

## Reading Strategy (page 186)

### Visualize

#### The Secret Life of Walter Mitty JAMES THURBER

The descriptive details in this story help you visualize, or see, the daydreams and the real-life scenes in Walter Mitty’s “double life.” When you read a scene, real or imagined, try to see, hear, and feel everything that is described.

### ACTIVITY

**Directions** Use the chart to record the descriptive details in each scene. You may want to sketch as well as write, for some visual details. The first row is an example.

	See	Hear	Feel
1st Daydream	inside military plane, full-dress uniform, other military personnel	commands, responses, engine going ta-pocketa-pocketa	excitement, apprehension confident, in control
1st Real Scene	1.	2.	3.
2nd Daydream	4.	5.	6.
2nd Real Scene	7.	8.	9.

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### Active Reading Graphic Organizer

Continue charting the details of the scenes as they are presented in the story. Ask your teacher for a copy of the Three-Column Grid Graphic Organizer for this purpose.

## Selection Vocabulary Practice (page 186)

### The Secret Life of Walter Mitty JAMES THURBER

#### Vocabulary

**distraught** *adj.* very upset; confused  
**haggard** *adj.* having a worn and tired look  
**craven** *adj.* extremely cowardly  
**pandemonium** *n.* wild uproar  
**disdainful** *adj.* showing scorn for something or someone regarded as unworthy

#### EXERCISE A Practice with Synonyms

A synonym is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. Write the vocabulary word that is a synonym for the word in italics in each sentence.

1. During the battle, the lieutenant slipped to the back of the lines in a *spineless* manner. \_\_\_\_\_
2. When the news anchor announced that school would be cancelled because of the snowstorm, there was *mayhem* in the classroom. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The aristocrat gave a *haughty* look to the beggar. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The *exhausted* mother of thirteen children tucked the toddler into his bed for the night. \_\_\_\_\_

#### EXERCISE B Applying Synonyms

Use a thesaurus to help you rewrite the following sentences using a synonym for each word in bold.

1. He looked **distraught** and **haggard**.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Pandemonium** broke loose in the courtroom.  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### EXERCISE C Responding to the Selection

Pretend that you are Walter Mitty and having a daydream as portrayed in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. On a separate sheet of paper, write a scenario in which you assume the role of Walter in one of his daring scenes. Remember to take his point of view. Use at least THREE synonyms in place of vocabulary words in your answer.

## Vocabulary Strategy (page 186)

### Multiple-Meaning Words: Distinguishing Definitions

#### The Secret Life of Walter Mitty JAMES THURBER

“He wore his full-dress uniform, with the heavily braided white cap pulled down rakishly over one cold gray eye.”

—James Thurber, “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty”

**Connecting to Literature** The word *cold*, which can refer to temperature or the lack of passion or enthusiasm, is a multiple-meaning word. **Multiple-meaning words** are words that have several related definitions listed within a single dictionary entry.

**Multiple-meaning words are common in English. Here are a few.**

Word	Meanings	Examples
row	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>things arranged in straight orderly line</li> <li>to propel a boat or vessel with an oar or similar object</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The students lined up in a <i>row</i>.</li> <li>The boys used oars to <i>row</i> the boat.</li> </ul>
raced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>participated in a contest of speed</li> <li>to run an engine too rapidly by increasing the amount of fuel that goes to the engine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The horses <i>raced</i> to the finish line.</li> <li>He <i>raced</i> the engine to get the attention of the pretty girl.</li> </ul>
snap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to make a sudden, distinct sound like cracking a whip</li> <li>to close with a fastener that uses pressure to attach two pieces together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We could hear tree branches <i>snap</i> in the damaging winds.</li> <li>The mother told her son to <i>snap</i> his coat before going outside.</li> </ul>

## ACTIVITY

**Directions** Use context clues to determine the meaning of each underlined word. Write down this meaning. Then use a dictionary to write at least one additional meaning for the word.

1. He drove around the streets aimlessly for a time, and then he drove past the hospital on his way to the parking lot.

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2. A nurse hurried over and whispered to Renshaw, and Mitty saw the man turn pale.

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3. “Give me a fountain pen!”

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## Grammar Practice (page 186)

### Parts of the Sentence: Complete Subjects and Complete Predicates

#### The Secret Life of Walter Mitty JAMES THURBER

Most sentences have additional words that tell more about the simple subject and the simple predicate.

The **complete subject** is made up of the simple subject and all the words that tell about it.

**The members of the team** voted to buy new uniforms.

The **complete predicate** is made up of all the words that tell what the subject is or does, including the simple predicate.

The principal of the school **invited us to a board meeting.**

A good way to find the complete subject and complete predicate in a sentence is to find the simple subject and simple predicate first.

The **president** of our class **won** the election by a landslide.

Once you have located the simple subject and predicate, then you can divide the entire sentence into complete subject and complete predicate.

The **president** of our class | **won** the election by a landslide.

### ACTIVITY

**Directions** Draw one line under the simple subject. Draw two lines under the simple predicate. Draw a vertical line ( | ) between the complete subject and the complete predicate.

1. Walter Mitty was daydreaming in his car.
2. Walter Mitty pulled on his gloves.
3. He repaired the machine with a fountain pen.
4. The attendant parked the car for Walter Mitty.
5. The Commander with the heavily braided white cap stared at the ice.

## Selection Quick Check *(page 186)*

### The Secret Life of Walter Mitty JAMES THURBER

Use complete sentences to answer the following questions.

1. What happens in Mitty's airplane daydream?

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2. What is Mitty supposed to buy while his wife has her hair done?

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3. Why does Mitty take his car to a garage to have the chains taken off?

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4. Where does Mitty meet his wife after her hair is done?

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5. What role does Mitty play in all of his daydreams?

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