

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity One

## Watsongram

Character sketches of the Watson family: make a list of at least ten words or phrases that come to mind when you are describing the character's personality traits using examples from the novel.

If the Watson's story took place today, they might be using social media as many of us do to communicate our feelings and positions on world events.

If Byron were a teenager today and had an image-focused social media account (like Instagram), what do you think it would look like? Write down some of Byron's personality traits to help you come up with a post true to Byron's character. Illustrate a picture you think might appear on Byron's account.

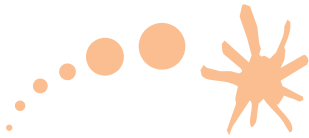
Imagine Joey as a young girl in today's world with access to social media. Write down a list of things that describe Joey's personality to help you describe and draw a short video (like what you'd see on Tik Tok) that might appear on Joey's account.

Write a post you think Momma might write on a social media site like Facebook. It should be about the Civil Rights Movement. Research this. Have things changed in the movement for racial equality, or are they the same as described in the book? What would Momma have to say about the success of the movement?

Imagine Dad had a social media account like Twitter. What type of messages would he be writing? Write down some key features about Dad's character from the novel, and use this to construct a tweet in Dad's words today.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity Two

## There's No Place Like Home



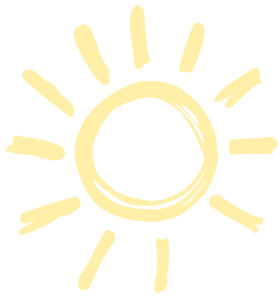
Imagine Joey has a "pen pal" and she wants to describe her room in her home where she lives. Write a letter in Joey's voice that describes her room and explains why she has the items she does and how and why they are placed as they are. Make sure to use the language of the time set in the book.

Then, imagine Joey is living today. She uses the Internet to communicate with her "pen pal". Write an email that describes her room using today's language.

We know that Joey is neat and tidy and, as Kenny notes, she even has a separate drawer for her socks. Draw a picture of what you would imagine Joey's room to look like. Are there awards? Figurines on her shelf? Is the angel still hidden in her drawer?


<b>X</b>
<b>NEW MESSAGE</b>
To: _____
Subject: _____
<b>SEND</b>

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity Three

## Drawn In



Unscrambled the Watson family names listed below. No short forms or nicknames. We will be using Momma and Dad's given names to make it trickier!

After the names have been unscrambled, correctly write a six-panel scene from a graphic novel which includes all of the characters.

Research graphic novels before you begin. Write a summary paragraph of 250 words that describes the graphic novel you would write.

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daasn mdasrgn \_\_\_\_\_

obnyr \_\_\_\_\_

eindla \_\_\_\_\_

entkhne \_\_\_\_\_

nolwai \_\_\_\_\_

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# Activity Four



## You Can Quote Me on That

Imagine that Kenny is graduating from high school. He has overcome his shyness and insecurity about his eye and his intelligence. Imagine Kenny is voted as Valedictorian of his graduating class!

Draw a yearbook picture for Kenny and write a quote or paragraph that you think might be important to him.

Write a speech that Kenny would give as a Valedictorian. Decide on a theme for the Valedictorian address (ie perseverance, friendship, etc). What aspects of his experiences from the novel would Kenny include in his speech? Write a list of things that are important to Kenny and things he has overcome to draw from when writing his speech. Would he talk about class/money, his "lazy" eye, race, about being a good friend? Write the reason you have chosen each item on the list with an example from the novel. Use these to draw from when writing his speech.

Kenny

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# Activity Five

## In the News



When the Watson family visits Grandma Sands, Kenny witnesses the aftermath of the tragic bombing of the church where Joey attended Sunday School. This horrible scene was based on a real event—the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing, which took place on Sunday, September 15th in 1963 in the city of Birmingham, Alabama.

Research this bombing and how it affected the Civil Rights Movement and racial segregation. Write a paragraph of 250 words that contain the information you learn through your research. How many people were injured in this attack? Include the names of the four victims whose lives were lost. What was the reaction at the time? Was there justice in 1963, and were the bombers punished?

After you have done your research, imagine what a newspaper might print after the bombing of the church that was fueled by racism. Write a headline, include a quote, and illustrate the cover of your fictional newspaper.

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# Activity Six

## Race and Equality



Design a poster that you think should hang on a wall in your school or in your community that promotes equality and peace.

You can use *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* in how you think about equality then versus today and what has changed or what still needs to change.

Write a slogan and draw a picture that exemplifies your thoughts.

Include a brochure panel that describes to your fellow students why racial equality and the Civil Rights Movement remains as important today as it was in 1963.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for students to draw and write their poster and brochure panel.