

Name _____ Date _____



In school, Michael is learning how to read and write sentences. He carefully reads the stories from his book, and then writes answers to the questions that his teacher, Mr. Smith, asks about the stories. Michael has noticed that he always reads and writes more slowly than his classmates and is always the last student in class to turn in his answers.

One day, his teacher calls Michael's father on the telephone. They talk for a while. Michael's father tells him that tomorrow, when he picks Michael up from school, he and his teacher will talk about the trouble he has in class. Michael feels guilty and worried about this. His father sees that he's worried, and tells him that it will be all right because they will find ways to help him.

After school the next day, while Michael works on his homework at his desk, his father and Mr. Smith sit at Mr. Smith's desk and talk about Michael. Michael tries not to listen, but he's still feeling worried. When they're finished, they call Michael over. Mr. Smith tells Michael that he might have trouble with reading and writing because of a learning disability. He also tells Michael that a lot of people have the same learning disability, but that they can work through it, especially with help. His father tells him that they'll give him all the help he needs.

From that point, Michael sees a special tutor every week and practices all the reading and writing exercises his tutor shows him. He works hard at his homework every night, and his father sits down with him and checks to make sure he's doing all right. In school, Mr. Smith makes sure that Michael understands what he's learning and has enough time to finish his work. Michael listens carefully and asks Mr. Smith questions whenever he has them.

By the end of the year, Michael is one of the best students in class. He doesn't finish reading his stories first or turn the answers in first, but he always does well with his reading and writing and almost always answers the questions correctly. Even with assignments where his classmates complain and want to give up, Michael just tries harder, focusing and working until he figures out the material. His father, tutor, and Mr. Smith all tell him that he is such a good student because he is such a hard worker.

Values

Name _____ Date _____

What value is reflected in this story?

Choose three values from the list below. Tell how **two** of them are **not** demonstrated in this story, and tell how **one** of them **is** demonstrated.

sportsmanship	cleanliness	cooperation
perseverance	loyalty	humor

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Why do you think the value reflected in this story is an important one?

Draw a picture to illustrate this value:



Values

Name _____ Date _____

Answers to PERSEVERANCE:

Answers will vary and should reflect student understanding and ability. Answers should be discussed for clarity.

Answers to the first question may include some of the following ideas:

Sportsmanship This value is not reflected in the story. There are no sports, no mention of fair play, etc.

Cleanliness This value is not reflected in the story. There is nothing that anyone needs to clean.

Cooperation Although Michael, his tutor, his father, and Mr. Smith all work together to help Michael with his learning disability, this is not the main point of the story.

Perseverance This is the value shown in the story. Michael finds out that he has trouble with learning certain things, but he works even harder to learn them, and in the end, he learns just as well as the other students in his class.

Loyalty Although the people helping Michael are loyal to him, and although Michael is loyal to his work, this is not the main point of the story.

Gracious This value is not reflected in the story. The kindness and politeness related to graciousness are not major points.

Answers to the second question may include that perseverance lets one complete difficult tasks; perseverance helps achieve long-term goals; perseverance inspires creative problem-solving; etc.