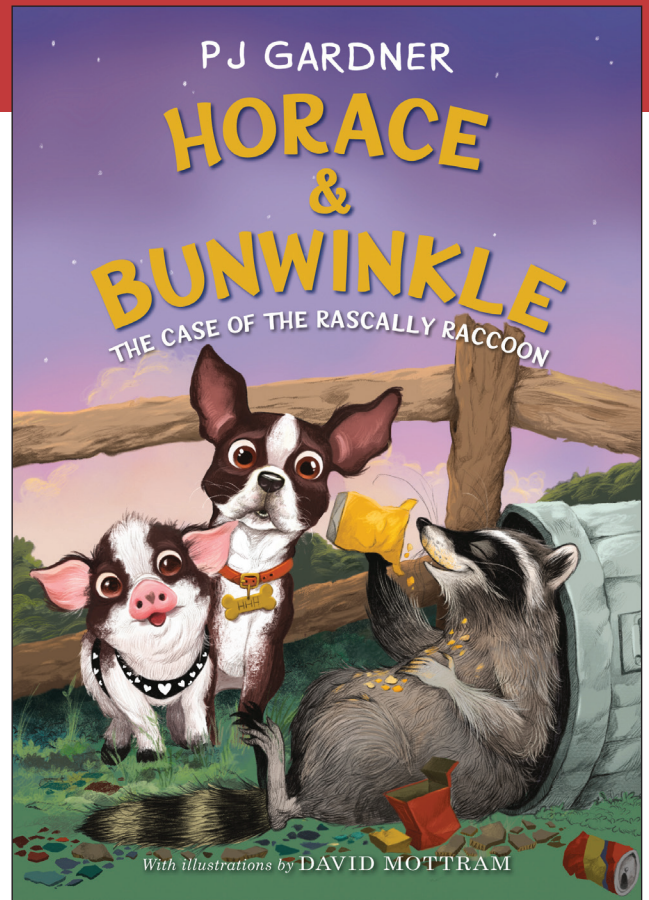
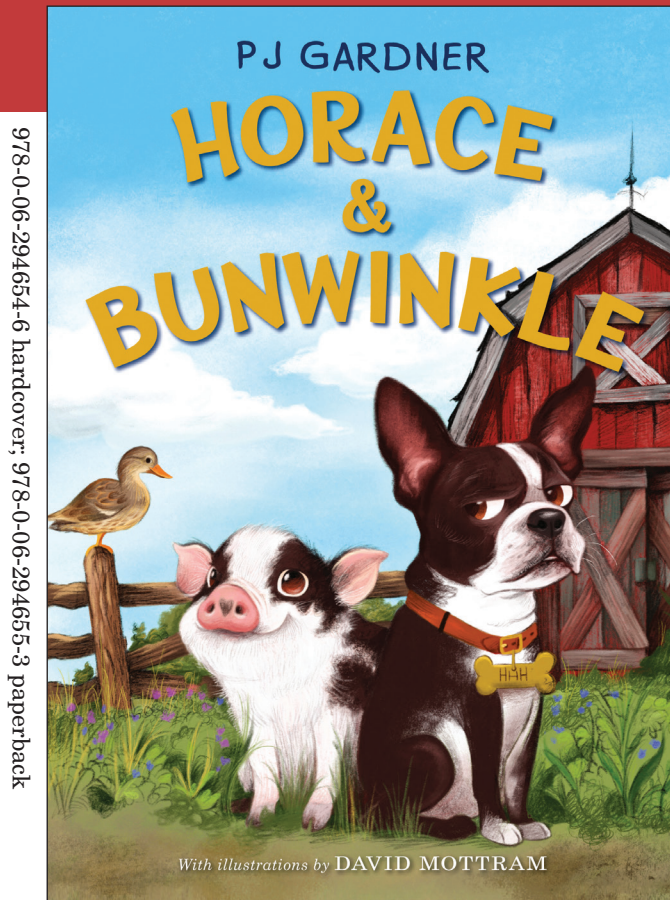


CURRICULUM GUIDE



AN ANXIOUS BOSTON TERRIER AND AN EXUBERANT POTBELLED PIG team up to solve crimes in this delightful middle-grade series.

Horace Homer Higgins III despises dirt. And the outdoors. And ducks. But when his person, Eleanor, moves to a farm called the Homestead, Horace is forced to adapt. As if that wasn't enough to strain his nerves, Eleanor adopts a perpetually cheerful potbellied pig named Bunwinkle to be his baby sister.

Despite their different personalities, Horace and Bunwinkle form a tight bond and, like the stars of their favorite TV show, are soon solving mysterious crimes around the barnyard. A host of animal friends—from a Scottish Billy goat to alien-paranoid horse brothers—add to the hilarity of this fun mystery series.



“Graduates of the Mercy Watson books will feel right at home. Readers will be glad to know that this piggie and pooch will pair up again.” —KIRKUS REVIEWS



pjgardnerswitzer.com harpercollinschildrens.com

BALZER + BRAY

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The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Unless otherwise noted, discussion questions address the following standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1

- Readers are introduced to one of the main characters, Horace, in the first chapter of the story. Describe Horace's mood and the events that lead to his attitude. What words would you use to describe the character of Horace? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3
- Eleanor, Horace's human, is uprooting Horace to take him to the Homestead to live. Compare what Horace likes about living in the apartment to his first impressions of the Homestead.
- The main problem in the story is introduced when Horace meets the horses in the Homestead barn. What do the horses reveal to Horace, and what is Horace's initial reaction to the information?
- Even though the Homestead is chock full of animals, Eleanor decides that Horace is in need of a sister. Describe Horace's sister and his initial reaction to his new sibling.
- How does Horace's attitude toward Bunwinkle change after Bunwinkle's accident in the house? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3
- After the turning point in their relationship, Horace and Bunwinkle bond over the TV show featuring Suey and Spot. How does this show inspire Horace and Bunwinkle, and how do the two put this inspiration into action?
- Re-read the horses' description of Bunwinkle on page 55. How does their description of the piglet connect to the problem in the story?
- Horace and Bunwinkle's pet-ective adventures wind up with the two injured and having to go to the vet. What do Horace and Bunwinkle notice while waiting in the vet's office that connects to the horses' earlier warning?
- Why do you think the author included unkind veterinarians and the threat of a mountain lion as elements for Horace and Bunwinkle to consider in the mystery of the missing animals?
- What does Horace's willingness to jump in to block Bunwinkle from Smokey the cat reveal about Horace's feelings toward the little pig? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3
- In addition to noticing that the vet's bulletin board is now covered with missing animal posters, what else does Bunwinkle discover about the recovery room at the veterinarian's office?
- Pet-ectives Horace and Bunwinkle have different theories about who is responsible for the missing animals. How do the clues by the pond support Bunwinkle's idea of the culprit, and how do the clues support Horace's theory?
- Mal the Billy goat shares a clue about who the petnappers may be, and then Mal disappears. What happens to Bunwinkle when she follows Mal's hint and investigates the area by the barn?
- Who did the pet thieves turn out to be? Describe their motivation in taking the pets and their plans for all the animals. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3
- In your opinion, did the twins' explanation for why they took the animals justify their behavior? What is your opinion about the consequences for their actions?

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS



ANIMAL PROTECTORS

Horace closely follows the Guardian's Creed: "Ask not what your human can do for you—ask what you can do for your human." Horace takes his responsibility of looking after his human, Eleanor, quite seriously. Research real life instances when animals have gone to great lengths to protect their humans. Use details from your research to write a newspaper article describing an animal's heroic efforts to follow the Guardian's Creed.

COMIC STRIP FUN

Re-read your favorite chapter and determine what the three most important events are within it. Create an illustration for each event in a three-panel comic strip. Color your drawings and use speech bubbles to add text. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1](#)

FRIENDSHIP QUALITIES AND ACTIONS

Horace is quite happy as Eleanor's only pet at the beginning of the story. With the introduction of his "sister" Bunwinkle, Horace is faced with forging a friendship with the pig. Think back through the story to trace how the friendship between the dog and pig grew from dislike to fast friends. What qualities and actions did each animal show that helped the two become friends? Create a chart with two columns. List what qualities you think make a good friend in one column and what actions Horace and Bunwinkle took that demonstrated friendship in the second column. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3](#)

STARRING HORACE AND BUNWINKLE!

Horace and Bunwinkle are captivated by the animal detective show that they like to watch on TV. The show inspires the two to become "pet-tectives." Imagine that Horace and Bunwinkle are starring in a movie about their escapades as detectives. Design a poster for their detective movie which includes the title, a movie tagline, a rating, the cast of the movie, quotes which recommend the movie, and a colorful illustration of the characters and setting.



Name: _____

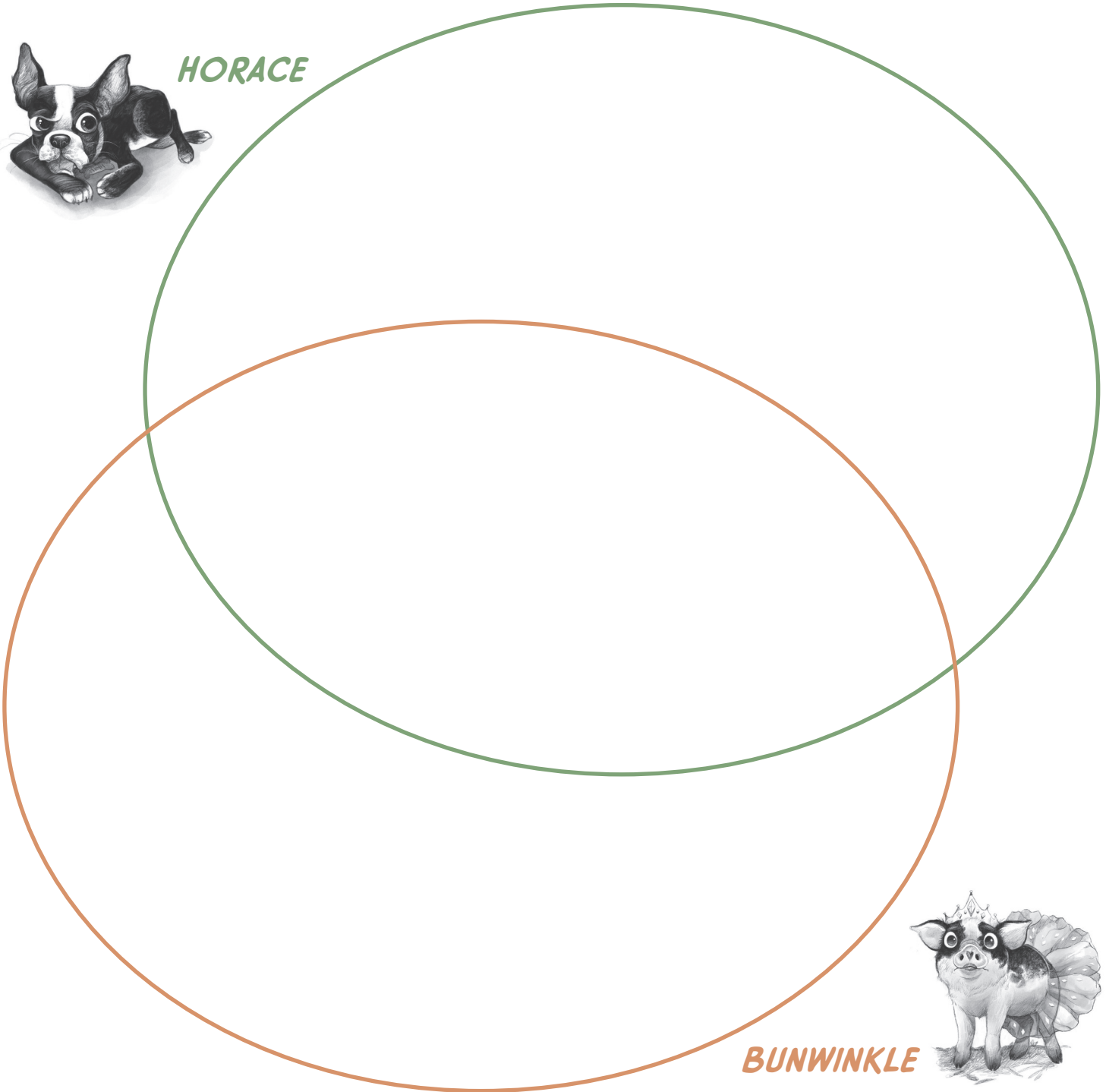
ALIKE AND DIFFERENT



At first, Horace and Bunwinkle could not seem more different. As time passes however, the dog and the pig discover that they do indeed have some things in common. Fill in the Venn diagram with adjectives and descriptive phrases for Horace and Bunwinkle in each of their separate circles. List qualities that the two share in the portion where the two circles overlap. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3**



HORACE



BUNWINKLE

Name: _____

THE USUAL SUSPECTS



Early in the story, horses Smith and Jones inform Horace that animals have gone missing in the area surrounding the Homestead. Horace and Bunwinkle adopt the role of detectives to figure out who is responsible for the missing pets. Complete the chart with information about who they believe are suspects in the petnappings and what clues from the story indicate that each suspect could be involved in the disappearance of the animals. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1](#)

SUSPECT	CLUE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Unless otherwise noted, discussion questions address the following standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1

- The story begins with Horace and Bunwinkle napping and watching TV. What happens in Eleanor's courtyard that causes Bunwinkle to investigate?
- Bunwinkle's "investigating" soon turns into rooting in the trash. How does Eleanor respond to Bunwinkle's behavior?
- Why is Eleanor seeking a job at the feed store?
- Another loud crash leads Bunwinkle and Horace back to the courtyard to investigate. Who do they meet? Describe this character.
- Eleanor's neighbor Dean has an alpaca farm. Why do you think that Horace and Bunwinkle are suspicious of Dean's attention to Eleanor? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3
- Horace and Bunwinkle see themselves as protectors of animals. How does the character of Clark Samson compare to Horace and Bunwinkle? How are they similar and how are they different from one another? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3
- What odd behavior do Horace and Bunwinkle witness from Shoo's "evil twin" when the two spot this creature in Eleanor's house?
- Another of Eleanor's neighbors, Mrs. Butters, is concerned about Horace and Bunwinkle's unusual behavior. What does she think is wrong with the two, and what does Eleanor do in response?
- Horace and Bunwinkle try to protect Shoo from the animal catcher by hiding him in the barn. Which animal is drawn to Shoo and agrees to help him? How does this animal help Shoo?
- Princess Sofaneesba and Bunwinkle share a common bond over a past difficulty. Describe what experience the two shared and how each is reacting to it. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3
- Who is the bandit and what do Horace and Bunwinkle suspect the bandit has been trained to do?
- Horace and Bunwinkle recognize that something is not right with Eleanor and the Homestead. Who are their suspects in the break-ins and interest in Eleanor's land? What reasons do Horace and Bunwinkle have to suspect each person?
- What clues do Horace and Bunwinkle find in Shoo's hiding place and at the pond? How do these clues shift suspicion to another character?
- How do Horace and Bunwinkle's allergic reactions help them understand who might be responsible for the problems in the neighborhood?
- How do Horace and Bunwinkle reveal Mrs. Butters' plan at the farmers' market meeting?
- While Horace and Bunwinkle were suspicious of Dean throughout most of the story, how does Dean redeem himself at the end of the story? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3
- What lesson do you think that Horace and Bunwinkle learned through the trials and triumphs of the case of the rascally raccoon? CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.2

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS



"PLOT UNCOVERED AT FARMERS' MARKET MEETING!"

A TV news reporter has come to the Homestead to interview Horace and Bunwinkle about the dramatic events at the farmers' market meeting. Write a script detailing the interview. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3**

WANTED!

The main characters in the story had different ideas about who was causing all of the problems. Choose one suspect and design a Wanted poster that includes a description of why the antagonist is wanted, where he or she was last seen, what evidence there is to indicate that this character is an antagonist, and an illustration and description of the suspect. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3**

PICTURE THIS

Select a favorite scene from the story. Visualize this key scene and create a colorful and detailed illustration of it. You may want to reference some of the illustrations that are already a part of the novel. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7**

NEXT INSTALLMENT

Write a pitch for a new story in the Horace and Bunwinkle series. Include the following information in your pitch: the title of the new book, the names of the primary characters, the mystery that Horace and Bunwinkle will investigate, and an outline of the main plot points in the new story. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3**



The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both masters' and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Name: _____

INSTA-FAMOUS



Create an Instagram post from one of the characters based on an important event in the story. Be sure to include the following: a profile picture and an Instagram handle for the character you select, a picture of the event, a caption (including hashtags) about the event from the point of view of the character, and handles and comments from two other characters in the story. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3**

Instagram

+ ♥ 💬

VIEW COMMENTS

Name: _____

AND THE AWARD GOES TO . . .



Many of the characters in *Horace and Bunwinkle and the Case of the Rascally Raccoon* display strong personality traits such as bravery, kindness, sneakiness, loyalty, and cleverness. Some characters' traits even change over the course of the story as more truths are revealed about their motivations. Select three characters from the story and create an award for each. List the character's name, the award based on this character's trait, and the reason that the character is receiving recognition. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3**

EXAMPLE

PRINCESS SOFANEESBA



She never gets nervous or flustered, even when her friends are in danger.
