

# ENGLISH PLUS

WITH  
ANSWER  
KEY

## PRACTICE WORKSHEETS



### The Ransom of Red Chief By O Henry

## STORIES

## THE RANSOM OF RED CHIEF

# Stories | The Ransom of Red Chief by O.

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## Henry

1. Who is the narrator of the story?
  - (A) Red Chief
  - (B) Bill Driscoll
  - (C) Ebenezer Dorset
  - (D) Sam
2. In what state did the story take place?
  - (A) Ohio
  - (B) Alabama
  - (C) Canada
  - (D) Illinois
3. What was the first thing the boy does to Bill?
  - (A) hit him in the eye with a piece of brick
  - (B) scalp him
  - (C) ride on his back for ninety miles
  - (D) put a hot potato down his back
4. What is NOT an abuse that Johnny heaps upon Bill?
  - (A) Johnny hits Bill with a rock
  - (B) He puts a red-hot potato down Bill's back
  - (C) Johnny rides Bill like a horse
  - (D) Johnny spits in Bill's hands

5. What did Red Chief threaten to do to Sam?
- (A) ride him ninety miles
  - (B) scalp him
  - (C) broil him at the stake
  - (D) hit him with a rock
6. With what did Sam threaten Red Chief if he doesn't behave?
- (A) broil him at the stake
  - (B) take him home
  - (C) scalp him
  - (D) tie him up
7. Which character spies on Summit from up above on Little Mountain to see how the townspeople were reacting to the kidnapping?
- (A) Red Chief
  - (B) Bill Driscoll
  - (C) Sam
  - (D) Ebenezer Dorset
8. How can we infer the townspeople feel about the kidnapping?
- (A) They are afraid someone will bring Red Chief back home.
  - (B) They are worried and anxiously searching for Red Chief.
  - (C) They are afraid that someone may have murdered Red Chief.
  - (D) They are in disbelief that a kidnapping could happen in a small town like Summit.

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9. How did Sam and Bill sign the ransom note?
- (A) Two Desperados
  - (B) Two Desperate Men
  - (C) Two Dead Men
  - (D) Two Deranged Men
10. What were the terms of Mr. Dorset's counter offer?
- (A) He will pay two thousand dollars.
  - (B) He will contact the police.
  - (C) He will pay one thousand dollars.
  - (D) He will accept two hundred fifty dollars in payment from the kidnapers.
11. The climax of the plot occurs when...
- (A) Ebenezer Dorset's letter demands \$250 in order to receive Johnny back home
  - (B) Sam and Bill hide Johnny in a wagon and take him to the cave
  - (C) Red Chief hits Bill Driscoll with a piece of brick
  - (D) Johnny tells the kidnapers that he wants to stay with him
12. An example of situational irony in O. Henry's story "The Ransom of Red Chief" is that the kidnapers...
- (A) choose a child of a well-to-do citizen to kidnap for ransom
  - (B) are named Sam and Bill
  - (C) actually pay money to the child's parent to return the kidnapped victim
  - (D) do not choose a very good location to exchange the ransom money

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**13. Choose the vocabulary word that best completes each of the sentences below.**

*collaborate - commend - comply - diatribe - impudent - proposition - provisions - ransom*

- The kidnappers demanded a **(A)** \_\_\_\_\_ before they returned the boy.
- They had enough **(B)** \_\_\_\_\_ stashed in a cave to last a week.
- Since neither of them could complete the scheme alone, the kidnappers had to **(C)** \_\_\_\_\_.
- The worst they expected was a **(D)** \_\_\_\_\_ in the local paper.
- Red Chief was so **(E)** \_\_\_\_\_, adults didn't like being around him.
- The father did not **(F)** \_\_\_\_\_ with the terms of the letter.
- Red Chief's father had a different **(G)** \_\_\_\_\_ for the kidnappers.
- You can't **(H)** \_\_\_\_\_ the parent's actions, but you can certainly understand them.

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1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

2. (A) (B) (C) (D)

3. (A) (B) (C) (D)

4. (A) (B) (C) (D)

5. (A) (B) (C) (D)

6. (A) (B) (C) (D)

7. (A) (B) (C) (D)

8. (A) (B) (C) (D)

9. (A) (B) (C) (D)

10. (A) (B) (C) (D)

11. (A) (B) (C) (D)

12. (A) (B) (C) (D)

13. A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_  
D. \_\_\_\_\_ E. \_\_\_\_\_ F. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- The kidnappers demanded a **(A) ransom** before they returned the boy.
- They had enough **(B) provisions** stashed in a cave to last a week.
- Since neither of them could complete the scheme alone, the kidnappers had to **(C) collaborate**.
- The worst they expected was a **(D) diatribe** in the local paper.
- Red Chief was so **(E) impudent**, adults didn't like being around him.
- The father did not **(F) comply** with the terms of the letter.
- Red Chief's father had a different **(G) proposition** for the kidnappers.
- You can't **(H) commend** the parent's actions, but you can certainly understand them.

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2.  A  B  C  D

3.  A  B  C  D

4.  A  B  C  D

5.  A  B  C  D

6.  A  B  C  D

7.  A  B  C  D

8.  A  B  C  D

9.  A  B  C  D

10.  A  B  C  D

11.  A  B  C  D

12.  A  B  C  D

13. A.  ransom      B.  provisions      C.  collaborate  
D.  diatribe      E.  impudent      F.  comply  
G.  proposition      H.  commend