

Name _____

Read the passage. Use the strategy of visualizing to check your understanding.

A Penny Saved

12 SETTING: A living room. MOM and DAD sit on a couch while
26 children REX and MANDY sit on the floor in front of them. TAD faces
41 them. He has charts on an easel behind him. A bright pink piggy bank sits
50 on a table in the center of the stage.

50 TAD: You're probably perplexed about the reason for this family
60 meeting. It is because of this! [points to the piggy bank] It seems that
74 someone has been raiding our vacation fund!

81 MOM [smiling]: And what evidence leads you to be so suspicious?

92 TAD: Well, we all know that a penny saved is a penny earned. We have
107 stashed away lots of spare change to use for our summer adventure. But
120 lately our piggy bank has been losing weight.

128 REX: It doesn't look thinner to me.

135 TAD: Well, look at this chart and spreadsheet. [points at the easel
147 behind him] Notice the steady decline in the bank's weight.

157 MOM [to DAD]: Did you help him make those on your computer?

169 DAD [to MOM]: He likes numbers and charts as much as I do. The
183 acorn doesn't fall far from the tree.

190 MANDY: So you think that one of us has been stealing money?

202 TAD: That is a precise summary of my investigation.

211 MOM: Well, you're a great detective. I'm sure you left no stone
223 unturned. What other evidence do you have?

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TAD: Well, after a previous incident [looks at REX], we put security tape across the bank's stopper. I cleverly marked the tape one day. The very next day, that tape had been replaced!

MANDY: Rex, how did you know where Mom keeps the tape?

REX: Why are you blaming me? I didn't do it.

MOM: Hold on a moment, Mandy. You should look before you leap. We need to consider Tad's evidence first.

DAD: I'm sure there's a reasonable explanation.

MOM [stands up]: There is another explanation. After all, there are two sides to every coin. Tad, I'm your so-called "thief."

TAD [astounded]: You? Why would you take money from the piggy bank? You and Dad have lots of money!

MOM: Well, you may think we're rich, but sometimes we don't have as much money on hand as we need. And I didn't really "take" anything. Let me ask you this: What do I give you every morning on your way to school?

REX [proudly]: Three quarters each for snacks!

MOM: Tad, pick up the piggy bank. [He does.] Give it a shake and tell me what you hear.

TAD: Not as much change, that's for sure. [shaking again] Maybe some rustling sounds, like paper.

MOM: Like dollar bills, perhaps? When I take out coins, I replace them with bills. That's why the bank seems lighter.

TAD: Well, I guess all's well that ends well, then.

MOM: Tad, they say that a fool and his money are soon parted. If that's true, a smart boy like you will never go broke!



The family's piggy bank was mysteriously losing weight.

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A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**1. Which speaker calls the family meeting?**

2. What point of view is expressed by Tad's first lines of dialogue?

3. Which speaker suggests shaking the piggy bank, and why?

4. What point of view does Mom express in her final lines of dialogue?

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to rate and accuracy. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

	Words Read	—	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		—		=	
Second Read		—		=	