

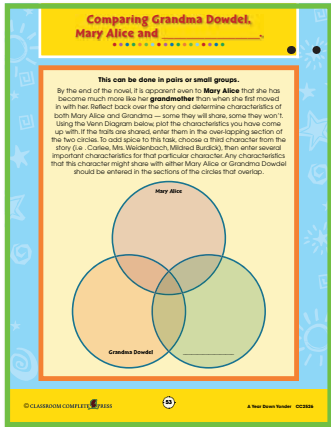


# 1,2,3

## Graphic Organizer Transparencies



The three **Graphic Organizer Transparencies** included in this **Literature Kit™** are especially suited to a study of **A Year Down Yonder**. Below are suggestions for using each organizer in your classroom, or they may also be adapted to suit the individual needs of your students. The transparencies can be used on an overhead projector in teacher-led activities, small group activities, and/or photocopied for use as student worksheets. To evaluate students' responses to any of the organizers, you may wish to use the **Assessment Rubric** (on page 4).

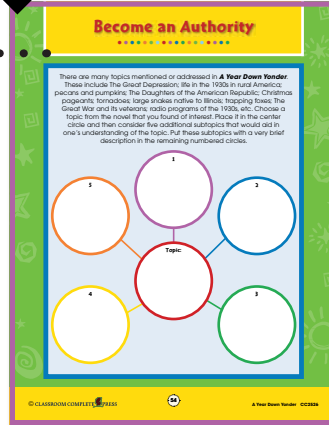


### COMPARING GRANDMA DOWDEL, MARY ALICE AND \_\_\_\_\_

Using a Venn Diagram, students are given the opportunity of comparing **Grandma Dowdel** and **Mary Alice**. Shared traits are to be entered in the overlapping portion of the two circles. To add spice to this activity, students are invited to add a third character from the story (i.e. Carlee, Mrs. Weidenbach, Mildred Burdick), then enter several important characteristics for that particular character. Any characteristics that this character might share with either **Mary Alice** or **Grandma Dowdel** should be entered in the sections of the circles that overlap. It may be a good idea to request students to include **both** physical characteristics and personality traits. **Found on Page 53.**

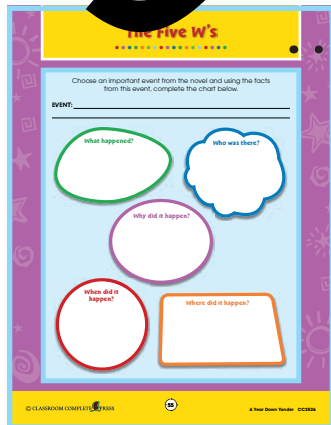
### BECOME AN AUTHORITY

There are many topics mentioned or addressed in **A Year Down Yonder**. These include The Great Depression; life in the 1930s in rural America; pecans and pumpkins; The Daughters of the American Republic; Christmas pageants; tornadoes; large snakes native to Illinois; trapping furs; the Great War and its veterans; radio programs of the 1930s, etc. Students are asked to choose a topic from the novel they find of interest. The topic is to be placed in the center circle, then five additional subtopics should be considered. The words used in the student's understanding of the topic should be included with these subtopics should be a very brief description. **Found on Page 54.**



### THE FIVE W'S CHART

In **A Year Down Yonder**, the author has skillfully brought to life an unusual cast of characters (most especially **Grandma Dowdel**) with detailed characterizations and settings, and a richly developed plot. The **Five W's Chart** is an excellent tool to help students identify and analyze these literary elements. Students are to choose one major event from the novel and give the key details about what happened, who was there, when and where it happened, and why this key event unfolded as it did. This chart may also be used as a planning activity to help students develop their skills in writing a research article. **Found on Page 55.**





# Part Five-A: Hearts and Flour

(To the paragraph beginning: "Mrs. Weidenbach crumbled.")

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. To this point in the story, how would you describe Mary Alice's character? What do you think are her best qualities?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Every story needs a good **antagonist** (bad guy or girl). Who do you think is this novel's antagonist? Defend your response.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary

Complete each sentence with a word from the list.

<b>lurch</b>	<b>sacred</b>	<b>await</b>	<b>revolution</b>	<b>capitulate</b>
<b>descend</b>	<b>optimistic</b>	<b>benediction</b>	<b>aristocracy</b>	<b>commitment</b>

- From her haughty attitude, you would think she descended from \_\_\_\_\_.
- Everyone in the church regarded the artifacts found at the graveside to be most \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Were you \_\_\_\_\_ that there was only five minutes remaining in the game?" she asked.
- No one expected the fortress to \_\_\_\_\_ after so short a siege.
- All the party-goers saw Susan \_\_\_\_\_ across the dance floor after injuring her toe.
- The minister will pronounce a \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as the choir finishes singing.
- The people held a \_\_\_\_\_ against their corrupt government.
- It is difficult to remain \_\_\_\_\_ when she has been missing for so long.
- It seems that no one holds a \_\_\_\_\_ as being very important any more.
- I'm sure that when the crowd least expects it, the princess will \_\_\_\_\_ the staircase in her lovely evening gown.



# Part Five-B: Hearts and Flour

(Starting with the paragraph beginning: "I was at school on Valentine's Day ...")

## 1. Fill in each blank with the correct word from the chapters.

- a) Miss Brooks' valentines came in a \_\_\_\_\_ that you punched out.
- b) In addition to Miss Brooks, Ida-Rae received valentine cards from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) Mary Alice thought she would never get the \_\_\_\_\_ from her hands.
- d) The tea for Washington's birthday was set for \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock.
- e) When Mary Alice saw her grandmother at the tea party, she told her she was \_\_\_\_\_.
- f) Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ arrived early and occupied the best chair.

## 2. Complete each sentence with a word from the list.

powder	roll	bobbin	rings	alone	pearls
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- a) Mary Alice had to admit that Ida-Rae had played her \_\_\_\_\_ well.
- b) At the tea, Grandma wore \_\_\_\_\_ in her ears and Cory \_\_\_\_\_ below her chin.
- c) When asked by Mary Alice the age of Aunt Mae Griswold, Grandma replies with one of her famous expressions: *You'd have to cut off her head and count the \_\_\_\_\_ in her neck.*
- d) As the meeting started, Mrs. Weidenbach dispensed with the usual order of business because they weren't \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) It turned out that the punch was part strawberry juice and part \_\_\_\_\_.



# Part Five-B: Hearts and Flour

(Starting with the paragraph beginning: "I was at school on Valentine's Day ...")

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

1. Authors often use **exaggeration** in their stories. An example from this chapter is: *She was skinnier than a toothpick with termites*. Why do you think this literary device is popular among authors? Bonus: find another example in the novel.

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2. Investigate: Royce enjoys novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs and Rider Haggard. Research the titles of one novel by each author.

Edgar Rice Burroughs	
Rider Haggard	

3. Why was Carleen so upset that Ina Pae had received valentines from her two classmates?

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4. What did Mrs. Broshear mean when she said in reference to Aunt Mae Griswold, "She'll be next"?

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5. What shocking news did Aunt Mae deliver to Mrs. Weidenbach and the others present? Why was this disturbing to the members of the D.A.R.?

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6. How could the conclusion of this chapter be considered a "surprise ending"?

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SAMPLE



**Aunt Mae certainly drops a bombshell near the end of this chapter. It would seem that Grandma set poor Mrs. Weidenbach up for a fall. As a journal entry, describe your feelings about Grandma's strategy. Was she justified in what she did to Mrs. Weidenbach, or was she just being cruel to someone she didn't like? Please give reasons for your position.**