

Name _____

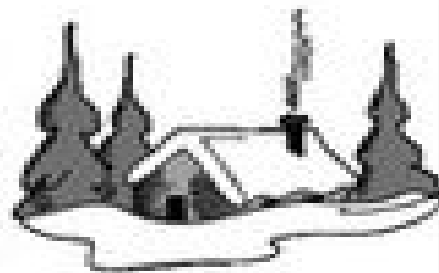
**Standard RL.2
Theme, Plot &
Summarizing**

Background

Standard RL.2 involves determining the theme of a text as well as understanding how characters respond to challenges. In addition, this standard involves summarizing. Read carefully and take notes as you read.

Joyles and the Pond

It was the coldest day of the year but it was exactly the way Joyles liked it. He enjoyed looking at the snow-covered ground. The dirty white sky reminded him of winter milkshakes. Joyles petted his dog Spot, put on his coat and hat, and decided to take a walk outside. The air was cold. His breathing created white misty clouds in the air. Joyles noticed that the pond by his house looked frozen. He noticed a loud sputter across the ice. Before Joyles realized what was happening, his dog Spot broke free from the break and started onto the icy pond to catch the bird.



"No Spot! The ice might not be fully frozen," yelled Joyles. As quickly as Joyles spoke, the ice began to break under Spot's paws. Joyles knew that it was too dangerous for him to go onto the ice. He also knew that if he caught the dog too much, the dog could break the ice even more and fall into the pond. Joyles talked softly to Spot to keep him off of the pieces of the ice. Just as Joyles had hoped, Spot wagged his tail and slowly walked off of the ice-covered pond. The ice stayed intact underneath Spot's feet. When the dog finally reached the end of the pond, Joyles gave him a big treat.

"You really give me a scare. I'm just glad that you are safe," said Joyles. The two of them went home.