

DEVELOPING NOTE-TAKING STRATEGIES . . . CONTINUED

II-C.Webs

Sometimes you may listen to a passage about a character, a person, or a specific topic. The passage basically gives you specific details about one topic. If you pay careful attention to the details, then you will be able to understand the passage better. For example, if I said Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth president of the United States, was over six feet tall, lived in a log cabin, and ended slavery in the United States, these details would help you understand what kind of person Abraham Lincoln was. Or, if I told you that I am thinking of something that has a tail, fur, four paws, lives in my house, and meows, you would know that I was talking about a cat. All the details provided helped you understand that I was talking about a cat.

Let's try finding details and placing them in a graphic organizer we call a "web."

Directions: Read the passage below. After you have read the passage, complete the graphic organizer on the following page.

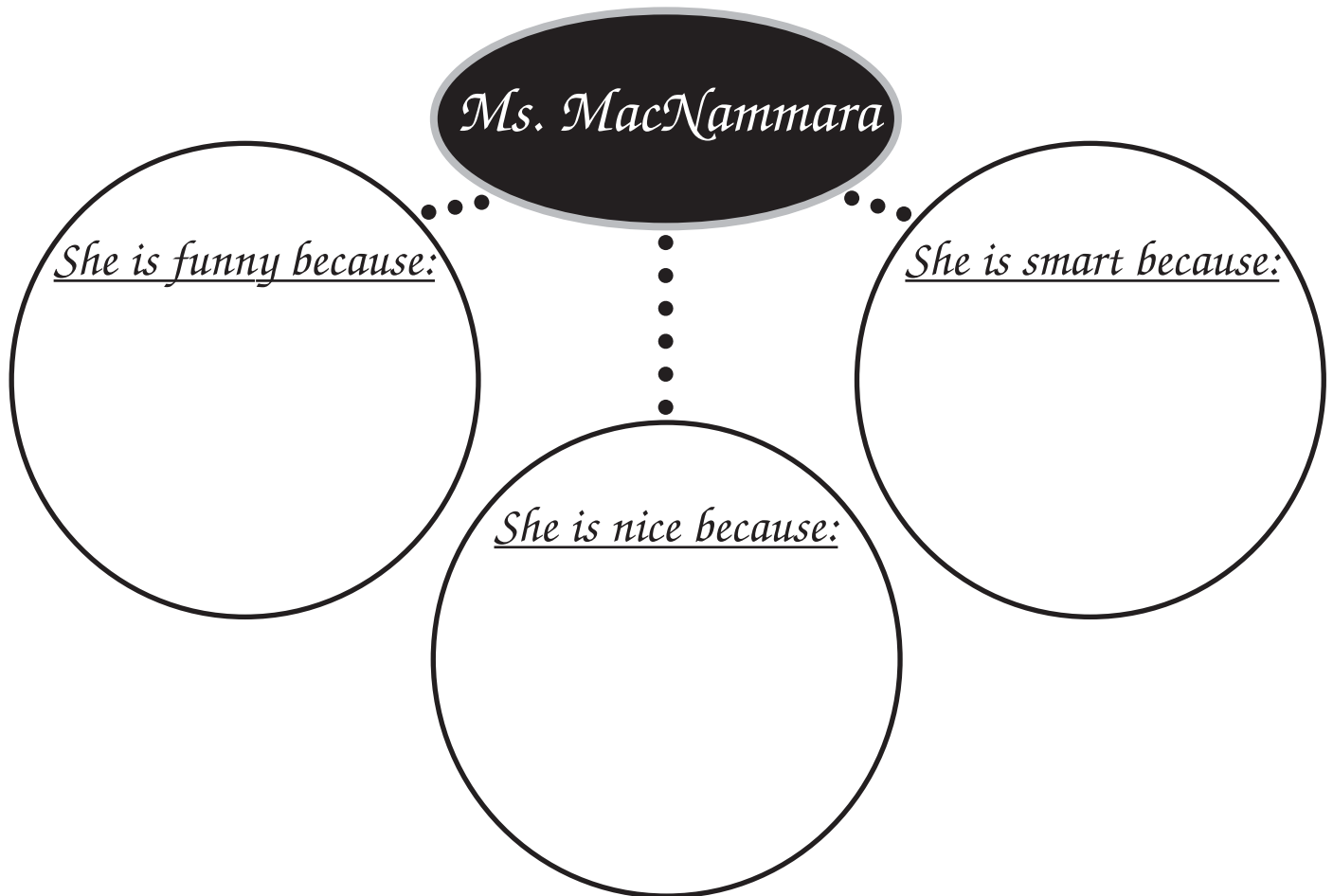
Ms. MacNammara

My teacher is named Ms. MacNammara. She is a very funny person. For example, when we studied Abraham Lincoln, she dressed up like him. She wore a fake beard, a tall hat, and high-heeled shoes to make her taller. I never saw anyone do that before. I wonder what people thought when they saw her driving to school.

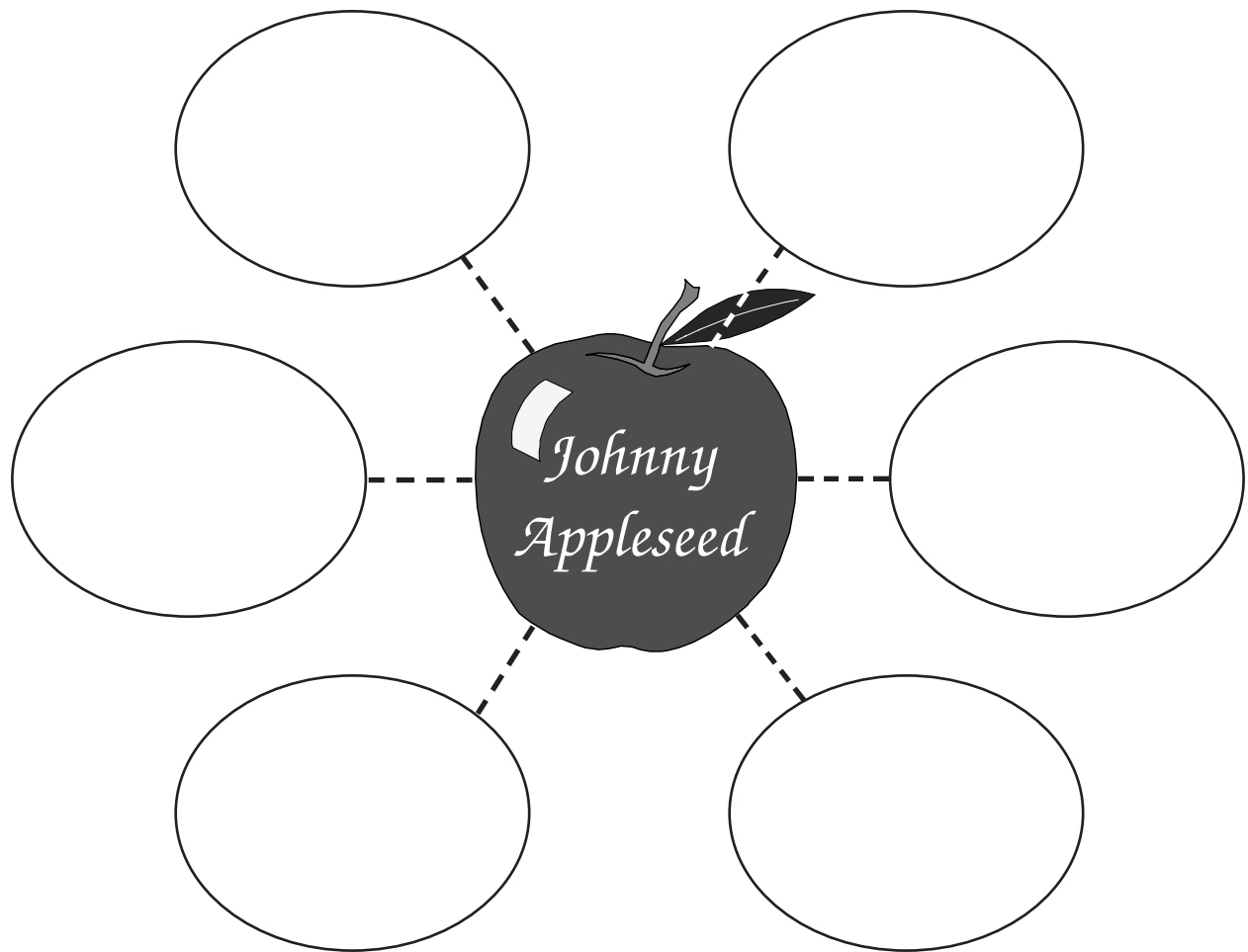
Ms. MacNammara is very smart. I think she must be the smartest person in the world. She uses really big words and explains what they mean to us. Also, no matter what we ask her, she always knows the answer. What is the capital of Wyoming? Ask Ms. MacNammara. She knows! She can add about one hundred numbers together in thirty seconds flat. She is even faster than a calculator.

Ms. MacNammara is also really nice. One day I was sad because my mother was angry with me. Ms. MacNammara asked me what was wrong. When I told her my problem, she talked to me during recess, and we came up with a solution. How wonderful she is!

Directions: Now that you have read the passage about Ms. MacNammara, complete the web below. Use the details from the passage to fill in each of the circles.



Directions: Now that you understand how to complete a web, listen as your teacher reads a passage called “Johnny Appleseed – An American Legend.” As you hear the passage the first time, just listen. Remember to use your TQLR strategies to help you. The second time you hear the passage, take notes on a separate sheet of paper. You can use Quick Draw, shorthand, and organizing information strategies to help you. Use your notes to help you complete the web about Johnny Appleseed on the following page. In each blank circle, give one detail about Johnny Appleseed.



Directions: Discuss at least three things that made Johnny Appleseed an interesting person. Make sure to use details from the passage to support your response. Use your notes and the web you completed to help you.

II-D. Outlining

Another way to make note taking easier is to use a strategy called outlining. In order to outline, you take main ideas from a passage and organize them with the details to support the ideas. Read the passage below and then complete the outline for that passage.

My Story – A Biography

My life has been very exciting. I was born January 1. I am famous. I was the first baby born in my town for the New Year and my name and picture were in the newspaper. They even mentioned my name on television. My parents were so proud and happy. They told me that I was the most beautiful baby.

My fame continued. When I was in kindergarten, my mom took me to the store, and a television producer was there. He took one look at me and said, “That kid could be in the movies!” Well, that was that. The next thing I knew I was in three commercials. Someone once asked me for my autograph, but I didn’t know how to sign my name.

Not only am I famous, but I am pretty smart, too. I always do my homework, and I get good grades in school. My parents say that makes them so proud. I like when people are proud of me. So I try very hard and always do my very best.

In addition, I am a politician. This year we had class elections, and I became president. I had to make a speech. My mother, father, and teacher helped me write it. It must have worked because I was elected.

Finally, I am a good older sister. I have a baby brother. I play with him while I baby-sit. I read him stories and let him play with me and my friends. In fact, he is my friend, too. He is smaller than I am and can’t reach all his toys; I always help him as much as I can.

Directions: Complete the outline below:

1. Topic: The author is famous.

A. Detail: _____

B. Detail: _____

2. Topic: The author is a good student.

A. Detail: _____

B. Detail: _____

3. Topic: The author is a good older sister.

A. Detail: _____

B. Detail: _____

DEVELOPING NOTE-TAKING STRATEGIES . . . CONTINUED

II-D. Outlining—continued

Now your teacher is going to read a passage called “Captain’s Log.” When you hear the passage the first time, just listen. Remember to use your TQLR strategies to help you. The second time you hear the passage, take notes on a separate sheet of paper. You may use your Quick Draw, shorthand, organizing information, and web strategies.

After you have taken your notes, complete the outline below.



1. Topic: Columbus sees a light.

A. Detail: _____

B. Detail: _____

2. Topic: What do the sailors learn when they get to land?

A. Detail: _____

B. Detail: _____

3. Topic: What could explain the mystery?

A. Detail: _____

B. Detail: _____

Directions: Answer the following question. Use your notes and outline to help you.

What do you think Columbus and his crew saw? Use details from the passage to support your answer. Be sure to write in complete sentences.

