

## Problem/Solution Thinking Guide

**Title of the Selection** The Horned Toad

SOMEONE	The boy
Main Character	
WANTED	to feel settled when his great-grandmother moved in with his family
Goal	
BUT	His parents had argued, and his great-grandmother was hard to get used to.
Problem	
SO	The boy developed a relationship with his great-grandmother over a horned toad that died when he disobeyed her request to return the creature to his natural home.
Solution	
THEN	The boy's great-grandmother died and the experience of returning things to their own place convinced his family to return his great-grandmother for burial on her ranch. The boy's father explained that families take care of their own.
Outcome	

### Summary

The boy wanted to feel settled when his great-grandmother moved in with his family, but his parents had argued, and his great-grandmother was hard to get used to. So, the boy developed a relationship with his great-grandmother over a horned toad that died when he disobeyed her request to return the creature to his natural home. Then The boy's great-grandmother died and the experience of returning things to their own place convinced his family to return his great-grandmother for burial on her ranch. The boy's father explained that families take care of their own.

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**Summary Extension Activity**  
**Building Language – Writing Skills**  
**Summarization Activity - Extension Activity**

Writing a summary paragraph is a powerful instructional tool. Several key student expectations are involved in this one activity. Use this Summary Extension Activity to expand writing skills.

After students use the structure and elements of the plot to generate a basic summary, they can use it to develop a similar version without using the clue words: *someone, wanted, but, so, then*. Give students an opportunity to rewrite their summary without using the summary clue words. Allow students to share their paragraphs orally to further extend and build language skills.

**Example:**

A boy finds it challenging when his great-grandmother must move in to their home because she can no longer live alone. Soon, they develop a special relationship which is strengthened by the experience of a horned toad which dies because he had not returned it to its own place as his great-grandmother instructed. Shortly after the boy's great-grandmother dies. The experience of returning things to their own place convinces his family to return his great-grandmother for burial on her ranch. The boy's father states that families take care of their own.



Read the selection *The Horned Toad*. Based on the information in the selection, write a response to the following:

Explain why the boy changes his attitude toward his great-grandmother moving with his family?

Write a well-organized informational essay that uses specific evidence from the selection to support your answer.

Remember to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize your writing
- develop your ideas in detail
- use evidence from the selection in your response
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Manage your time carefully so that you can —

- review the selection
- plan your response
- write your response
- revise and edit your response

Record your response in the box provided.

# Writing Plan

## I. Introduction

Hook – The bond of family is often the result of relationships over time.

CI- The boy changes his attitude from fearing his great-grandmother at first to appreciating her after she moved in with his family.

## II. Body

MI – The boy’s great-grandmother scared him with falsehoods and because she was hard to get used to.

Evidence

MI – Experiences after she moved in made the boy appreciate his great-grandmother.

Evidence

## III. Closing

CI and PT – Shared experiences build family values and appreciation. While stories of blood-spitting toads at the beginning scared the boy, he soon learned to appreciate his grandmother. This showed that family truly do take care of their own.

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**Hook** – The bond of family is often the result of relationships over time.

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## II. Body

**MI** – The boy’s great-grandmother scared him with falsehoods and because she was hard to get used to.

Text evidence-

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**MI** – Experiences after she moved in made the boy appreciate his great-grandmother.

Text evidence-

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## III. Closing

**CI and PT** – Shared experiences build family values and appreciation. While stories of blood-spitting toads at the beginning scared the boy, he soon learned to appreciate his grandmother. This showed that families “take care of their own.”

## Collaborative Essay Activity

The bond of family is often the result of relationships over time. The boy changes his attitude from fearing his great-grandmother at first to appreciating her after she moved in with his family.

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