

## LANGUAGE ARTS: HANDOUT C2

### Story Analysis Key

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

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

1. Title *Monkey, A Journey to the West*
2. Author *retold by David Kherdian*
3. Hero or heroine (protagonist) *Monkey*
4. Protagonist's character traits (What is he/she like?)  
*obstinate, insatiable, renegade, instructor, cunning, aggressive, rogue, irreverent, mischievous, protector, impatient, audacious, impudent, insolent, cocky, stubborn, prankster, impulsive*
5. Other main characters and their traits (For each one list their name and one word that describes them. Instead of general descriptions like "nice" and "bad," try to find words that really describe the characters, such as "hardworking" or "disrespectful.")  
*Xuanzang (Pilgrim, Tripitaka, Hsuan Tsang): indolent, humorless, fictive, joyless, peevish, frail, fallible, fearful, whiner, bumbling, irritable, timid*  
*Pigsy: jealous, grumbler, lustful, nag, complainer*  
*Sandy: humble, repentant, zealous, caretaker, follower, obedient*
6. Central problem (What does the main character face?)  
*Part 1: Monkey is insatiable, irreverent, and mischievous.*  
*Part 2: Monkey needs to provide assistance to Tripitaka in obtaining the scriptures.*  
*Monkey wants immortality since he is worried that his life of pleasure will end.*  
*(Daoists believe that Monkey is struggling with the forces of nature to reach a goal of balance.)*  
*Overall problem: bridling the mind and will. Monkey needs to rid himself of his bad karma.*
7. Obstacles (things to overcome in order to solve problem mentioned above). What prevents the main character from accomplishing his/her goal?
  1. *Monkey needs to learn patience.*
  2. *Monkey needs to think before he acts.*
  3. *Monkey needs to make alliances with Pigsy and Sandy.*
  4. *Monkey must accept Xuanzang's limitations.*
  5. *Monkey needs to obtain the fan and in order to do this he needs to overcome Bull Demon and his wife.*
  6. *Monkey must defeat bandits.*
  7. *Monkey must defeat demons.*

8. Setting: *7th century, China and India*

9. How does the protagonist solve the problem?

*Monkey remains mischievous and partly controlled. He succeeds in ridding himself of his bad karma and achieves enlightenment. Thanks to Monkey, Xuanzang brings back the sutras from India.*

10. Plot line (no more than 5 sentences).

11. Major theme (author's message). Why did the author write the story?

*Mutual dependence, communal effort, virtue of self-control, necessity of humbling oneself in order to serve good rather than evil*