

“Hooch” Student Worksheet – The Roaring 20s

Student Name _____

The History in Historical Fiction

DIRECTIONS: Before reading the story, discuss what you know about life in during the Roaring 20s with one or more students or your entire class and fill in the chart below with what you know. After each chapter, fill in information you learn about life during that era. After you read the story, complete the last frame, explaining what more you want to know.

Know	Learned	Want to Know

FOLLOW-UP: Where can you learn more about life in northern New York during the 1920s? Where can you verify the information the author provides about this time and place?

“Hooch” Student Worksheet - Chapter One: Town Boys

Student Name _____

Vocabulary – define the following words or phrases:

customs _____

bootlegger _____

rumrunner _____

hooch _____

Prohibition _____

milking parlor _____

influenza _____

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. What does Kenny’s uncle Raymond do for a living? _____

2. What makes Kenny different from the kids he thinks of as “town boys?” _____

3. What does the slang term “hooch” mean? _____

4. What time of year is it? _____

5. Why doesn’t Kenny fight the bullies? _____

What’s Going On? Reading Comprehension

1. How does Frank know about a crime that just happened the night before? _____

2. What is the attitude of the town boys towards enforcement of the Prohibition law? _____

3. Besides Prohibition, what other clue tells you the years in which “Hooch” is set? _____

4. What did the teacher mean when he said a boy who pitches pennies shouldn't pick on a boy who pitches hay? _____

5. What happened to Kenny's parents? _____

In your own words...

Kenny lives with his grandparents, whom he calls "Mémé" (*memmay*) and "Pépé" (*peppay*), because his family is French-Canadian. What are some names for grandparents you have heard that come from other languages and cultures or other parts of the country? What would you want *your* grandchildren to call you?

In the News

Instead of bullying, let's talk about the opposite: Look through today's newspaper for examples of people going out of their way to be kind to people who are different, who are new or who just might need a kind word to help them get by. Write a brief summary of what you found and how this article made you feel.

“Hooch” Student Worksheet - Chapter Two: The Roadster

Student Name _____

Vocabulary – define the following words or phrases:

roadster _____

oxen _____

sugaring _____

runningboard _____

burlap _____

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. What language does the Rascoe family speak at home? _____

2. What grade did Uncle Martin finish before he left school? _____

3. What chore is P  p   planning for the week? _____

4. What treat does Kenny promise the first of his cousins who can find him? _____

5. Why can't Kenny hide in the back seat of Uncle George's roadster? _____

What's Going On? Reading Comprehension

1. Why is Martin unhappy about his experience in school? _____

2. What goal does the Rascoe family want for Kenny to reach? _____

3. Why do the Rascoes need to get their wood cut soon? _____

4. What did Martin mean when he made a joke about George crossing the border? _____

In your own words...

When Martin said “Easy to get back and forth across that border, is it, George?” there were different reactions from different family members. What were those reactions, and why do you think each person reacted the way he or she did?

In the News: “Status symbols”

Kenny’s uncle George has a very flashy car, and now Kenny has an idea of how he was able to afford it. Look through today’s newspaper to find examples of “status symbols” - things that people buy to make themselves seem more impressive to others. Can you find examples of other ways that people do things to impress other people?

Divide the examples you’ve found into things that you think are innocent fun and things that you think are more about just plain showing off. Be prepared to explain why.

Innocent fun	Showing off

“Hooch” Student Worksheet - Chapter Three: The Stupid Law

Student Name _____

Vocabulary – define the following words or phrases:

temperence _____

bookkeeping _____

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. What did Raymond make for them to eat? _____

2. What does Raymond do for a living? _____

3. What makes Raymond say that people wanted the Prohibition law? _____

4. What does Uncle Paul do to make extra money? _____

5. What happened to Uncle Martin’s father? _____

What’s Going On? Reading Comprehension

1. When Kenny says to Raymond, “sometimes you have to arrest people we know,” who is he thinking of? _____

2. Raymond says that Kenny’s grandfather’s grandfather came to America. What would that person be to Kenny? _____

3. Why, in a conversation about Prohibition, does Raymond tell Kenny about Martin’s father? _____

In your own words...

Kenny loves both of his uncles, but he knows that George is breaking the law and that, if he told Raymond, that Raymond would have to arrest George. What would you do if you were Kenny?

In the News

According to Raymond, before the law was passed, the newspapers were full of columns in favor of Prohibition, and three-quarters of the states approved the new law. But now that they have the law, Kenny says, people don't like it and they don't want to obey it.

Look through the paper for stories about a problem you think could be solved with a new law. How would you write the law so that people would obey it? Would it be popular?

In the space below write out and organize potential solutions to the problem/issue the class has decided to work on. Consider whether these solutions will work short or long term or both. Jot down potential drawbacks.

Possible solution	Short term	Long term	Possible obstacles
Recycling of plastic products	x	x	People are in the habit of throwing plastic away. Passing and enforcing a law may be very difficult.

Draft a law of the class's solution: _____

Do you think this new law will be popular? Why or why not? _____

“Hooch” Student Worksheet – Making Connections

Student Name _____

Then and Now

DIRECTIONS: In chapter three, the story makes a reference to an “icebox” instead of a refrigerator which was not commonplace at the time. As you read each chapter, write down all the “old-technology” referred to in the story.

Chapter	Then	Function	Now

FOLLOW-UP: Use your newspaper and other sources to find items that serve the same function today. Search books and other sources for photos and drawings to illustrate objects from the past. Create a “Then and Now” poster with photos, illustrations and drawings.

“Hooch” Student Worksheet - Chapter Four: The Pierce Arrow

Student Name _____

Vocabulary – define the following words or phrases:

touring car _____

manure _____

flapper _____

tap _____

limbing _____

sapling _____

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. Who came to the farm in the Pierce Arrow? _____

2. What was Kenny doing with Eddie arrived? _____

3. What were P  p   and the others using to haul firewood? _____

4. Who had Eddie come to see? _____

5. What did Eddie need to get from him? _____

What’s Going On? Reading Comprehension

1. Why are Pierce Arrows rare in Kenny’s part of the world? _____

2. Why does it say that the car, and the girl, looked like the ones in the magazines, “except that they were in color”? _____

3. Why does the girl giggle when Kenny says “everything else is outdoors”? _____

4. Why doesn’t Kenny want to let the others know that Eddie is there? _____

In your own words...

It's not hard to tell that Eddie and his girlfriend are city people, but the story doesn't actually say that. What are some clues that the author puts in the story so that you know it without him having to say it?

In the News

A lot of people knew about luxury cars like the Pierce Arrow, but they were more familiar with cars like the Ford that more people could afford. Some feature stories in the newspaper are about exciting but expensive cars, vacation places or clothing. It's interesting to read about and fun to dream about those things, but they aren't likely to show up in your yard any more than a Pierce Arrow was likely to show up at P  p   and M  m  's.

Look for feature stories in today's paper that talk about clothes, cars, vacations and similar things. Classify each story as "realistic" or "just dreaming." Be prepared to explain why.

Realistic	Just Dreaming

“Hooch” Student Worksheet - Chapter Five: The Gangster

Student Name _____

Vocabulary – define the following words or phrases:

arithmetic _____

stoop _____

legitimate _____

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. Why is Kenny worried about talking to Raymond? _____

2. Why did Eddie stop to talk to the boys? _____

3. Where are Eddie and his girlfriend trying to go? _____

4. Why does Eddie ask Kenny if he’s busy the next weekend? _____

5. Why are the town boys surprised that Kenny knows Eddie? _____

What’s Going On? Reading Comprehension

1. Frank Ashline says, “Quite the brain!” and, a few minutes later, Eddie Nickels says, “Quite the scholar!” Those two expressions mean the exact same thing. What is the difference between Frank saying it and Eddie saying it? _____

2. Why does Eddie lower his voice when he asks Kenny about working at the party? _____

3. Why does Kenny lie to the town boys about the way he met Eddie? _____

In your own words...

What do you think of the way the town boys react when they realize that Kenny knows Eddie Nickels? Why are they so surprised, and how does it change the way they feel about Kenny? How would you feel if you were Kenny?

In the News

All the boys know who Eddie Nickels is, and seem excited to see him in person. Find stories in today's paper about well-known people who are exciting. Some may be good role models while others are not. Record your findings below and explain why each is or is not a good role model.

Well-known person	Role Model	Not	Why or why not?

“Hooch” Student Worksheet - Chapter Six: The Invitation

Student Name _____

Vocabulary – define the following words or phrases:

trusses _____

mucking _____

dooryard _____

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. Where is George taking Kenny for the weekend? _____

2. What chore are they doing while they talk about their plans? _____

3. What does George tell P  p   he wants Kenny to help him with? _____

4. Besides cleaning the barn and milking parlor, what chore does P  p   say Kenny has to finish before he can go? _____

What’s Going On? Reading Comprehension

1. Why does George say he’d call Eddie’s girlfriend any name she wants to be called? _____

2. Why does Eddie use a different last name instead of his own? _____

3. What does George think might happen if Raymond, Paul or Martin were around? _____

4. Why does M  m   need wood for her stove in the summertime? _____

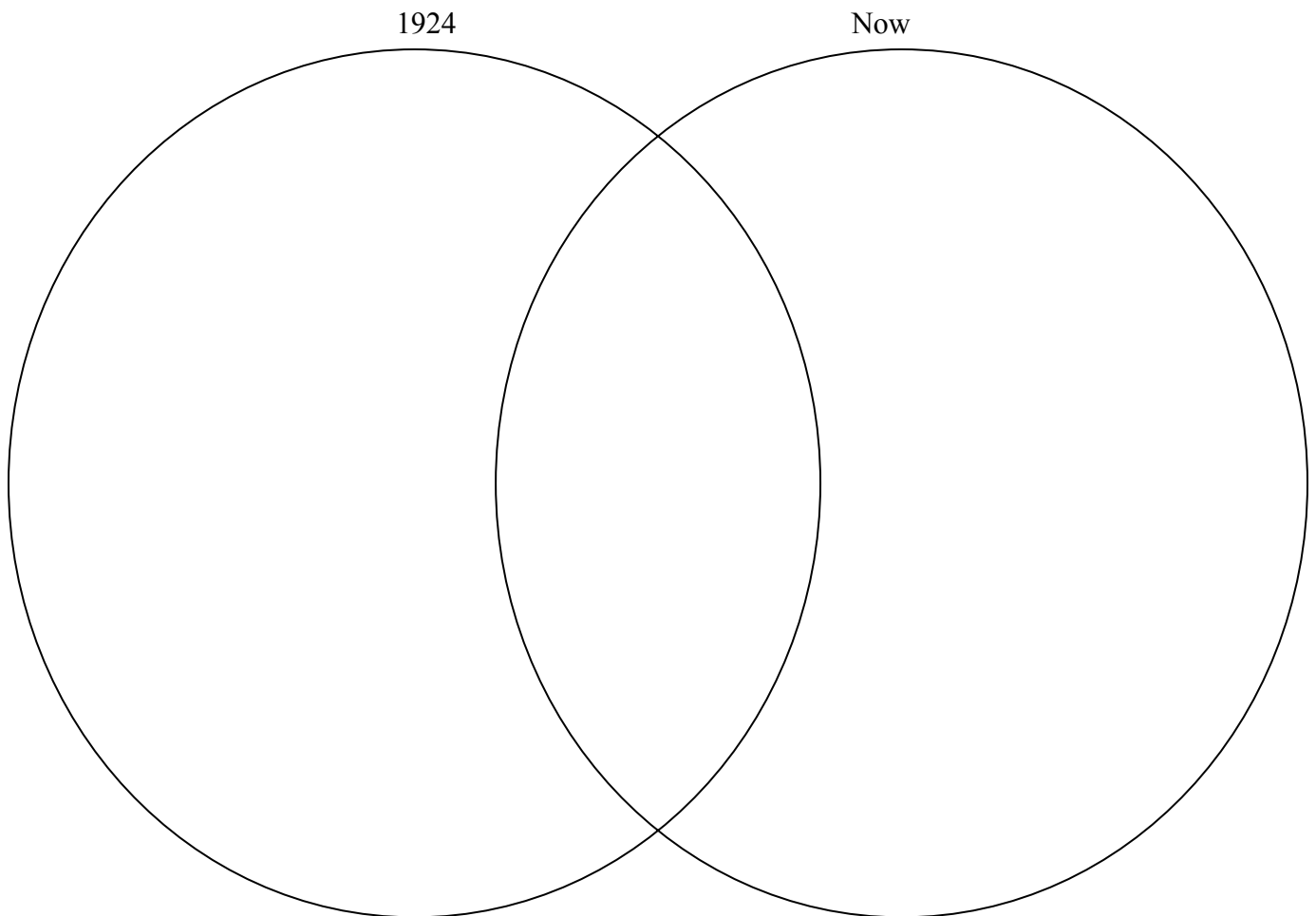
In your own words...

Do you think P  p   knows that George is a bootlegger? Explain your reasons for feeling the way you do.

In the News

Kenny has been working hard since school got out. Here's an ad from 1924 for something a hard-working person might need. Find some ads in today's paper that would appeal to people who do hard, physical work.

Use the Venn diagram below to compare and contrast this newspaper ad from the past with one you find in a recent newspaper.



“Hooch” Student Worksheet - Chapter Seven: The Party

Student Name _____

Vocabulary – define the following words or phrases:

French doors _____

Victrola _____

croquet _____

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. Why did Theda want Kenny to move the table? _____

2. What is a Victrola? _____

3. What were the men doing in the next room? _____

4. What did the Theda and her friends do the next day? _____

5. What did George and Kenny learn when they got back to the farm? _____

What’s Going On? Reading Comprehension

1. What two reasons make Kenny not want Theda to teach him to dance? _____

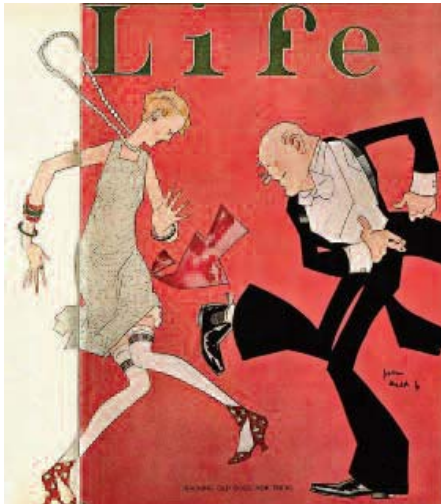
2. Why do the men start calling Kenny “Sheik”? _____

3. How do you know the men have a lot of money? _____

4. Why is it unusual for lights to be on at the farm? _____

In your own words...

Kenny got along well with Eddie and Theda's friends, and he made a lot of money. Eddie wants him to come back and work again the next time there is a party. Pretend you are a friend of Kenny's and write him a letter telling him what you think he should do, and why.



In the News

Cartoonist John Held (1889-1958) was one of the most popular magazine illustrators and cartoonists of the 1920s, and his cartoons helped define the flapper.

Look at today's comics section and find cartoons about current fashions and fads. Which ones do you think are fair? Which ones are unfair? Which ones do you think are funny? And why?

“Hooch” Student Worksheet - Chapter Eight: The Waiting Room

Student Name _____

Vocabulary – define the following words or phrases:

grazed _____

infection _____

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. Who shot Raymond? _____

2. Why was Paul still at the farm while everyone else was at the hospital? _____

3. What are Iréne and Marie-Claire doing? _____

4. How can the reader tell that Mémé does not speak very much English? _____

5. Who stays at the hospital overnight to be with Raymond? _____

What’s Going On? Reading Comprehension

1. Why does Pépé keep saying “To come home from France for this!” _____

2. Who was Dennis? _____

3. How can you tell that George feels guilty about being with bootleggers? _____

4. Why does Kenny say “What difference does it make?” _____

In your own words...

What do you think Kenny is saying to himself as he sits on the waiting room floor thinking about things? Write a journal entry that you think Kenny might write, based on the things he's thinking about.

In the News

Medicine has changed a lot since Raymond was being treated, and it is still changing. Look through today's newspaper and find examples of new ways in which people's health and wellness is being changed for the better, and ways in which we are attempting to solve health problems. Pick one article from what you've found and write a brief summary and what you think about it.

“Hooch” Student Worksheet - Chapter Nine: Homecoming

Student Name _____

Facts and Details: Literal Meaning

1. Why will Kenny have to help Raymond get dressed in the morning? _____

2. What did they have for dessert? _____

3. Why is the mink or fox able to kill Mémé’s chickens? _____

4. What will Raymond do for a job now? _____

5. What change is George making in his life? _____

What’s Going On? Reading Comprehension

1. What subject does the family avoid discussing until after dinner is over? _____

2. Why is Raymond reluctant to come back to the farm? _____

3. Why is Kenny looking forward to living with Paul and Hélène during the week? _____

4. What does Raymond mean when he says maybe George should be welcomed home? _____

5. Why does Kenny feel more comfortable playing hide-and-seek with his cousins now? _____

In your own words...

The story isn't quite over yet. Kenny still has all the money that Eddie gave him for working at the party. What do you think he should do with that money?

Write a brief essay explaining what you would do in Kenny's place, and why.

In the News

Raymond is making a change in his life because he has no choice. George is also making a change, but it is a decision he wants to make. Find stories in the paper about people whose lives are changing. Which changes are necessary, and which are the result of choices those people have made? Record what you find below.

Change with no choice	Change because of a choice

Follow-up: Pretend that you are either Raymond or George and write how you feel about the future from their point-of-view. Be prepared to share what you've written with the class.

“Hooch” Student Worksheet – Making Connections

Student Name _____

Text to Self, Text and World

DIRECTIONS: What connections can you make to Kenny and his story? Use the questions below to guide but not limit your thinking.

TEXT to SELF

Do you know anyone who is like Kenny in some way? Have you lived in or visited a place similar to Altona?

TEXT to TEXT

Have you read about anyone who reminded you of Kenny or any of the other characters? Have you read texts that deal with a struggle between what is right and wrong? Have you read other texts about life on a farm? Have you read newspapers, books or viewed TV programs or movies about the 1920s?

TEXT to WORLD

Does Altona or Plattsburgh remind you of your home town? Do events told in the story remind you of current events in your community, state, nation or world?

FOLLOW-UP: Make connections between *Hooch* and your newspaper and between Kenny and current events that affect your community, state, nation and world.