

Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story
Grade 4: Fiction, Unit 1

Readers, today you will read a story called "Papa's Parrot." After you read the story, you will be asked to stop and answer a few questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

<p>1. What kind of person is Mr. Tillian?</p> <p><i>Inferring about Characters and Other Story Elements: Character Traits, Supporting Thinking with Text Evidence</i></p>	<p>2. Reread the lines below. These lines represent a turning point for Harry. How did Harry change from the beginning to the end of the story and why?</p> <p><i>"I'm here, you stupid bird! I'm here!" Harry yelled. He threw the peppermints at the cage, and the bird screamed and clung to its perch. Harry sobbed, "I'm here." The tears were coming. Harry leaned over the glass counter. "Papa." Harry buried his face in his arms. "Where's Harry?" repeated the bird. Harry sighed and wiped his face on his sleeve. He watched the parrot. He understood now: someone had been saying, for a long time, "Where's Harry? Miss him."</i></p> <p><i>Character Response/Change</i></p>
<p>3. Reread the lines below. Why might the author have included this part?</p> <p><i>At home things were different. Harry and his father joked with each other at the dinner table as they always had—Mr. Tillian teasing Harry about his smelly socks; Harry teasing Mr. Tillian about his blubbery stomach. At home things seemed all right.</i></p> <p><i>Analyzing Parts of a Story in Relation to the Whole</i></p>	<p>4. Write about a theme (or life lesson) that this story develops. Use details from the story to support your answer.</p> <p><i>Determining Themes/Cohesion</i></p>

