“**Dirk the Protector”**

**Theme**



1. **Conventional ( )\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. **Brutal ( )\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
3. **Predatory ( )\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
4. **Menace ( )\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
5. **Impasse ( )\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
6. **Puny ( )\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
7. **Cohorts ( )\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Setting the Stage** |
| Skim the beginning of the story. How does the reader know that Gary has a tough life at home? Record some details that help the reader to draw this conclusion. |
| **Discussing the Short Story** |

1. Find a line in the story that demonstrates Gary’s ongoing conflict with the ”gang.” Explain your example.
2. Gary uses a metaphor to describe Dirk on page 18 as “Airedale crossed with hound crossed with alligator.” How does this description deepen the reader’s understanding of Dirk’s personality? Explain by drawing on your observations from the text and your prior knowledge.
3. In the story, what events make Happy’s name ironic? Explain.
4. What evidence in the text supports the conclusion that this story has a happy ending for Gary? For Dirk? Provide evidence from the text.

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| **Identifying Topics** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brainstorm a list of topics that surface in “Dirk the Protector.” |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Finding Evidence** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Identify *one* topic for the short story “Dirk the Protector,” and then find at least three examples from the text that relate to your topic. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | Topic |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Quote From Text | How Quote Relates to Topic |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Theme Statement** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Develop a theme statement for “Dirk the Protector.” In other words, based on your evidence, what is the author’s message about your topic? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |