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### Educational Materials for *Serafina and the Twisted Staff*

Vocabulary  
 Writing & Discussion  
**Activities**

Go to [robert-beatty.com/education](http://robert-beatty.com/education) for links to the PDF files, teacher testimonials, and other resources.

### COMMON CORE COMPATIBLE

*Serafina and the Twisted Staff* and its educational materials are well suited for **Common Core** curriculum.

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# Serafina and the Twisted Staff

## C.A.R. CHART

CONFLICT → ACTION → RESOLUTION

CONFLICT #1

CONFLICT #2

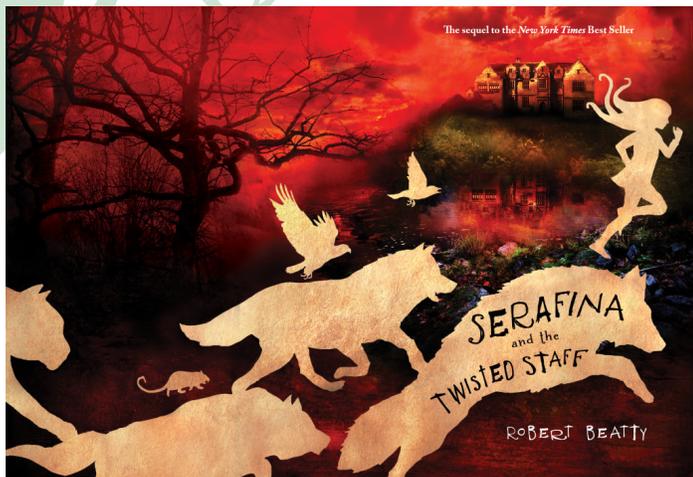
MAIN ACTION

RESOLUTION

**The Importance of C.A.R.:** Nearly all stories involve a structure called C.A.R., which stands for Conflict, Action, and Resolution. The Conflict is a problem, mystery, or issue. The Action is the dialogue, physical action, and other activity that takes place related to the Conflict. The Resolution is how the problem is solved in the end. When creating your own stories it is often useful to think in those terms. What is the conflict of the story? What happens in the middle of the story (the action)? How is the conflict eventually resolved? As a first assignment, use this C.A.R. Chart to diagram the Conflict, Action, and Resolution for *Serafina and the Twisted Staff*. Then do it again for a different story or movie. Finally, you could try creating your own story, with its own C.A.R. Note: If you find that your story is missing any of these elements, it probably won't make a very satisfying story for the reader.

# Serafina and the Twisted Staff

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## BOOK COVER ANALYSIS

Based on the front and back covers, what do you predict Serafina and the Twisted Staff will be about? What genre will it be? What does the cover say or show that makes you think this?

What questions do you have about Serafina and the Twisted Staff? Is there something from the cover that makes you wonder this?

What sentence or phrase from the back cover speaks to you? What connections do you make between it and your personal experiences or what you know of the world?

What do you know about the setting, the Biltmore? What do you expect of a story set at the Biltmore and why?



# Serafina and the Twisted Staff

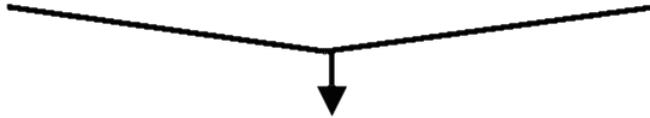
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Compare and contrast Serafina and Rowena, or Braeden and Gideon, Today vs 1899, or any other two items from the story.

## Compare and Contrast Chart Graphic Organizer

Item #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Item #2 \_\_\_\_\_



How are they alike?

Four horizontal lines for writing the answer to 'How are they alike?'.



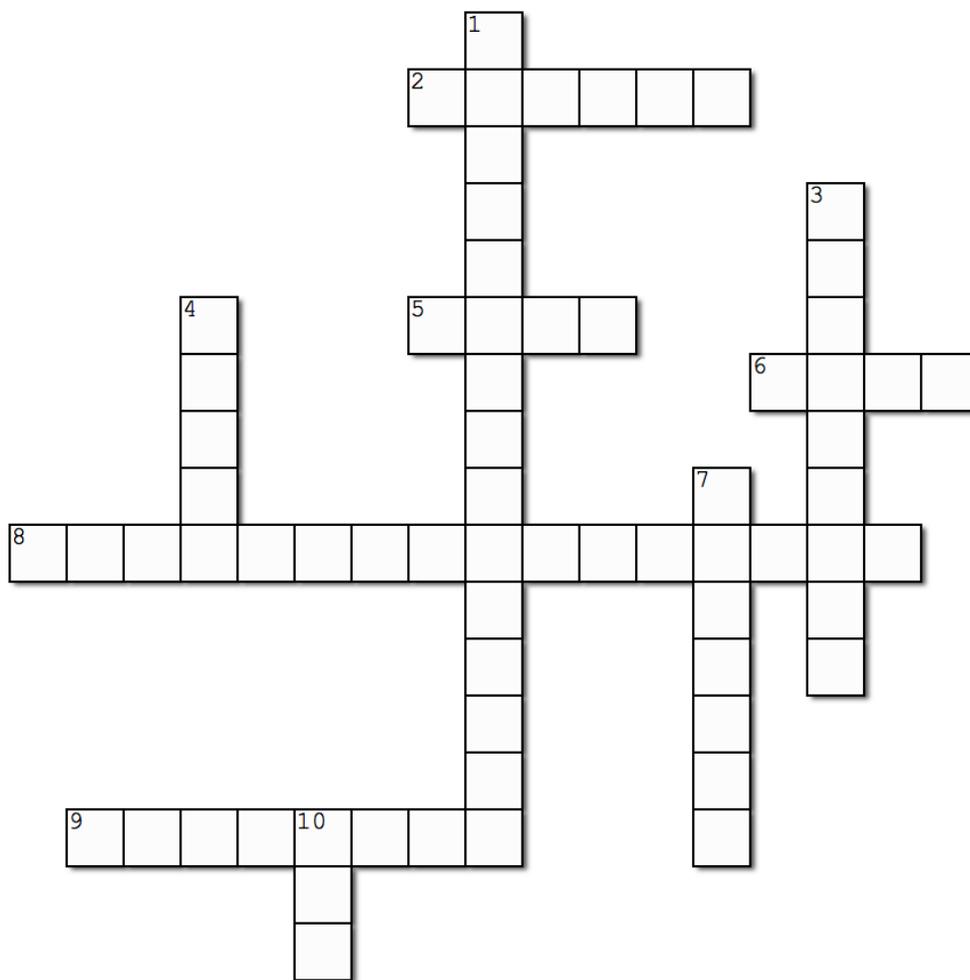
How are they different?



Eight horizontal lines for writing the answer to 'How are they different?' in the left column.

Eight horizontal lines for writing the answer to 'How are they different?' in the right column.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



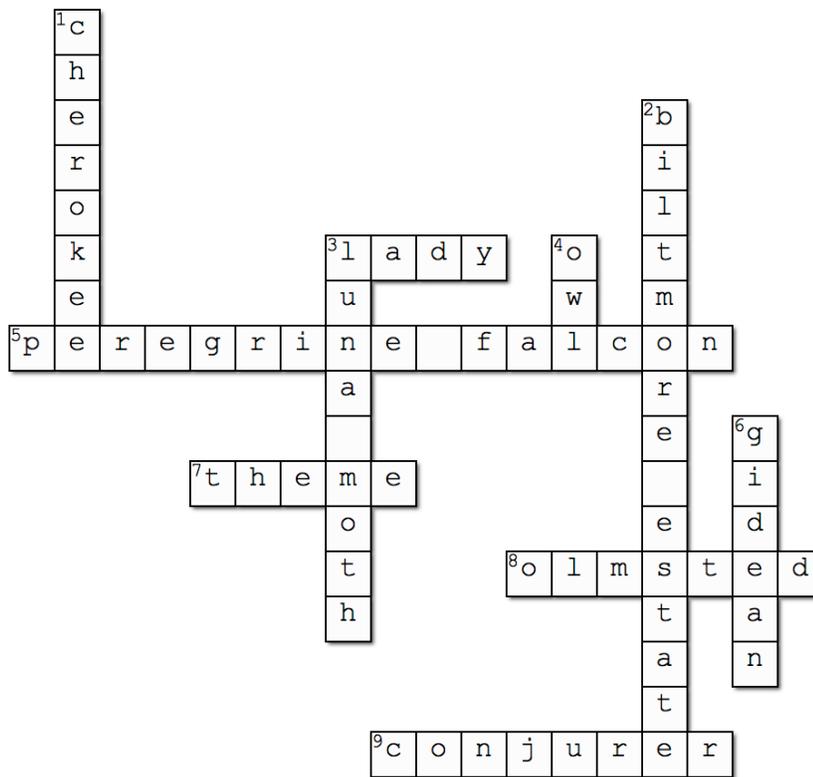
### Across

2. Braeden's other best friend
5. Serafina's friend who is now leader of the pack
6. Rowena's title
8. The world's fastest bird
9. The name and place of Waysa's people

### Down

1. Mansion built by George Vanderbilt
3. A winged nocturnal insect with large pale green wings
4. The moral or lesson of a story
7. The father of landscape architecture
10. Flies silent through the night

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE - KEY



### Across

- Rowena's title (**lady**)
- The world's fastest bird (**peregrine falcon**)
- A moral or lesson of a story (**theme**)
- The father of landscape architecture (**olmsted**)
- One who practices the magical arts (**conjurer**)

### Down

- The name and place of Waysa's people (**cherokee**)
- Mansion built by George Vanderbilt (**biltmore estate**)
- An winged nocturnal insect with large pale green wings (**luna moth**)
- Flies silent through the night (**owl**)
- Braeden's other best friend (**gideon**)

# Serafina and the Twisted Staff

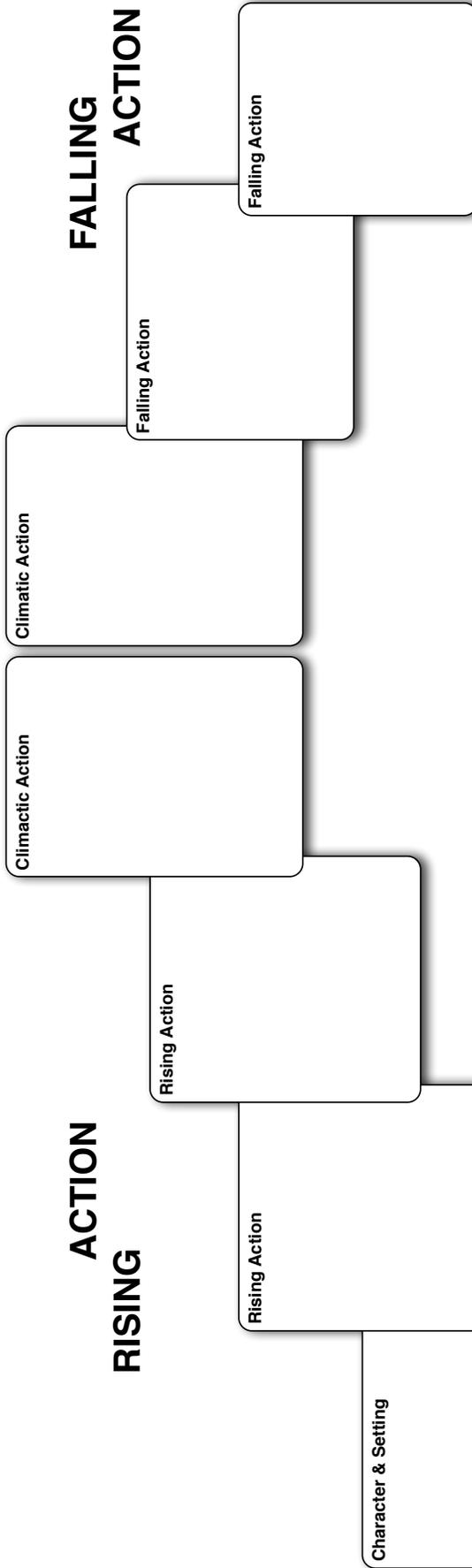
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## PACING CHART

### CLIMAX

### RISING ACTION

### FALLING ACTION



**Story Pacing:** Most stories follow a pattern of pacing. They start with a little bit about the character and setting, and then quickly get into rising action. The continued rising action leads to an exciting, action-packed climax. This, in turn, is followed by falling action. Use this chart to diagram the pattern for *Serafina and the Twisted Staff*.





# Serafina

and the Twisted Staff

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## TRACKING SERAFINA



### Serafina

Who she is, what she thinks about, how she feels, what she looks like, what she wants...

### Metaphors

Give one or more examples of metaphors associated with Serafina. (Metaphor: A figure of speech when a word or phrase is used in a non-literal way)



### Serafina-isms

Unusual expressions Serafina and the narrator use that help us understand Serafina's unique character.



### Relationship

Who does Serafina have relationships with? What kind? Any conflicts?

# Serafina and the Twisted Staff

## Serafina's Journey

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

How does Serafina change throughout the novel? How does she think about herself and what is her place in the world in the beginning? Where do you see that changing in the middle? What does she think in the end?

## Serafina Art

*Serafina and the Twisted Staff* contains a multitude of imagery that all students can use to base artistic creations upon. For example, students can work independently, with a partner, or in a small group to identify the five parts of the story, recreate a storyboard (by hand or digitally) to summarize the book, or draw a scene or the theme.

For students who are more artistically motivated, *Serafina and the Twisted Staff* describes a number of scenes in detail that could be drawn, painted, or sketched. Some detailed scenes include; multiple landscapes, fashion of the Gilded Age, architecture, portraits of characters (human and animal), battle scenes, and parts or all of the house. Students could also design and/or create sculptures or gargoyles from their own imaginations symbolizing an important event, theme, conflict, or resolution from the story.

### Compare and Contrast

Students can use one of the examples below or identify their own example for which to create imagery that indicates their understanding of these concepts within the book.

Forest vs the House  
Control vs Friendship  
Indoors vs Outdoors  
Light vs Dark  
Human vs Animal  
Urban vs Rural  
Old vs Young  
Friend vs Enemy  
Strong vs Weak

## THE ELEMENTS OF FICTION

### Character

Who is the main character? What is unusual about her? What is usual about her?

### Point of View

What is the point of view of the story (First Person, Second Person, Third Person Limited, Rotating Third Person Limited, or Omniscient)? From whose point of view is the story being experienced and told?

### Setting

What is the Time and Place of the story? How has it been portrayed to serve the story?



# Serafina

and the Twisted Staff

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE ELEMENTS OF FICTION

### Conflict

What are the Conflicts (and mysteries) of this story?

### Plot

What is the overall plot of the story?



# Serafina

and the Twisted Staff

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE ELEMENTS OF FICTION

### Voice

The “voice” of the story is how it sounds and feels when you’re reading it. The tone, style of writing, atmosphere, point-of-view, sentence syntax, and diction (choice of words) all come together to express the voice of the story.

Does this story have a strong voice? What are some of the ways the author captures that voice?

### Theme

The theme is similar to the moral/lesson of the story. It’s what the story is about underneath all the conflict and action. What are some of the themes of this story?

### Imagery & Symbolism

Imagery is the use of description and details to paint visual pictures in the reader’s mind. In many cases, images are repeated in different ways throughout the story in order to give them meaning and resonance. Imagery is often used as a form of symbolism. What are some examples of imagery in this story? What images reoccur multiple times?



# Serafina

and the Twisted Staff

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUIZ #1



### Quiz #1 Chapters 1-10

1. What is Serafina doing at the opening of the book?
2. What happens to Serafina after the carriage stops in the forest?
3. Who saved Serafina's life in chapter 3?
4. How does Serafina cross the river?
5. Who gives Serafina a ride to safety?
6. Who are Serafina's siblings?
7. What does the stone angle statue have that is special to Serafina?
8. What is the name of Braeden's dog?
9. Why is Pa upset with Serafina for spending time with her mother?
10. What is Pa's job at the Biltmore House?



# Serafina

and the Twisted Staff

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUIZ #2



### Quiz #2 Chapters 11-20

1. Who helps Serafina fix her hair for a fancy dinner?
2. What did Serafina break that was special to Mr. Vanderbilt?
3. Where does Detective Grathan interrogate Serafina and Braeden?
4. Where does Serafina take Braeden to talk?
5. After escaping the bats in the rafters, who attacks Serafina?
6. Who tells Serafina she doesn't belong at the Biltmore House?
7. Where does Serafina go when she feels she doesn't fit in at Biltmore House?
8. How does the hut Serafina finds smell inside?
9. How are the animals trapped?
10. Who does Serafina bite?



# Serafina

and the Twisted Staff

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUIZ #3



### Quiz #3 Chapters 21-30

1. When is a river a wall?
2. Who is Waysa?
3. Who killed Waysa's family?
4. How does Serafina learn to swim?
5. Who killed Serafina's father?
6. What happened to the wire that Pa showed Serafina?
7. What is the name of Braeden's peregrine falcon?
8. What does Lady Rowena have for every occasion?
9. When does this story take place?
10. What does Pa cook for dinner most nights?



### Quiz #4 Chapters 31-40

1. What did Rowena have rolled up under her arm?
2. Where do Rowena, Braeden, and Serafina agree to meet if there is an emergency?
3. Who disappears with Gidean?
4. Where does Serafina lead Mr. Vanderbilt and the men on the hunt?
5. What is “blackish, thorned, and deeply gnarled, with what looks like a slithering snake...?”
6. Serafina wakes up to realize that she, Waysa, and Braeden are \_\_\_\_\_? Where?
7. How does Serafina escape the cage?
8. Why does Mr. Vanderbilt think the coyotes have rabies?
9. What was Mr. Olmsted and Mr. Vanderbilt’s vision for the land around the Biltmore House?
10. Whose room does Serafina search?



### Quiz #5 Chapters 41-52

1. What animal does Rowena bring into the garden to kill Detective Grathan?
2. Which can fly higher and faster, a Peregrine Falcon or a Barn Owl?
3. What do the wolfhounds do once the Twisted Staff is gone?
4. What does the Twisted Staff allow its user to do?
5. What does Serafina turn into?
6. What happens to the carriage?
7. Serafina uses Uriah's reflexes against him in the final battle. What action does she predict he is going to take?
8. What do Serafina, Braeden, and the others do with all the caged animals?
9. What kind of animal is mounted on a stick on the fireplace mantle?
10. What "important new invention" does Mr. Vanderbilt bring out at the Christmas party?

## Quiz Keys

### Quiz #1 Chapters 1-10

1. Teasing a rat, practicing her rat catching skills
2. She is attacked by hounds.
3. The feral boy.
4. She is washed away by the current and is able to climb out on the other side of the river.
5. Her mother, the catamount.
6. The cubs.
7. The inscription about choosing important battles in life.
8. Gideon
9. She almost died in the forest at night visiting her mom.
10. Maintain the machines of the Biltmore House.

### Quiz #2 Chapters 11-20

1. Essie
2. Ming vase
3. Hidden room in the library
4. High up into the rafters above the Banquet Room
5. Gideon
6. Rowena
7. Craggy Mountains or Black Mountains
8. Awful, rancid
9. in cages
10. the old man



# Serafina

and the Twisted Staff

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## Quiz Keys

### Quiz #3 Chapters 21-30

1. waterfall
2. the feral boy
3. the conjurer
4. Ways throws her in and then teaches her to paddle
5. the conjurer
6. it was chewed
7. Kess
8. a different outfit
9. 1899 or late 1800's or late 19th century
10. Grilled chicken

### Quiz #4 Chapters 31-40

1. architectural drawings
2. on the roof
3. Cedric, Mr. Vanderbilt's dog
4. to the pinesap forest where the animals are trapped in cages
5. the Twisted Staff
6. cages like the animals
7. bends the wire until it breaks
8. no - they were possessed
9. reforestation
10. Grathan

### Quiz #5 Chapters 41-52

1. Rattlesnakes
2. Peregrine Falcon
3. Attack Rowena
4. Control animals
5. Black Panther
6. Serafina attacks the carriage and it goes off the bridge and crashes
7. To protect his daughter and get the Twisted Staff, he turns into an owl and flies after them
8. Free the animals
9. Owl
10. Striped candy canes