

Name _____

The Inventor's Folly: A Comedy of Contraptions

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Walter Wobbleton was known for his eccentric and wacky inventions. He was a creative thinker and didn't mind taking risks, even if it meant creating contraptions that often failed. Walter's humorous and adventurous personality made his inventions entertaining, even if they were impractical. On the other hand, Samuel Gearsley was meticulous and precise in his approach to inventing. He valued accuracy and functionality in his creations. Samuel's attention to detail and commitment to practicality resulted in inventions that, while well-made, lacked the humor and charm of Walter's creations. Their contrasting personalities fueled their rivalry, as they each believed their approach was superior.
2. The theme of humor and laughter is prevalent throughout the story. Walter and Samuel's inventions often caused laughter, whether due to their eccentricity or their comical failures. As the rivalry between the two inventors unfolded, it became evident that their pursuit of recognition and success had transformed into a quest to spread happiness and laughter. They realized that making people smile was a greater achievement than winning competitions or accolades. In the end, they chose to collaborate on inventions that would bring joy to others, embracing the idea that laughter was the most valuable outcome of their work.
3. The story conveys a message about the value of creativity, teamwork, and spreading happiness. Creativity is celebrated as Walter and Samuel invent their eccentric contraptions. Teamwork becomes important as they eventually join forces to create inventions that bring joy to people's lives. The story emphasizes that the true worth of an invention isn't just its practicality but also its ability to make people laugh and brighten their day. It suggests that collaboration and the pursuit of shared happiness can lead to more meaningful and fulfilling outcomes than individual success.
4. As a judge in the grand competition, I would have found Walter Wobbleton's invention, the "Auto-Umbrella," the most entertaining. While it may not have been the most practical invention, its comical failures and unpredictability would have made it a source of laughter and amusement. The element of surprise and the humorous mishaps associated with the "Auto-Umbrella" would have captured my attention and entertained both me and the spectators. In a competition where laughter was valued, Walter's invention would have stood out for its ability to bring joy and amusement to those witnessing its antics.

