Santillana

Spotlight on English

Academic English for success in content and literacy

Student Book
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American pioneers

elements in tall tales
orchards and farms
area and perimeter

Topics to explore:
Key Words

trunk
branches
farm
adventures
orchard
seeds
pioneers
roots
medicine
shelter
Laurie: My grandma had an apple tree in her backyard. It looked ancient. Its trunk was fat and lumpy. Its branches were twisted and low. Half its top had broken off in a thunderstorm. You might say that tree was ugly. But to my grandma, that tree was beautiful. One day, I found out why.
Laurie: That day, my grandma asked me a question.

Grandma: Do you see this apple tree, my dear?

Laurie: I nodded.

Grandma: Do you know that Johnny Appleseed planted that tree? My great grandmother watched him plant it!
Grandma: My great grandmother was just a little girl back then. Her farm lay way out in the wilderness of Indiana. Still, she recognized Johnny as soon as he saw him walk out of the woods. Everyone in America had heard of Johnny Appleseed. Johnny Appleseed was a thin young man with dirty hair and a huge grin. His shirt was made from an old brown sack. His feet were bare and tough from walking. Sometimes he carried his cooking pot on his head to keep his hands free to work. Johnny carried a bunch of tiny apple trees as skinny as sticks in a pack on his back.
Grandma: One day, he came to visit my great grandmother’s farm. Mary, my great grandmother, smiled at him.

Mary: Good day, sir! You must be Johnny Appleseed!

Grandma: Johnny grinned.

Johnny: Yes, ma’am! I planted lots of apple trees, and now I have plenty to sell. Do you think your mother would like to buy a tree?

Mary: I think so! Let’s go find her out in the fields.
Grandma: That day, Johnny sold a tree to my great grandmother’s family. He helped them plant it in front of the cabin. They insisted that Johnny stay for dinner. After dinner, Mary’s father asked him a question.

Adam: Johnny, why don’t you tell us the story of your adventures?

Grandma: Johnny stretched out his long legs by the fire. He wiggled his toes. And then, this is the story he told.
Johnny: Johnny Appleseed is just my nickname. My real name is John Carpenter. I was born in Massachusetts in 1774. As a boy, I took a job working in my neighbor’s apple orchard. Farmer Smith taught me all about how to grow apples. One day, he showed me a handful of apple seeds.

Farmer Smith: You see, John, this is what the seeds of an apple look like. Each one of these seeds can grow into an apple tree if you take good care of it.

Johnny: Farmer Smith used to give me some of the crop to take home, too. He would hand me a basket of sweet, crisp apples to share with my family. They were delicious!
Johnny: I loved working in the orchard, but I longed for adventure. Finally, I told Farmer Smith I wanted to leave.

Young John: Sir, I keep hearing that the pioneers are traveling west to settle new parts of the country. I want to explore the wild lands to the west, too—and I want to help the pioneers. I bet the pioneers would like apple trees for their new homes!

Farmer Smith: We’ll miss you here, but I wish you success out West!
Johnny: I was eighteen years old when I left Massachusetts. And that’s when I started to walk on these bare, tough feet! I carried a leather sack full of apple seeds. All along the paths that led west, I planted apple orchards. I thought to myself.

Young John: First, I’ll clear away trees, bushes and grasses. Then, I’ll dig holes for the seeds. Finally, I’ll build fences to protect the new trees from hungry deer.

Johnny: A few years after planting, I returned to each orchard. I carefully dug up my young trees and wrapped their roots with cloth.

Young John: Now these trees are ready to sell to pioneers!
Johnny: The pioneers were happy to buy my trees. When I would arrive, they’d call out to me.

Pioneers: Hi, John! Look, it’s Johnny Appleseed! Did you bring us any apple trees?

Young John: I sure did. Would any of you like to buy one for your family?

Pioneers: We’d love some trees! We can’t wait to eat the delicious apples. We’ve dreamed of making applesauce, apple pies, and apple pancakes! First, though, we’ve got to get this cabin built.

Young John: I can stay and help you build your cabin if you’d like!

Pioneers: Thanks, Johnny Appleseed!

Johnny: And that’s when I got my nickname.
Johnny: Everywhere I walked, I made new friends. One day, when I stopped for a drink near a creek in Ohio, I saw an Indian brave lying by the water. He asked me for help.

Brave: I became ill while I was out on a hunt. I am too sick to walk back to my village.

Johnny: I used some of the plants nearby to make him some medicine. Then, I cared for the brave for two nights. As I walked him home, he thanked me.

Brave: Thank you, Johnny Appleseed. Will you stay with my family for a while? You could share your knowledge of medicine with us.

Young John: Sure! I’ll be glad to stay with you!
Johnny: As we walked, a wolf began to follow us. The Indian brave noticed him and became worried.

Brave: Look! A wolf is following us. Shall I shoot him with my bow and arrow?

Young John: No! That wolf has followed me as if he were my dog. He would never hurt me. I’m not afraid of any of the animals in the woods. I don’t hunt them for food. I never carry a gun. And they trust me in return.

Johnny: All that was true! The wild animals did like me. Bees refused to sting me. Mosquitoes never bit me. And I considered that wolf a friend.
Johnny: One winter, a snowstorm came upon me in Pennsylvania. Wind and snow whipped my face. Soon, snow piled higher than my knees. Then, it piled higher than my waist. Without shelter, I knew I could freeze to death. Finally, I found a small cave.

Young John: At last, some shelter from this storm!
Johnny: But I was surprised to see a huge bear inside the cave! It was asleep for the winter.

Young John: Well, I'm lucky that the animals trust me! I'll just curl up right here and get warm again.

Johnny: So I did! The bear woke up, but he just gave me a sniff and went back to sleep.

Young John: See? This bear knows that I'm no threat. We'll both sleep through the snowstorm, cozy and warm.

Johnny: And then I drifted off to sleep!
Johnny: Well, that’s my story. I bet I’ve walked thousands of miles so far and planted thousands of apple trees. I’ve come a long way already, but I’d better start walking again if I’m ever going to get all the way out West!

Grandma: So my great grandmother Emily and her family said goodbye to Johnny Appleseed.

Emily: Thanks for telling us your stories, John!

Adam: One day Americans from Massachusetts all the way to California will be able to boast that Johnny Appleseed planted their apple orchards!

Mary: Goodbye, Johnny Appleseed!
Grandma: That’s the story of Johnny Appleseed, and how he came to this farm and planted an apple tree right here!

Laurie: And this tree helped make life for the pioneers of this area a little sweeter. You’re right, Grandma. It is a beautiful old tree! Someday I’ll tell my own grandchildren how Johnny Appleseed planted this tree, and how their great-great-great grandmother was there to see it!
Sequence of Events

The sequence of events that happen in a story is the plot. A story may have a main plot as well as smaller subplots.

In *The Tale of Johnny Appleseed*, Johnny Appleseed helps the pioneers. Use the graphic organizer to tell about this subplot. Draw the organizer on a separate sheet of paper. In the boxes, write the events in the order in which they happen.

**Sequence of Events**

- First
- Next
- Then
- Last
**Character Web**

- A character is a person or other being in a story.

Use the graphic organizer to describe Johnny Appleseed. Draw the web on a separate piece of paper, and fill in the details about this character.

**Setting the Scene**

- The setting is when and where a story takes place. Use the graphic organizer to describe the setting of *The Tale of Johnny Appleseed*.

Think about these questions: At what time in history does this story take place? Where do Mary and her family live? Draw the organizer on a separate sheet of paper, and fill in your answers. In the third column, write clues from the story that helped you understand the setting.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting the Scene</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>When</td>
<td>Where</td>
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American Pioneers
The tale of Johnny Appleseed
Is one we know by heart,
But for the sake of history,
We’ll tell it from the start.

The man once called John Carpenter
In Massachusetts raised,
Grew up to learn a noble trade
And in it passed his days.

The pioneers were spreading west
To find themselves a home.
Adventure and desire to help
Lured John to come along.

He had a knack for planting trees.
He traveled far and wide,
Trading seedlings for coins or meals
With a great sense of pride!

He lived a simple, modest life
But touched many souls, too.
He shared his love of land and man,
His love with each tree grew!

Sometimes he even waived his fees
For those who had it hard.
His only dream, a legacy:
A tree in every yard!
First, I clear away the grass and bushes, making room for all the apple trees. Next, I dig a long, straight row of small holes, and into those I will drop the seeds.

Around the trees, I build some wire fences. They keep out all of the hungry deer. Then, the trees that I have freshly planted won’t be eaten while the deer are here!

Last, I leave the trees to grow on their own, and I come back after a few years. I dig up the trees and wrap up their roots. Then, I sell them to the pioneers!

Oh, the stories people tell. Oh, the stories they pass down. All those stories that they tell, they’re fantastic! There is always a hero with exaggerated traits. It’s a tall tale! You can’t really believe it.

What exaggerated traits does Johnny Appleseed have? What exaggerated traits did they give him? Once I heard he slept with bears and walked with wolves everywhere. Those are tall tales! You can’t really believe them.
Area and Perimeter

A polygon is a flat shape with straight sides. The total length around the outside of a polygon is called the perimeter.

To measure the perimeter of a polygon, add the lengths of the sides. For this polygon, the perimeter is

\[2 \text{ feet} + 2 \text{ feet} + 2 \text{ feet} + 2 \text{ feet} = 8 \text{ feet}.\]

If you walked around the outside of this polygon, you would walk 8 feet.

The space inside a polygon is called the area. It is measured in square units. For example, if the sides are measured in feet, you can ask, “How many one-foot squares fit inside the polygon?”

To measure the area of this polygon, multiply its width by its length.

\[2 \text{ feet} \times 2 \text{ feet} = 4 \text{ square feet}.\]

You can see that 4 one-foot squares fit inside this polygon.

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What is the difference between perimeter and area?
2. Why is area measured in square units?
Solving Problems with Area and Perimeter

Explain how you would solve each problem. Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. Grandma’s backyard has a wooden fence around it. The backyard is 45 yards wide and 35 yards long. What is the total length of the fence?

2. When Johnny Appleseed visits the pioneers, they are building a cabin. It will be 25 feet wide and 30 feet long. What will be the area of the cabin?

3. Johnny Appleseed knows that each young apple tree will need 1 square meter of space. His orchard is 20 meters wide and 10 meters long. How many trees can he plant?
Our Apple Tree

Grandma thought her apple tree was beautiful because it had a story to tell. Design a model of an apple tree to hold your own stories.

Supplies

- brown butcher paper
- scissors
- black markers
- green and red construction paper
- tape

Steps

1. Draw the shape of the apple tree’s trunk and branches on brown butcher paper, and cut out the shape.
2. Use a black marker to draw in the texture of the wood, so the branches look rough and bumpy.
3. Cut leaf shapes from green construction paper, and attach them to the branches.
4. Cut large red apple shapes out of red construction paper.
5. Write your name and a favorite memory on one of these apples.
6. Attach the apples to the tree with tape.
Compare-and-contrast Essay

Both Johnny Appleseed and the pioneers moved out West. Write two paragraphs comparing and contrasting their actions. How were they similar? How were they different?

Think about these questions:

• What did Johnny Appleseed do?
• What did the pioneers do?
• How were their actions similar?
• How were they different?

The Writing Process

Remember, the writing process includes a series of steps:

• Developing Ideas Use the Internet, visual elements, or other references to help you gather and develop ideas.

• Organizing Choose the ideas you want to use. Put them in order, connect them, or discard the least important ones.

• Drafting Use the ideas you organized to write paragraphs.

• Revising Read your paragraphs again and correct your writing, keeping in mind what you learned in this unit.

• Rewriting Produce a clean copy of your piece, applying all the corrections, to display in class.

Remember, you can always repeat a step if you need to.