



LOFTY ACHIEVEMENTS



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SENIOR AUTHORS

Virginia A. Arnold
Carl B. Smith

LITERATURE CONSULTANTS

Joan I. Glazer
Margaret H. Lippert



Macmillan Publishing Company
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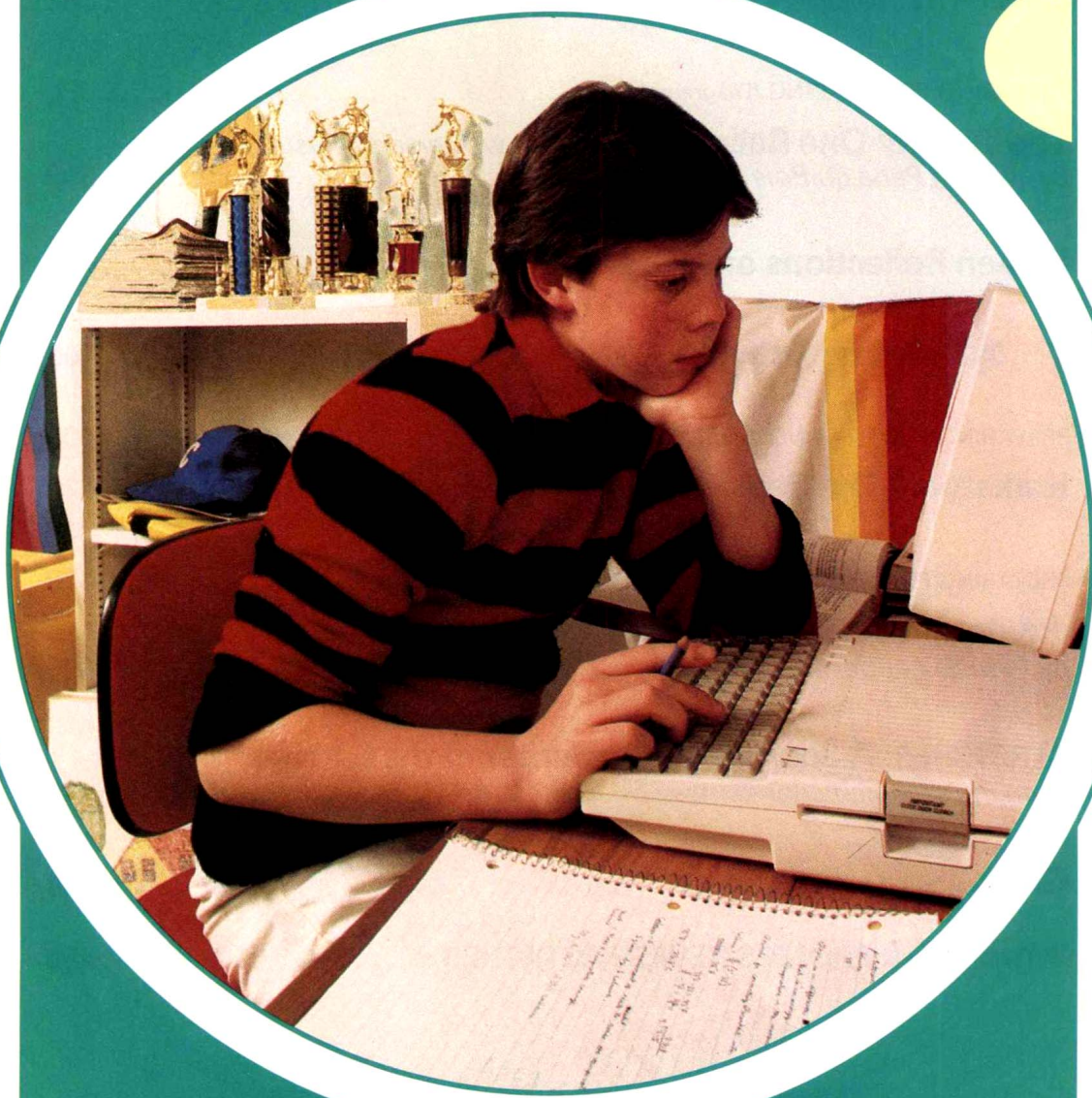
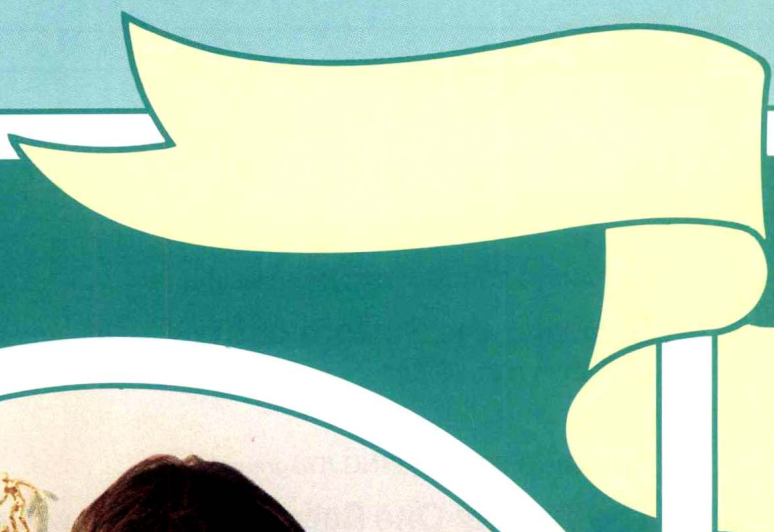
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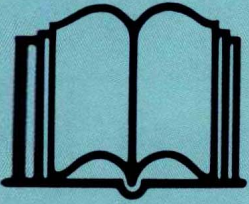
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UNIT ONE

LEVEL 14

WORKING IT OUT



PREPARING FOR READING

Learning Vocabulary

1. Mr. Skinner left his company job to start an enterprise that would involve the whole family.
2. He was convinced that there would be many potential customers.
3. The flyers generated such a great response that the Skinners had to temporarily disconnect their phones.
4. Confusion on the first day of business made it difficult to put events in their proper perspective.

enterprise potential generated
temporarily perspective

Developing Background and Skills

Literary Elements

Authors think about several important **literary elements**, or story parts, as they plan their writing. The story below and the discussion that follows will help you to understand these literary elements.

Amanda thought that having a business of her own would be an easy way to earn extra money. First she would have to think of something that the people of Profit, Iowa, would pay for. But it also ought to be something she *liked* to do. What could it be? She glanced at the clock. Had three hours really passed? Well, she would have to get serious. Finally, she came up with what she thought was a brilliant plan—she would listen to complaints. Everyone loved to complain, but no one liked to listen. Was it really eleven o'clock? Of course, all she had to do now was write an ad. That should be a snap. But somehow, she just couldn't get the first sentence right. Now it was midnight. A business of your own is certainly a lot of work, she thought.

Everything that happens in the story is part of the plot. **Plot** refers to the action of a story. Story events can be summarized to describe the plot. The plot of the story about Amanda can be summed up by *Amanda wants her own business but has a hard time getting started.*

The **setting** is the time and place of the story. The place may be real or imaginary. The author often tells you the place. In the story, it is the imaginary town of Profit. The time may be the past, the present, or the future. What clues help you know that the story takes place in the present?

The feeling that a story gives the reader is called the **mood**. Different stories may produce such moods as anger, horror, suspense, sorrow, and happiness. Would you agree that the mood of the story is somewhat humorous?

Theme is the general truth about life that a story conveys, that is, its overall message. The theme of the story about Amanda is *Things are not always as easy as they seem.*

Narrative point of view refers to the person through whose eyes the story is told. The point of view of the story above is third person from Amanda's point of view. This means that the author reports what Amanda sees, thinks, and feels. In the third person "all-knowing," the author knows everything and can reveal the thoughts and feelings of all characters. In a first-person narrative, a person called "I" describes all the events. The "I" can tell only what he or she knows or sees.

As you read the next selection, think about how you would summarize the main events in the plot. Decide how you would describe the story's setting, mood, theme, and narrative point of view.

