

**Literary Element** (page 8)**Narrator and Point of View****The Wise Old Woman** YOSHIKO UCHIDA

In literary works, the **narrator** is the person who tells the story. The narrator may be a character in the story, a voice outside the story, or the author. **Point of view** is the narrator's relationship to the story. In a story using **first-person point of view**, the narrator is a character in the story. The reader sees everything through that character's eyes. In a story with a **limited third-person point of view**, the narrator is outside the story and reveals the thoughts and feelings of only one character. In a story with an **omniscient point of view**, the narrator is outside the story and may reveal any kind of information, along with the thoughts of several characters.

**ACTIVITY**

**Directions** In the left column, list details or quotations that show the limited third-person point of view in "The Wise Old Woman." In the right column, explain how the story would change if it were told from the cruel young lord's point of view.

Detail	Effect of Point of View
"The lord fearfully punished anyone who disobeyed him, and so villagers who turned seventy-one were tearfully carried into the mountains..."	If the young lord were the narrator, he would be happy to have a village of only young, strong people.
1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

**Reading Skill** (page 8)**Identify Cause-and-Effect Relationships****The Wise Old Woman** YOSHIKO UCHIDA

In a **cause-and-effect relationship**, one event or action causes another event or action. For example, a character does something wrong (cause) and then feels guilty about what he or she did (effect). Identifying cause-and-effect relationships helps readers understand the reasons why events happen and why characters act in certain ways.

To identify cause-and-effect relationships, think about the connection between events or actions and the resulting outcomes. Ask yourself why things happen in the story and how events affect characters.

**ACTIVITY**

**Directions** In this chart, the first four boxes show sample cause-and-effect connections from "The Wise Old Woman." Return to the story and continue charting causes and effects. An effect can be repeated as the next cause.

Cause	Effect
The young lord does not feel that old people are useful to the village.	He makes a decree that anyone over the age of seventy-one must be taken to the mountains and left there.
The farmer's mother turns seventy-one.	The farmer must take his mother to the mountains and leave her there.
1.	2.

**ACTIVE READING GRAPHIC ORGANIZER**

Continue analyzing cause-and-effect in the story. For this activity, ask your teacher for a copy of the If-Then Graphic Organizer.

## Selection Vocabulary Practice (page 8)

### The Wise Old Woman YOSHIKO UCHIDA

#### Vocabulary

**haughtily** *adv.* in a way that shows too much pride in oneself and scorn for others

**banished** *v.* forced someone to leave a country or community

**commotion** *n.* noisy confusion

**commended** *v.* expressed approval of

**undoubtedly** *adv.* without a question, definitely

#### Exercise A Practice with Word Usage

For each underlined word, write the letter of the definition in the space.

- |                                                                                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ 1. Marcus declared <u>haughtily</u> that his test score was <u>the highest</u> . | A. congratulated       |
| _____ 2. The manager decided that dogs were <u>banished</u> from entering the store.   | B. with too much pride |
| _____ 3. The firefighter was <u>commended</u> for bravery.                             | C. forbidden           |

#### Exercise B Applying Meanings

Write the word from the vocabulary box above that belongs in each sentence.

1. It was hard to hear the coach through all the \_\_\_\_\_ at the game.
2. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ my performance on last week's quiz.
3. The poodle stepped \_\_\_\_\_ over the puddle.
4. Mr. Jenkins will \_\_\_\_\_ take his children to the zoo tomorrow.

#### Exercise C Responding to the Selection

On the back of this sheet, pretend you are the young lord and explain how your attitude has changed. Explain how you felt before and what lesson you have learned. Use all FIVE vocabulary words.

## Vocabulary Strategy (page 8)

### Context Clues: Definition and Example

#### The Wise Old Woman YOSHIKO UCHIDA

"Once more the lord *commended* the young farmer and rewarded him with many pieces of gold. 'You are a brilliant man and you have saved our village again,' he said gratefully."  
—Yoshiko Uchida, "The Wise Old Woman"

**Connecting to Literature** The word *commended* may be unfamiliar to you, but you can determine the word's meaning based on the other words around it. These other words provide **context clues**. Context is the sentence or group of sentences in which a word appears. The context often provides clues as to what an unfamiliar word means.

Writers use several types of context clues to help readers, including the following.

**Definition:** The mayor *commended*, or rewarded, our hard work.

The writer provides a definition: rewarded.

**Example:** The principal *commended* her by giving her flowers and a plaque.

In this sentence we can see what *commended* means by reading an example of someone being commended.

### ACTIVITY

**Directions** Use context clues to determine the meaning of each underlined word. Write a short definition for each.

1. The lord made a decree, so the people did not have a choice other than to follow it. \_\_\_\_\_
2. It was a loathsome situation. All of the old people in the village were sent away. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Lord Higa's threats made all of the people timorous.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The old woman's acumen, or intelligence, helped save the entire village. \_\_\_\_\_
5. He walked haughtily through the room, bragging about his new outfit. \_\_\_\_\_

## Grammar Practice *(page 8)*

### Kinds of Sentences: Declarative and Interrogative

#### The Wise Old Woman YOSHIKO UCHIDA

A **sentence** is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. Different kinds of sentences have different purposes. A **declarative sentence** makes a statement. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a period. An **interrogative sentence** asks a question. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a question mark.

My hobby is reading mystery books. (declarative)

Have you read the latest Nancy Drew book? (interrogative)

### ACTIVITY

**Directions** Write in the blank *dec.* before each declarative sentence and *int.* before each interrogative sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. "The Wise Old Woman" takes place a long time ago.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. How does the cruel young lord feel about old people?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. How old is the mother in the story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The mother knows it is her time to leave the village and go to the mountains.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Why does the mother break off small twigs as she and her son walk through the woods?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The farmer decides to hide his mother under his house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The mother is able to solve the riddle about the ropes of ash.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. What is the second riddle that the mother solves?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Who does the cruel young lord think solved the riddles?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The story talks about wisdom and age.

## Selection Quick Check *(page 8)*

### The Wise Old Woman *YOSHIKO UCHIDA*

Read each of the following questions. Answer each question in a complete sentence.

1. Describe the setting of "The Wise Old Woman."

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2. What gradually happens to the elderly people in the cruel lord's village?

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3. What does the wise old woman do for her son as he carries her to the mountains to die?

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4. How does the son hide his mother for two years?

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5. What does the mother do for her son later in the story? What is the end result of her actions?

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