



Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer L. Holm
 Summer Reading Project

Name _____

1. COMPARE AND CONTRAST:

A. In the first paragraph of the novel, Turtle says: “Everyone thinks children are sweet as Necco wafers, but I’ve lived long enough to know the truth: kids are rotten. The only difference between grown-ups and kids is that grown-ups go to jail for murder. Kids get away with it.”

Provide one example from the beginning of the story that shows why Turtle thinks kids are rotten:

B. At the very end of the novel, Turtle says: “I’ve lived long enough to learn the truth: not all kids are rotten, and there are grown-ups who are sweet as Necco Wafers.”

Write about two events in the story that you think caused Turtle to change her mind about kids and adults:

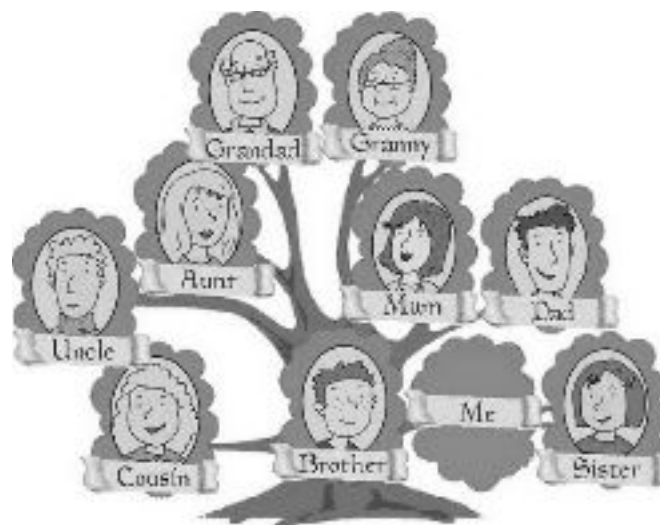
2. MEANING:

A. Turtle and her mama have very specific dreams about the house they want to own. What does owning a home mean to them? Does the dream become a reality? Why or why not?

B. What does having a home mean to you? Write about three of your favorite things in your house:

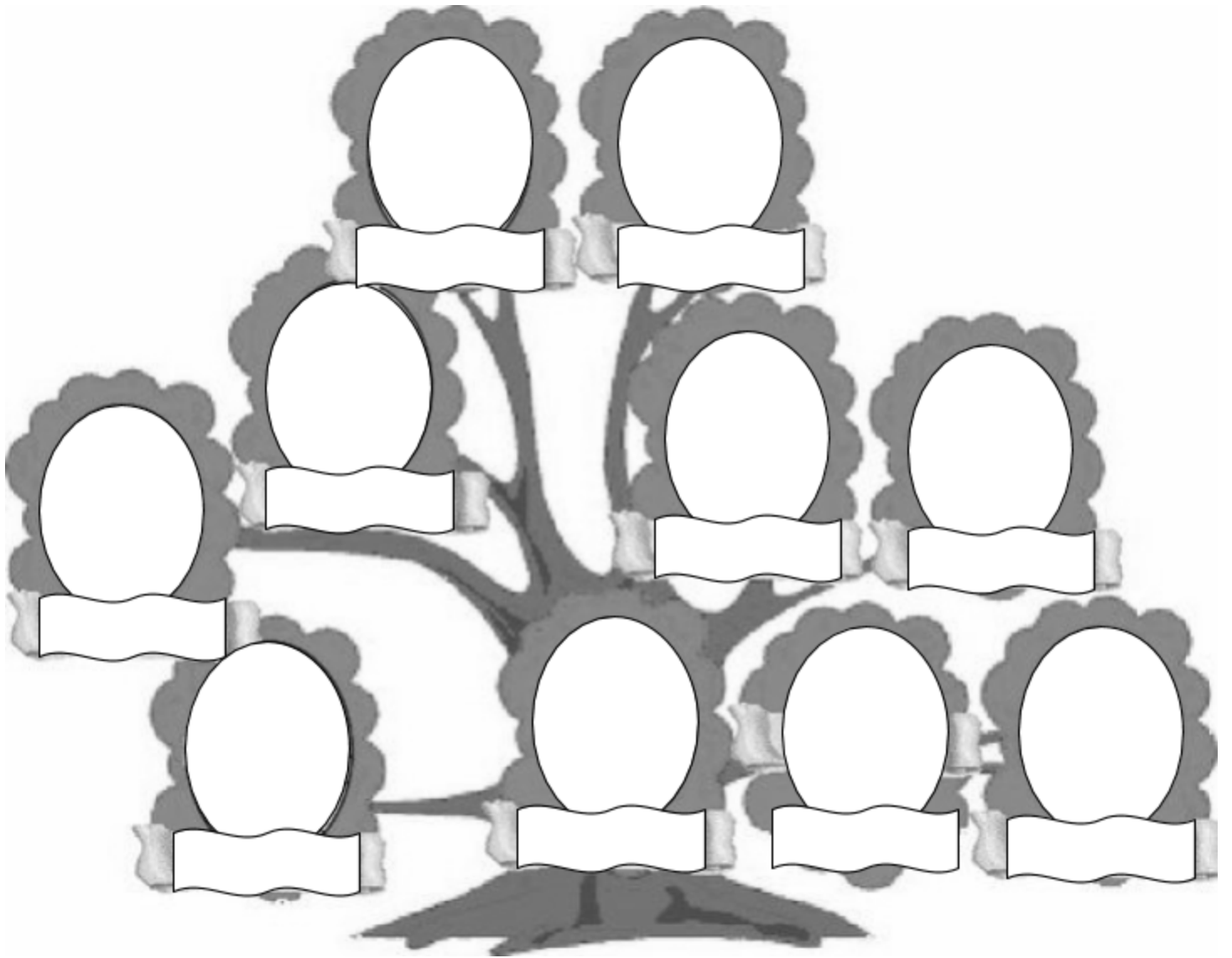
3. HAPPY ENDINGS: Turtle thinks she finally has her happy ending when her mother and Archie get married. What happens at the end of the story? How does Turtle help create her own happy ending?

4. ACTIVITY: Turtle discovers that all of her relatives live in Key West. Make a family tree for Turtle's family with at least ten relatives (including Turtle). Draw a picture of each family member, and make sure to put their name underneath their picture. You may use the family tree template or make your own! Please color. Here's an example:



Turtle's Family Tree

By _____



1930s References in *Turtle in Paradise*

Necco Wafers - a sugary candy that dates all the way back to 1847!



The Great Depression - a period in American history (late 1920s-1930s) when banks lost their money due to stock market trading, and many people lost their jobs.

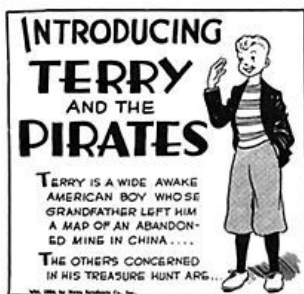
Shirley Temple - a young actress famous for singing and dancing who made many movies in the 1930s.



Little Orphan Annie - a daily comic strip that told stories about an orphaned girl who was adopted by a millionaire, Daddy Warbucks.



Terry and the Pirates - a comic about a boy named Terry given a treasure map by his grandfather.



Amelia Earhart - the first female pilot in America.

Ernest Hemingway - a famous author who lived in Key West.