Graphic Organizer for Active Reading

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
James Thurber

Daydream Believer

In the balloons below, write the five roles that Walter Mitty plays in his fantasies. In the weights below each balloon, describe the situation that occurs immediately after each fantasy—the event that pulls Walter back to earth.

1. What kind of characters are the people in Walter Mitty’s fantasies? For example, how do they handle pressure? How do others regard them? Give a brief description on the lines provided.

2. What is Walter Mitty’s real character like, in contrast to the characters in his fantasies?
Words to Own

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
James Thurber

Complete the following crossword puzzle using the Words to Own listed below. One word has been completed as an example.

- insolent
- bedlam
- cannonading
- insinuatingly
- rending
- rakishly
- haggard
- pandemonium
- craven
- distraught

Across
1. wild disorder
2. tearing apart
3. place of confusion
4. jauntily

Down
1. suggestively
2. boldly disrespectful
3. troubled
4. artillery fire
5. cowardly
6. worn in appearance

PANDEMONIUM
Walter Mitty has entered our language as the epitome of the “little guy” who is a hopless dreamer.

1. A Spelling
   B Capitalization
   C Punctuation
   D No error

You might recognize Mitty and the formidable Mrs Mitty; they are character types that have formed the basis of many TV situation comedies. Mitty, although based on a stereotype is a remarkably original character. In fact, the term “Walter Mitty” is found in Webster’s Third New International Dictionary.

2. F Spelling
   G Capitalization
   H Punctuation
   J No error

3. A Spelling
   B Capitalization
   C Punctuation
   D No error

4. F Spelling
   G Capitalization
   H Punctuation
   J No error