

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR ACTIVE READING

Broken Chain

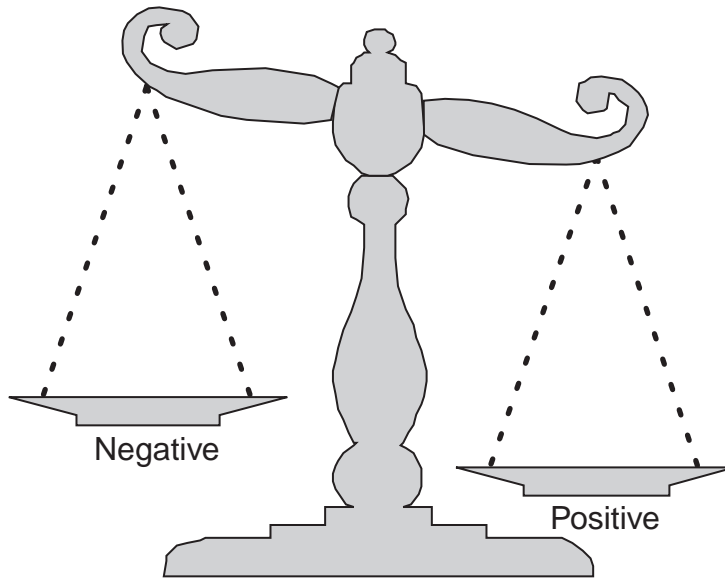
Gary Soto

Pupil's Edition page 28

Balancing Act

Have you ever noticed how worrying about what others think goes hand in hand with feeling embarrassed? In "Broken Chain," Alfonso worries more about the negative things people might think of him than about what he values in himself. Yet, as a reader, you will see that Alfonso has several good qualities that he does not recognize.

As you read the story, list Alfonso's negative feelings above the scale pan on the left. (Don't worry about staying within the dotted lines!) Above the pan on the right, list personal qualities that Alfonso can feel good about.



1. Study the items you've listed in the *negative* pan. What real-life situations, people, or money issues account for Alfonso's having these feelings?

2. In your opinion, which of the items you've listed in either pan is the "heaviest," that is, the one that most influences Alfonso's self-image? Explain your response in terms of your own knowledge and experience as well as in terms of the story's ending.

WORDS TO OWN

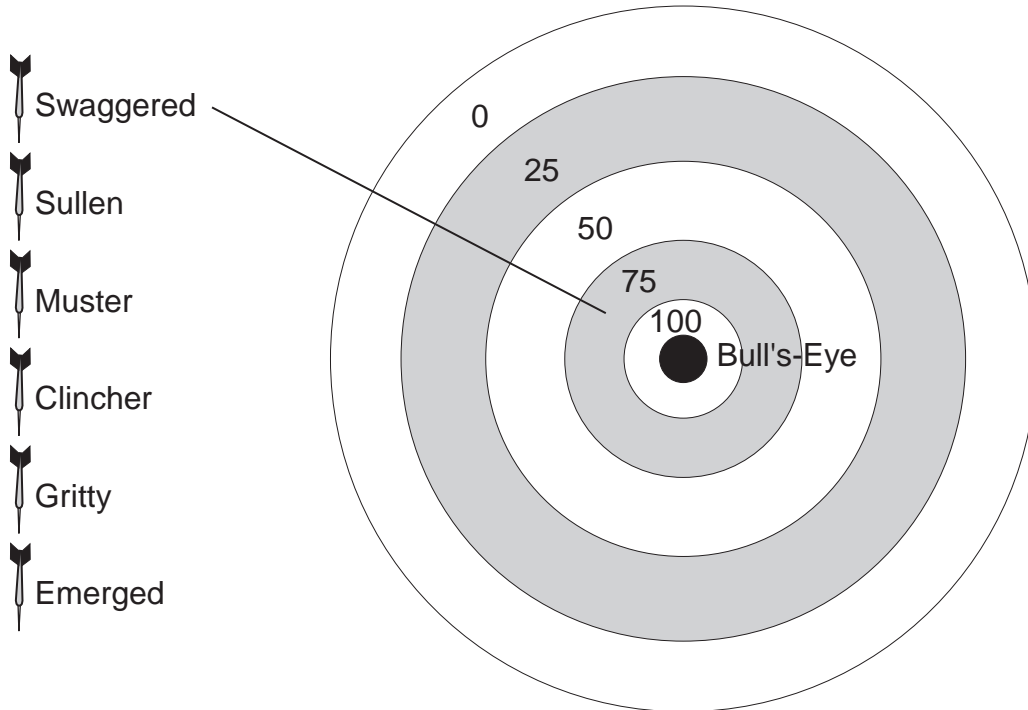
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Your Throw!

Test your vocabulary skill. Draw a line from the dart beside each Word to Own to the area of the dartboard that indicates how well you know each word. The center bull's-eye represents perfect understanding of the word.



Context Clues

Now, read the following sentences, and use the context clues to figure out which of the Words to Own above goes in each blank.

1. Words of advice such as “Don’t be shy,” “Be brave,” or “Summon your nerve” are often given to boys and girls who are trying to _____ courage to ask someone for a date.
2. Ernie’s clothes may have been _____ if he walked in sand when he and Raymundo were catching frogs at the canal.
3. Alfonso was _____ because he was depressed about the condition of his bicycle and resentful of Ernie’s treatment of him.
4. “While Alfonso was waiting for his first date, do you think that he was more worried when he could not see Sandra or when she finally _____?” Erik asked.
5. During a class discussion about Alfonso’s character, someone made the point that he treated Sandra well. We decided that Alfonso was basically a good guy and that that incident was the _____.

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Broken Chain

TRANSPARENCY 3

Circle the letter next to the best way to revise or combine each underlined section. If the section needs no change, mark "Correct as is."

"Broken Chain" has also been published as "First
 1 Love," in this story, Gary Soto writes about a first date.

Alfonso's problems are familiar; he worries about
 2 what to say, and everything seems to go wrong.

- 1 A "Broken Chain" has also been published as "First Love," and in this story, Gary Soto writes about a first date.
- B "Broken Chain" has also been published as "First Love." In this story, Gary Soto writes about a first date.
- C "Broken Chain" has also been published as "First Love," but in this story, Gary Soto writes about a first date.
- D Correct as is
- 2 F Alfonso's problems are familiar he worries about what to say, and *everything* seems to go wrong.
- G Alfonso's problems are familiar, he worries about what to say; and *everything* seems to go wrong.
- H Alfonso's problems are familiar, and he worries about what to say, and *everything* seems to go wrong.
- J Correct as is

Broken Chain

3

Circle the letter next to the best way to revise or combine each underlined section. If the section needs no change, mark "Correct as is."

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**One-Stop Planner CD-ROM and
print ancillaries
include Answer Key here.**

Answers are not available Online.