

I Heard the Owl Call My Name



ISBN-10	0-449-34369-0
Author	Margaret Craven
Publisher	Dell
Copyright	1980
Lexile	1080L
Genre	Fiction, Children's literature
Synopsis	Kingcome, a village so ancient that, according to Kwakiut myth, it was founded by the two brothers left after the great flood. It is a place of such incredible natural richness that hunting and fishing remain a primary food source. Kingcome's younger generation is disenchanted and alienated from its heritage. And now, coming upriver is a young vicar, Mark Brian, on a journey of discovery that can teach him-and us- about life, death and the transforming power of love. (book jacket)
Themes	Native Americans
Protagonist	Male, rector
Note	Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.
More Information	www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 1



Before you begin writing, brainstorm with the following questions: What do you think the main character, the young vicar Mark, will learn from living in Kingcome? What do you think motivated the Bishop to send him there?

What do you think the message of this story is going to be? Write an **informative** paragraph that clearly details what you think this story will be about. How would you feel if you were the young vicar, unaware of your terminal illness? Would you be excited for the new opportunity or would you be nervous? How would you feel entering into a whole different culture with an entirely unfamiliar set of customs and way of life? Provide details from the book as well as evidence from your own life to use as information in your paragraph. Make sure you end with a reiteration of your stance. When you have finished writing, go over your work and revise it.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 2



Write a paragraph that explains why people should say 'thank you' to each other. Do you believe it is important? Why or why not? Do you know how to say 'thank you' in any other languages? If so, which ones?

Feel free to use the Internet to look up how to say 'thank you' in different languages and write them down. How would you feel if you had to live in a village full of people who never said 'thank you?' Maintain a formal tone throughout your writing; use simile, metaphor or analogy to get your point across. When you have finished your assignment, be sure to edit your work.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 3



Key Paragraph

"You had no business to move him. You know the rules. In an accident the body must not be moved."

"We were not sure he was dead. We thought we could revive him."

"And when you couldn't, you should have covered him up and left him there."

"On the edge of the river with the tide coming in? In the rain?"

Writing Prompt

The constable is not showing much sympathy. It is clear that he does not have a lot of respect for the Kwakiutl people. Pretend you are a member of the Kwakiutl people and write an explanatory paragraph of your views in comparison with the constable's. Describe why you value your actions and customs, as a member of the village. Why are your traditions worthwhile? Use examples from the text as well as your own personal opinions. Conclude with a reiteration of your explanation and be clear and concise in your writing.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 4



Key Paragraph

“Please, my lord, do not send me a new vicarage. At least, not yet. I do not even know how to get it up the river, much less put it up. I am going to begin today by cleaning the church. When I finish, I shall patch up the vicarage. It’s strange, but since receiving your letter, I do not seem to find the sweet smell of death too oppressive.”

Writing Prompt

The paragraph above is from a letter written by Mark to the bishop. Mark tells the Bishop that he does not want a new vicarage yet. But the only reason he gives to support this opinion is the difficulty in moving and assembling the structure. However, there are other reasons, that remain unsaid: if Mark accepted the new vicarage, he feels that he would lose integrity with the people he is serving.

Think about the situation before you begin writing. Then, write an explanatory paragraph that describes Mark’s opinion. Do you personally feel that he should accept the new prefabricated vicarage? Will accepting it truly deteriorate any integrity that exists between the people of the village and the young vicar? Why or why not? How would you define integrity in this situation? Use simile, metaphor or analogy to get your point across. Remember that integrity requires wholeness. When you have finished writing, be sure to go over your assignment and revise it. Maintain a formal tone throughout your writing and conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 5



Mark has been charged by the bishop with bringing the Christian faith to the Kwakiutl people. However, he knows that he must be careful to bring it in such a way as to supplement and not replace existing Kwakiutl beliefs and culture. Mark also understands that he has as much to learn from the Kwakiutl people about life as they do from him. Review today's reading.

Brainstorm at least two ways that Mark has attempted to be respectful of Kwakiutl culture (one that shows his desire to connect faith with existing beliefs, and the other that shows his desire to learn about the people he is serving). Write an informative paragraph that describes how these instances have helped him grow close to the Kwakiutl people. Be sure your paragraph has an introduction with a thesis statement, a middle that includes examples from the text, and a conclusion that restates or reiterates your thesis. Trade with a partner and use the rubric you created to evaluate, edit and revise.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 6



Key Paragraph

“But Keetah, it isn’t. The whole life of the swimmer is one of courage and adventure. All of it builds to the climax and the end. When the swimmer dies he has spent himself completely for the end for which he was made, and this is not sadness. It is triumph.”

Writing Prompt

In the paragraph above, Mark reminds the reader that life has a purpose, and that a purposeful life is both courageous and adventurous.

Do you agree with the statement “when the swimmer does he has spent himself completely for the end for which he was made, and this is not sadness. It is triumph.” Do you believe that the swimmer’s death is triumphant? Or do you find it tragic? Explain your opinion using evidence from the text as well as your own personal experience. Be sure to maintain a formal tone throughout your writing. When you have finished your assignment, revise and edit it.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 7



Over the next week you will be a newspaper reporter for a village Kwakiutl paper run by the students of the Kingcome schoolhouse. Choose an event from today's reading to report on. The bear that chased Mark, the destructive powers of winter, the delivery of Christmas gifts, the near death of the boy with acute appendicitis, or the near sinking of Mark and Jim's boat are a few possible topics.

Make sure that you are able to create a detailed explanation with each topic you choose, and be sure your story has a beginning, a middle and an end. Be factual in your account, but try to keep the story focused on the people involved. While some details and facts are provided in the reading, you may need to include some of your own creative facts and details as well.

Use simile, metaphor or analogy to get your point across. For instance, you may draw on your own personal experience. Also, internet and authoritative print resources can be referenced for extra research.

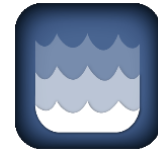
Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 8



You are a local reporter for the Kingcome newspaper published through the school. Report on the “depth of sadness” in the village. Write an explanatory article: explain how the village is experiencing a shift in values and traditions that leads to this “dept of sadness.”

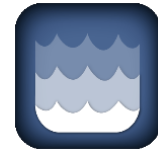
You may decide to write about the sadness in general, or to focus on a particular person, such as Peter, Gordon, or Mrs. Hudson. Before you being writing, make an outline and plan what you are going to say. Be sure your story has a beginning, a middle and an end. Be factual in your account, but try to keep the story focused on the people involved. While some details and facts are provided in the reading, you may need to include some of your own creative facts and details as well. Make sure you conclude with a reiteration of your stance and, when you have completed your assignment, be sure to go over your work and revise it.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 9



As a reporter for the local Kingcome newspaper, report on the stolen mask. Be sure to include an interest-grabbing introduction. In the body of your article explain in detail all the facts of the story. Who is to blame? What exactly happened? Why did it happen? And where did it happen? Provide a detailed explanation as to why the family must leave. Use simile, metaphor or analogy to get your point across. Feel free to end your assignment with a question or a possible solution. When you have finished writing, be sure to go over your work and revise it.

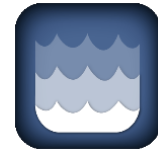
Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 10



Today you are going to write your final newspaper article on the “depth of sadness” in Kingcome. Before you begin writing, brainstorm about what you wish to write about: plan out which character you want to focus on and plan what you will say about them. You will likely wish to write about the death of Keetah’s sister.

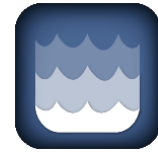
Write an informative paragraph that begins with an interest-grabbing introduction and then transitions to the facts. Use the facts to speculate what happened to Keetah’s sister during the three months leading up to her death. End with your own thoughts on the current “depth of sadness” in Kingcome. Be sure to go over your work when you have finished: edit and revise your writing.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 11



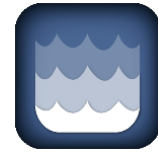
Before you begin writing, brainstorm a mental image of the old vicarage and then picture what you think the new vicarage should look like. Then, write an explanatory exposition snapshot for a short story about the building of the vicarage. Be sure to describe the setting, including sensory details. Include at least three characters and set up the conflict. (Remember, the conflict can be between the character and himself/herself, between two or more characters, or between a character and nature.) Be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your explanation; use simile, metaphor or analogy to get your point across.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 12



Write an explanatory snapshot of the rising action - the events leading up to the climax - for a story about the hamatsa. More information on the hamatsa can be found on pages 116-118 in *I Heard The Owl Call My Name*, and at <http://www.pantheon.org/articles/h/hamatsa.html> but knowing that the hamatsa is a cannibal spirit of the forest is likely enough to create a short story.] Before you begin writing, brainstorm what will occur in your rising action. Remember that rising action takes the reader up to, but not into, the climax of the story. Write your snapshot using at least two important actions that rise in intensity. When you have finished writing, be sure to go over your writing and edit it.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 13

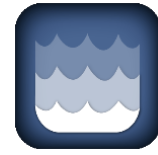


Write an explanatory snapshot of the climax of a short story in which Mark engages in a heated argument with the anthropologist. Remember that the climax is the point where the rising action has reached its most intense point. Before you begin writing, brainstorm and plan what you want to happen in your short story. Make the reader feel the intensity of Mark's reaction. How is the anthropologist violating the idea that "integrity requires wholeness?" Keep in mind also that Mark is a priest. He may lose his "cool," but he would not say anything to offend God. Keep it clean. When you have finished writing, be sure to go over your work and revise it. Conclude with a reiteration or summary of your explanation.

Or

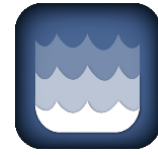
Create your own snapshot with a climax around a heated argument. Make the reader feel the intensity of the situation and the intensity of the characters' feelings. Same rules apply. Keep it clean.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 14



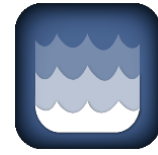
Ellie has suffered much in her life with an angry father and a mother who could not protect her. She deserves a happy ending to her story. Brainstorm how you would want her story to end and plan an outline before you begin writing. Then, write the falling action and resolution that allow her to live on after the conflict of her childhood. Be explanatory and informative in your writing; use simile, metaphor or analogy to get your point across. Focus on the following questions: What do you think happened to her at school? What do you think she did afterwards? What made her happy? When you have finished writing, be sure to go over your work and revise it.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 15



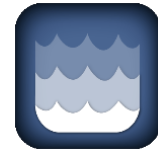
Before you begin writing, take a moment to brainstorm: pretend you are an elder of the Kwakiutl who danced the hamatsa in the winter dance as a boy. In an explanatory paragraph, explain to Mark in a paragraph or two how this rite of passage transformed you from a boy to a man. Be detailed and creative in your description and maintain a formal tone throughout your writing. Conclude with a reiteration or summary of your explanation. When you have finished your assignment, be sure to revise your work.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 16



Pretend you are Keetah and that you have been living in the white world for several months. Write an explanatory inner dialogue in which you wrestle with whether to stay with Gordon, or to return to Kingcome to be with your people and their ways. Which choice would show the most integrity? Remember that integrity requires wholeness. In your writing, be sure to be as detailed and descriptive as possible – use simile, metaphor or analogy to get your point across. Make sure you maintain a formal tone throughout your assignment and, when you have completed your dialogue, be sure to go over your work and revise it.

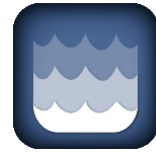
Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 17



Before you begin writing, brainstorm what lessons you think Calamity has learned during his lifetime. Plan which of these lessons you want to communicate to your audience.

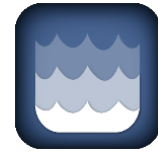
Next, write an explanatory resolution as Calamity reaches the end of his 'quest.' You may choose to write it using a third-person or a first-person narrative. Either way, communicate to the reader the most important lesson(s) Calamity learned before his death. Make sure you maintain a formal tone throughout your writing. Conclude with a strong summary of your explanation. When you have finished writing, take time to go over your work and edit it.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 18



It seems that just about everyone knows Mark is dying but Mark. Write an explanatory paragraph that claims that Mark either has or has not learned enough to be ready to die. Do you believe that Mark has led a life of integrity? Why or why not? Explain your reasoning. Maintain a formal tone throughout your writing and when you have finished your assignment go over your work and revise it.

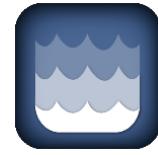
Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 19



Use the details in the paragraph above to help you write an explanatory climax of a reversal story involving Mark, Jim and the landslide.

Before you begin writing, be sure to brainstorm and plan what you are going to write. Remember that the climax is the story's most intense part. Make the reader feel the danger, fear, panic, etc. as you unveil for the reader the events of the next paragraph(s) following the beginning of the slide. Remember that in a reversal story, the author creates an ending different from the one he/she has led the reader to expect. Think about how you expected the story to end. Then think of possible ways to reverse or change that ending. After you have finished writing, be sure to go over your work and revise it.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Day 20



Final Assignment:

Over the last few weeks, you have written several explanations and snapshots for several stories. You have learned about the parts of a short story, from the exposition and the rising action, to the climax, the falling action and the resolution.

Choose a snapshot you have already written and expand it into a full explanatory or informative story. Include all the parts of a story we have previously identified. Be sure you have a strong setting, establish a clear point of view and develop three-dimensional characters. Regardless of the story you tell, the central message ought to be about Integrity - becoming the person you know you have the potential to be. Before you begin writing your story, make sure you brainstorm and plan what you are going to write. Maintain a formal tone throughout your story and be as detailed as possible.

Use the assessment rubric you created today to guide your writing. Then trade with a partner for editing. Revise your work once you have feedback from your partner.