

firmly. Mac wasn't sure, but he thought the red in her eyes was clearing.

Before they could ask any questions, Dennis yelled, "We're here!" Giddy with relief, he swung the truck into the station's large parking lot. It was strewn with debris, and he had to park at the very entrance.

The only other recognizable object around was an old truck even more beat up than theirs. Dennis hoped desperately that it was Petey's.

"What if it's a trap?" whispered Dennis.

"I'm not sure we have any alternatives," Mac replied, eyeing Anna warily, "but let's stay quiet."

Dennis pulled the keys from the ignition, and the group clambered out. Mac saw Anna's right limbs twitching. They moved as quickly and quietly as they could, peering nervously at the dark woods surrounding the lot. Suddenly, Anna's rogue leg kicked out and sent an empty can clattering across the concrete, deafening in the silence. They froze. For a moment, nothing seemed to happen.

Then Mac noticed the debris around them stirring, as if blown by distant wind. "What the-" he started, but Dennis pointed wordlessly. Mac gasped. From every direction, figures were emerging from the woods. A sea of zombies was closing in, slowly but steadily. They had nowhere to run.

Mac picked up a long slat of wood, and Dennis grabbed a dented garbage can lid. Neither had much faith in their makeshift weapons.

Suddenly, Anna's right arm again reached for Mac's throat. Dennis dropped the lid and struggled to pull her arm away, desperate to save Mac. "Careful!" squeaked Jeremiah. "Don't hurt her!"

"I'm trying," Dennis protested, "but she's gonna kill Mac!"

They remained at an impasse, Anna gripping Mac's neck and Dennis pulling at Anna's arm while Jeremiah stared into her crimson eyes. "Come back, Anna," he implored. "I know you're in there!" She held his gaze but didn't ease her grasp.

Just then, from the door of the radio station burst out a heavysset, wild-looking man lugging an enormous speaker. The speaker blared ripping bluegrass, so loud that Dennis could feel his teeth vibrating. Jeremiah kept his focus, though, still speaking to Anna. The crowd of zombies had come to a standstill, almost as though they were observing the standoff. Anna's arm didn't budge.

Mac's eyes bulged, and his wood slat clattered to the ground. Twangy guitar and thumping drums rang out. Dennis's head spun with panic. "Anna, come back!" cried Jeremiah. Despite the music, the air felt frozen. "Come back to us!" He threw his arms around her waist-half restraint and half embrace.

Finally, just as Mac's knees started to give out, an especially loud twang rang from the speaker. Anna dropped her arm with a loud gasp. Mac stumbled backward. As quickly as it had gathered, the zombie horde began to disperse, loping back into the woods. Two zombies lingered, looking confused.

"I guess they really *don't* like bluegrass," Mac commented weakly, rubbing his neck.

"Depends which 'they' you mean," the man chuckled, lowering the volume slightly. "The zombies hate

it. But the people inside love it. You okay?"

Mac nodded, and the man continued. "Yup, they're still human at the core. Looks like your friend there might be somewhere in between right now." Jeremiah put a protective hand on Anna's back. "Petey Coltrain, by the way," the man said.

The group made its introductions and watched in amazement as Petey clapped a hand on the shoulders of the two lingering zombies, spoke briefly, and ushered them into the station.

"How are you still alive?" blurted Mac. "I mean, with all these zombies around?"

"Pure dumb luck and stubbornness," Petey said proudly. "At first I tried to stay quiet and hide like everyone else - but that didn't work for most folks," he grimaced. "Decided if I was gonna go, it'd be playing bluegrass. Turns out, that's the secret weapon."

"Bluegrass?" Dennis was incredulous.

"Well, music. I've tried classical, country, rap - it all worked, but I'm partial to bluegrass. It confuses them and eventually breaks through the infection. But it's not enough just to blare music at 'em. You need to engage, talk to them. The more you can make them realize you're a person, the better they'll remember that they are, too."

"That's exactly what you did, Jeremiah!" Dennis again felt a flash of pride at the boy's brave compassion.

"That's right. Well done, fella," Petey gave Jeremiah a firm handshake. "Your help will be most welcome if you're willing to stay and give it."

"I am!" Jeremiah glowed. Then his face fell. "So . . . things will never be like they were before?" he asked sadly.

"Afraid not," replied Petey. "But hopefully we'll all understand the world and one another a little better from now on. The zombies are here, and we can't change that. And there's no going back to how life was before the plague hit. But it's literally going to be the *end* of the world if we don't work through it now."

Anna was looking abashed. "Can you ever forgive me?" she asked Mac, unable to meet his eyes.

"There's no shame," Petey declared, and Mac nodded vigorously. "You fought it, and you're still here. Now that a few zombies have recovered, they're helping me reach others. You can help, too." Turning to the others, he said, "You're all welcome to stay and join the effort. Not that you've got a ton of options."

They laughed wryly, remembering the horde outside. "We'd love to," said Dennis as the others added their agreement. He put his arms around Mac's and Jeremiah's shoulders, and both extended theirs around Anna's. Slowly, her arms - left and right - lifted to join the embrace.

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The End.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where are Dennis, Mac, Jeremiah, and Anna heading to at the beginning of the text?

- A. Petey Coltrain's radio station
- B. Jeremiah's family's house
- C. the nearest big city
- D. a different part of the woods

2. When is the climax of this story?

- A. when Anna wriggles her way into the front seat of the car, next to Dennis
- B. when Petey's speaker gives out a loud twang and the zombies begin to disperse
- C. when Anna is gripping Mac's neck, and they are surrounded by a horde of zombies
- D. when Mac, Dennis, Jeremiah, and Anna finally embrace, after Anna has become human again

3. Please read these sentences from the text:

"Anna's right arm swung forward, whacking the radio console. She struck it again, but her clumsy movements only nudged the volume louder. [...]"

Anna's left arm shot out and grabbed the right. She wrenched it away from the radio and clutched it to her chest, shaking. Jeremiah peeked out from behind his hands. 'Anna, can you hear us? Are you a zombie?' he asked tentatively. Miraculously, she seemed to be regaining control."

What conclusion can be drawn from these sentences?

- A. Anna cannot stand the sound of bluegrass music.
- B. Anna has almost completely become a zombie, and there's little her friends can do to save her.
- C. Jeremiah thinks he and the others should leave Anna behind if she's becoming a zombie.
- D. Anna is partly a zombie, but part of her is still human and is fighting for control.

4. How can Jeremiah best be described throughout this text?

- A. compassionate and determined
- B. immature and frightened
- C. daring and reckless
- D. confused and upset

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. A group of friends try to find help as their friend turns into a zombie, only to learn that almost no other humans are left in the country.
- B. A group of friends try to find help as their friend turns into a zombie, and learn that music and human engagement could be the solution they need.
- C. A group of friends try to find help as their friend turns into a zombie, but manage to find the solution they need on their own.
- D. A group of friends try to find help as their friend turns into a zombie and almost don't make it to Petey Coltrain's radio station in time to help her.

6. Please read these sentences from the text:

"Mac's eyes bulged, and his wood slat clattered to the ground. Twangy guitar and thumping drums rang out. Dennis's head spun with panic. 'Anna, come back!' cried Jeremiah. Despite the music, the air felt frozen. 'Come back to us!'"

Why might the author have used so many short sentences in a row in this part of the story?

- A. to heighten the tension and excitement of the story
- B. to make sure the events of the story were especially clear
- C. to give the reader a sense of calm and peace
- D. to give the reader a sense of confusion and anger

7. Please choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Anna regained control of herself ____ the music on the speaker gave a loud twang.

- A. when
- B. before
- C. although
- D. so

8. What does Petey say is the key to breaking through the infection helping the zombies become human again, aside from music?

9. Explain Jeremiah's special importance to the story's resolution. Support your explanation with details and evidence from the text.

10. What is a major theme or message this story conveys? Support your answer with evidence from the text. USE RACES

Fidget Spinners

Fidget spinners took the world by storm in 2017. They were touted as a device that could help people focus and they quickly became collectible toys that stores could not keep on the shelves. Their popularity spread rapidly. Despite their popularity, not everyone thought they were positive and there was quite a bit of backlash from frustrated teachers.

The history of the fidget spinner is actually murky because no one has been able to trace the invention of the spinner back to a specific person. Some news agencies had erroneously claimed that Catherine Hettinger was the inventor of the fidget spinner because she filed a patent for a "spinning toy" in 1993. A patent allows someone to be the only person to make and sell something for a specific amount of time. Hettinger's toy was not similar to the structure of fidget spinners though and it was later determined that she was not the original inventor.

There are many different makers of fidget spinners that all use very similar designs. A bearing is in the middle of the spinner that allows the user to easily spin it. A spinner usually has three extensions that are weighted in order to help facilitate quicker spinning. Fidget spinners come in a variety of materials, colors and designs. Some fidget spinners have logos on them and some even light up.

Different social media platforms were part of the reason that fidget spinners became so popular so quickly. People realized that fidget spinners could be used to perform tricks so they would record themselves and share the videos. There are countless videos online that show people performing a variety of tricks with fidget spinners.

Fidget spinners became wildly popular and many stores could not keep up with the demand and kept selling out of the toys. They were the top selling items for many online stores that sold toys and they began to be sold in gas stations and craft stores. It wasn't just toymakers that wanted to take advantage of the popularity of fidget spinners. There are even some apps that feature a digital fidget spinner.

Teachers across the country were not as enthralled with fidget spinners as their students seemed to be. While the product claimed to help people focus, many teachers believed they were more of a distraction as students spent too much time concentrating on fidget spinners. Schools reacted to this by banning them from classrooms. It is worth noting that there have been no studies that show that fidget spinners actually help students focus, which is contrary to claims made by fidget spinner manufacturers.

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Circle the answer and then write down context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

1. touted

a. advertised

b. criticized

c. prevented

context clues: _____

2. backlash

a. caution

b. praise

c. reaction

context clues: _____

3. murky

a. unclear

b. clear

c. unfortunate

context clues: _____

4. erroneously

a. correctly

b. finally

c. wrongly

context clues: _____

5. facilitate

a. prevent

b. help

c. slow

context clues: _____

6. enthralled

a. annoyed

b. fascinated

c. worried

context clues: _____

7. contrary

a. opposite

b. exactly

c. supported

context clues: _____

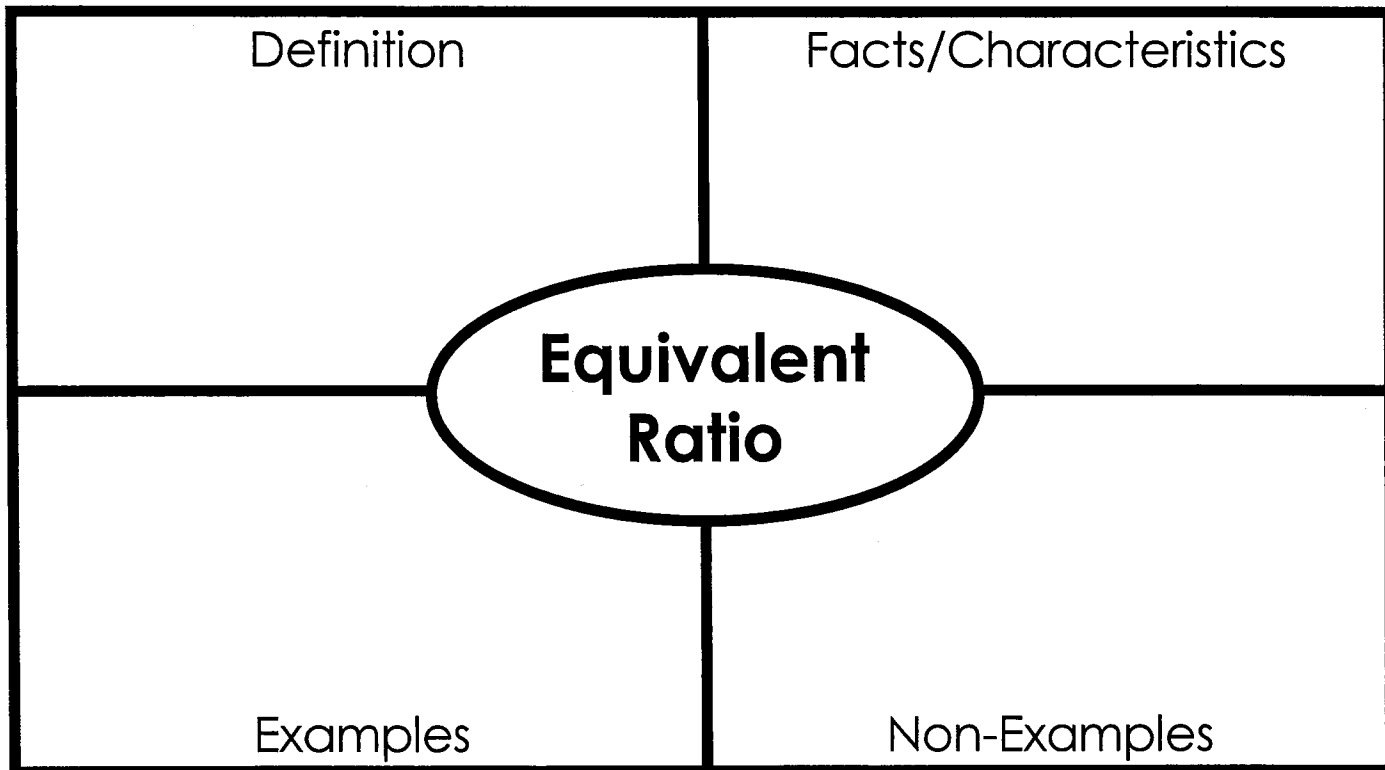
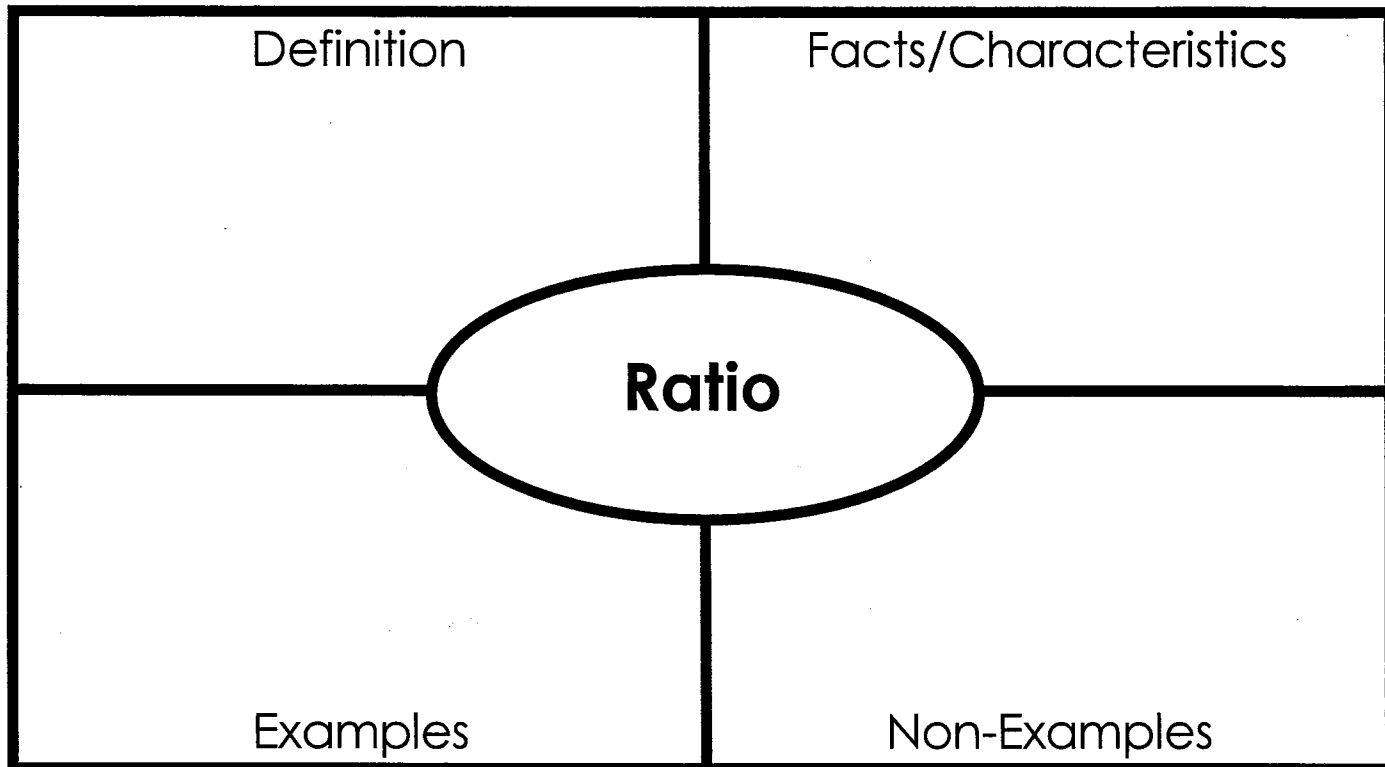
Name: _____

Date: _____



Equivalent Ratios

VOCABULARY



Name: _____

Date: _____



Equivalent Ratios

GUIDED NOTES

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:

- **Equivalent Ratios:** _____ that describe the same _____

EQUIVALENT RATIOS

1. You can find equivalent ratios by _____ or _____ each quantity in a ratio by the same number.
2. Write 2 equivalent ratios for each ratio below:

3 to 20	5:6
5:15	9:24
$\frac{10}{20}$	$\frac{18}{32}$

3. You can solve real-life problems using _____ ratios

GUIDED PRACTICE

Carol is mixing pink paint. The ratio of red to white paint is 2:1. If Carol uses 6 parts red paint. How much white paint does she need?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Equivalent Ratios

PRACTICE PROBLEMS

<p>#1 Write 2 equivalent ratios for the ratio below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:16</p>	<p>#2 Write 2 equivalent ratios for the ratio below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 to 18</p>
<p>#3 Write 2 equivalent ratios for the ratio below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">$\frac{12}{16}$</p>	<p>#4 Write 2 equivalent ratios for the ratio below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22:33</p>
<p>#5 The ratio of dogs to cats at the animal shelter is 4:5. If there are 20 cats, how many dogs are there?</p>	<p>#6 The ratio of sugar to flour in the recipe is 1 to 2. If you use 5 cups of sugar, how much flour do you need to use?</p>
<p>#7 The ratio of girls to boys in the grade is 6 to 8. If there are 120 girls, how many boys are there?</p>	<p>#8 The ratio of soccer balls to baseballs is 12 to 15. If there are 48 soccer balls, how many baseball are there?</p>