knocked down or destroyed

3. eternity: “After what seems like an **eternity**, they arrive at the market.” *(pp. 21-22)*
   
   **Meaning:** an endless amount of time

4. exquisite: “**Exquisite** roses will circle a beautiful fountain.” *(p. 24)*
   
   **Meaning:** very beautiful and fine

5. generous: “I sure do appreciate that. You’re mighty **generous** people.” *(p. 22)*
   
   **Meaning:** willing and happy to give to and share with others

6. horizon: “From the darkness, the sun begins to peek over the **horizon**.” *(p. 21)*
   
   **Meaning:** the line where it looks like the land or sea touches the sky; the farthest place you can see

7. rickety: “Outside, Pa loads up the **rickety** cart with all of their corn and eggs.” *(p. 21)*
   
   **Meaning:** weak and likely to break

8. wardrobe: “I’ve come to measure you for your new **wardrobe**.” *(p. 24)*
   
   **Meaning:** all the clothes a person owns

*Continued on next page >*
Write On!, p. 2

Directions: Choose ONE of the four writing prompts below and respond to it. Your response should include the vocabulary word used in the prompt, plus one other bolded word from the play.

- Describe a time when someone was generous toward you.
- Write a short story about a huge creature that demolished a city.
- Would you want to live for eternity? Explain why or why not.
- Write a scene from a funny play about a rickety time machine.

Continue on another piece of paper if you need more room.
Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: After reading *The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs*, go back and reread scenes to answer the questions below.

1. In Scene 1, what details does the author include to show that the Boyds aren’t well-off?

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   __________________________________________________________________________

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2. Reread Scenes 3 and 4. Compare Granny’s response to the golden eggs with that of the other family members.

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3. At the end of Scene 5, what is the state of the Boyds’ house and cornfield? What do they own, and what do they plan to buy?

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Think About It! p. 2

4. Why do you think everyone stares at Granny at the end of Scene 6?
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5. Which lines in Scene 7 tell the big lesson learned by the Boyds at the end of the story? What is another way to state this lesson, or moral?
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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Critical-Thinking Questions: After answering the close-reading questions, answer the critical-thinking questions below, thinking about the meaning of the whole play.

6. What does the illustration on page 25 show you? How does it help you understand how the Boyd family changed from the beginning of the play to the end?
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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7. Based on Scene 5, how might Joe describe the changes the Boyd family goes through in the play?

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8. A rooster appears at the beginning of several scenes. Why might the author have included this character?

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Think About It!

Directions: After reading *The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs*, go back and reread scenes to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Close-Reading Questions:
1. In Scene 1, what details does the author include to show that the Boyds aren’t well-off?
2. Reread Scenes 3 and 4. Compare Granny’s response to the golden eggs with that of the other family members.
3. At the end of Scene 5, what is the state of the Boyds’ house and cornfield? What do they own, and what do they plan to buy?
4. Why do you think everyone stares at Granny at the end of Scene 6?
5. Which lines in Scene 7 tell the big lesson learned by the Boyds at the end of the story? What is another way to state this lesson, or moral?

Critical-Thinking Questions:
6. What does the illustration on page 25 show you? How does it help you understand how the Boyd family changed from the beginning of the play to the end?
7. Based on Scene 5, how might Joe describe the changes the Boyd family goes through in the play?
8. A rooster appears at the beginning of several scenes. Why might the author have included this character?
Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: Read *The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs*. Then go back and reread scenes from the play to answer the questions below. We’ve started the first two answers for you.

1. In Scene 1, what clues tell you that the Boyd family doesn’t have a lot of money?
   
   It seems as if the Boyds don’t have a lot of money because
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________

2. In Scene 3, how is Granny’s attitude toward the golden egg different from the rest of the family’s?

   Granny is concerned about
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
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   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________
   
   ________________________________________________________________

Continued on next page >
3. Based on Scene 4, why does Betty say they’ll always have plenty of gold? What have Ma and Pa decided to do with their new riches?

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4. How does Ma treat Joe in Scene 5? How has she changed since Scene 1?

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Continued on next page >
Think About It! p. 3

5. Why do the Boyds decide to kill Gloria the goose in the end?

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Critical-Thinking Question (a big question that makes you think):

6. What lesson does the family learn at the end of the play?

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Name: ____________________________________________   Date: ________________
### 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 *The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs*. 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. Where does the Boyd family live? What is their home like?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How do the Boyds feel about their lives and their situation?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What do the other Boyds think about Granny’s advice to spend the gold only when they need to?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**4.** The next time the Boyds get something of great value, such as gold, what do you think they will do with it? Why?

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**5.** Write one sentence that states the theme, or big idea, of the story.

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**Your turn!** Use your responses above to help you answer the writing prompt on page 25: What if the Boyds had learned their lesson before they killed Gloria? Rewrite Scene 7, showing what they realize and what actions they take instead.
Understanding Setting

**Directions:** Setting is the time and place in which a story happens. By describing the setting of a story, an author can help you imagine living in that world. Answer the questions below to help you understand the setting of *The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs*.

1. Where does most of the play take place? Where is another place the Boyd family goes in Scenes 1 and 2? How are these two places related?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

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2. Do you think the play takes place in modern times or in an earlier time period? What details from the story and pictures give you clues about the time period?

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3. In Scene 1, which details help show what the Boyds' home is like? What do these details tell you about the Boyds themselves?

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4. In Scene 5, how are the Boyds trying to change their setting?

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5. Scene 1 and Scene 6 both take place in the same location. How is that place different at the end of the play than it was at the beginning? How do the changes affect the Boyds?

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A Plot’s Ups and Downs

Directions: The action of a story is called the plot. Many plots start with a problem or issue. The issue gets more complicated until it reaches a climax, or turning point—usually the most dramatic part of the story. The result of the climax follows, then the conclusion. Fill in each block in the pyramid below to identify the plot parts of The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs. Use the prompts to help you.

1. Opening Action
   What are the Boyds like in the beginning? What happens that first changes their lives?

2. Rising Action
   What does the family do with their new riches? What makes them think they need more golden eggs?

3. Climax
   What do the Boyds decide to do when the doctor can’t make Gloria lay eggs faster?

4. Falling Action
   What do the Boyds find out after the action they take?

5. Conclusion
   What are the Boyds’ lives like in the end?
The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs Quiz

Directions: Read the play The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs in the September 2019 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. The play is based on an old story called a fable. The fable was written by ______.
   A. Aesop  C. Dave Clegg
   B. Spencer Kayden  D. Gardener

2. What items do the Boyds bring to the market each week to sell and trade?
   A. flour and milk  B. eggs and corn
   C. gold and silver  D. geese and horses

3. In Scene 3, what does Granny think the family should do with the golden egg?
   A. toss it out because it’s probably a dud
   B. sell it at the market
   C. save it for a future need
   D. use it to buy a new horse

4. In the phrase “Don’t forget we need to pay the carpenter for the new furniture,” a carpenter is someone who ______ furniture.
   A. paints  C. builds
   B. buys  D. cleans

5. In Scene 5, when Joe looks down at his feet, you can guess that he is . . .
   A. ashamed to have to ask for help.
   B. angry at the Boyds for refusing to help him.
   C. feeling very sick.
   D. worried about Gloria.

6. What happens to Gloria at the end of the play?
   A. The doctor finds a way to get her to lay more golden eggs.
   B. She goes back to laying regular eggs.
   C. The Boyd family gives her to Joe.
   D. Pa kills her when he cuts her open to try to get more golden eggs.

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 play.

7. How does the Boyd family change during the play?

8. What is the moral, or big lesson, of the play?
The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs Quiz

Directions: Read the play The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs in the September 2019 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Which detail in Scene 1 shows that the Boyd family is poor?
   A) They grow corn.
   B) They sleep on piles of straw.
   C) They wake up early.
   D) They own a horse.

2. What does rickety mean in the phrase “Pa loads up the rickety cart”?
   A) falling apart
   B) well made
   C) metal
   D) roomy

3. In Scene 3, what does Granny think the family should do with the golden egg?
   A) toss it out because it’s probably a dud
   B) sell it at the market
   C) save it for a future need
   D) use it to buy a new horse

4. What is the mood of Scene 6?
   A) spooky
   B) anxious
   C) cheerful
   D) calm

5. The Boyds take Gloria to the doctor because . . .
   A) she is sick.
   B) they want Gloria to lay eggs faster.
   C) they want to know how to get their other geese to lay golden eggs.
   D) they hope to sell Gloria to the doctor.

6. In Scene 7, when Pa asks “Are we all agreed?,” he is talking about . . .
   A) cutting open Gloria to get more golden eggs.
   B) using the golden eggs to buy new clothes.
   C) telling the doctor that he’s useless.
   D) being happier before the golden eggs.

7. Which is the moral of the play?
   A) Take care of yourself before helping others.
   B) Live your life as if it will never change.
   C) Don’t wait to do what you want; do it now.
   D) Don’t get carried away by greed.

8. Which line from the play supports the answer to question 7?
   A) “We’ve got nothing to spare.”
   B) “We can afford it, so why not?”
   C) “You wanted too much and ended up with nothing.”
   D) “We will always have plenty of gold.”

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 play.

9. In Scene 5, why does the author include the line about Granny mending an old sweater?

10. How does the Boyd family change over the course of the play?