

Name: _____

READING EXERCISE: BUILDING CHARACTERS

One of the most important jobs of an author is to connect the reader to the main character. Why? Because in order to get you to want to turn the pages and keep reading, it's the author's job to make you care about the character. Let's look at our protagonist, Abigail Tarkana and list a fact you learned and how it made you feel. Follow the example.

FACT: Abigail doesn't have a mother.

FEEL: I feel sorry for her

FACT: _____

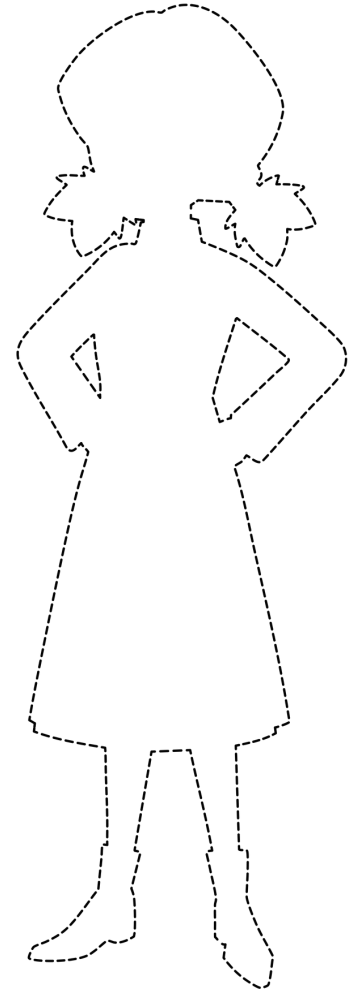
FEEL: _____

FACT: _____

FEEL: _____

FACT: _____

FEEL: _____



Color Me In!

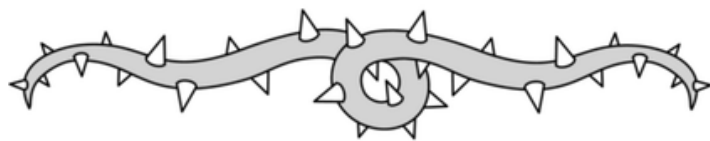
Extra credit: Write a short paragraph on how you felt on your first day of school!

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READING EXERCISE: CREATING TENSION

Did you know that tension is one of the most important parts of a book? What does it mean?

Tension is that nervous feeling you get when you're not sure what is going to happen next. If you KNOW and it's OKAY then nothing to worry about--no tension. If you KNOW and it's BAD then it's more like DREAD. But if you DON'T KNOW and it could be GOOD or BAD or TERRIBLE--that's tension. And it makes us want to know **WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN! NEXT!**



A mysterious creature is lurking
in the bushes outside the gate
to the Tarkana Fortress!

Pretend you go into the bushes.
Write a paragraph on what you
discover--describe the beast--
does it have fangs? Claws?

