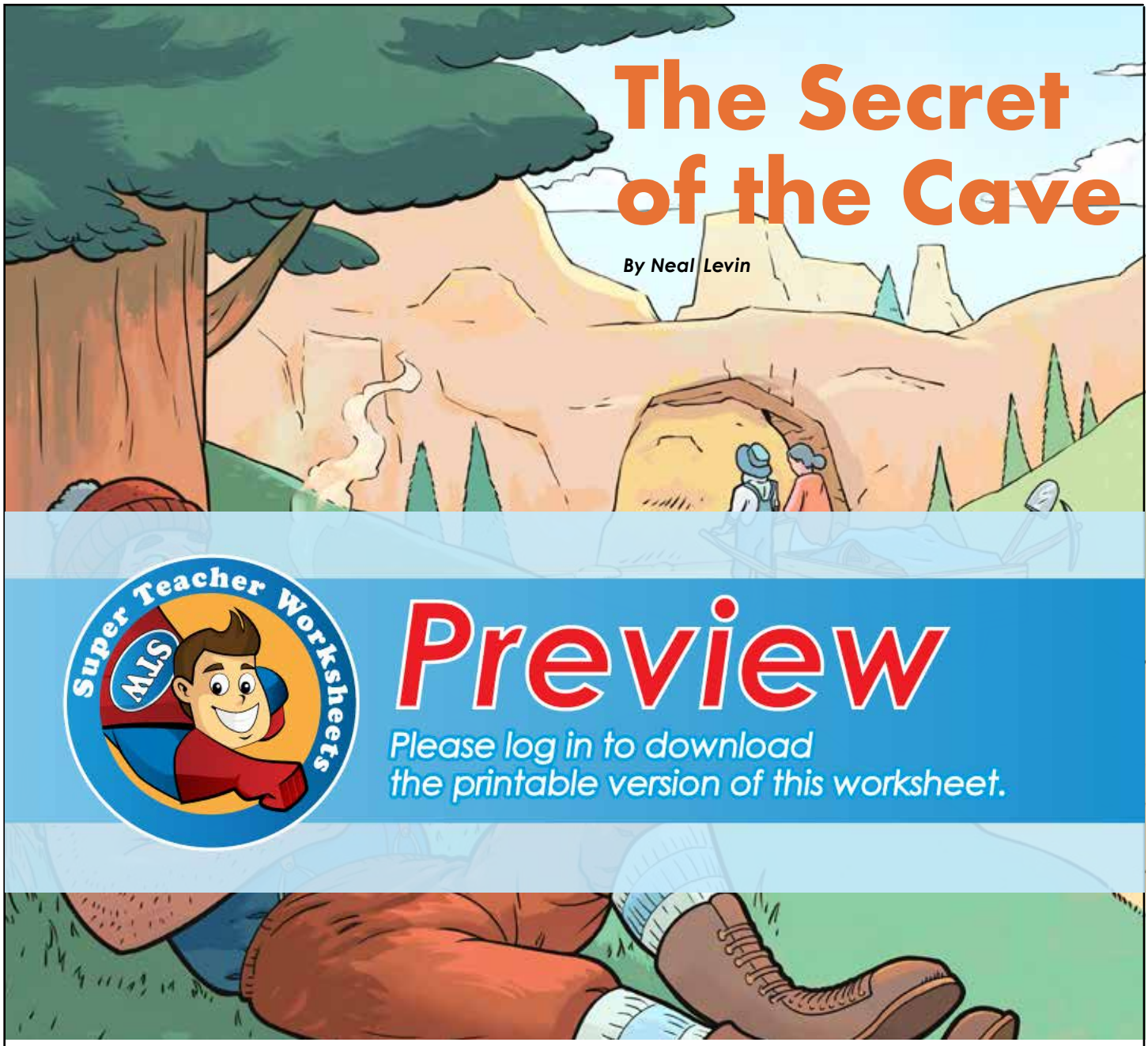
Name: _____



The Secret of the Cave

By Neal Levin

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A lazy woodsman was relaxing by a mountainside when he saw a poor man and his wife pulling an empty wagon down an abandoned path. They stopped at the entrance to a cave that was blocked by a giant rock.

"Wait until you see what's behind this rock," the man told his wife.

"We'll be wealthy indeed."

The woman wiped her brow with a handkerchief. "How long have you known about this?" she asked.

"I only learned yesterday."

They tried pushing the rock with all their might, but it didn't budge. "I have an idea," the man said,

Name: _____

"but we'll have to come back later."

The woodsman watched as they wheeled their wagon away.

"There must be jewels inside that cave," he said to himself. "No wonder they need a wagon to haul everything off."

The woodsman tried moving the rock himself, but to no avail. A little while later, he noticed the man and his wife returning with their wagon and two shovels. The woodsman slipped behind a bush but stayed

The man and woman dug with their shovels to loosen the dirt, but the rock stood in place. "We'll come back bright and early tomorrow," the man said when it began to get dark. They left their shovels in the dirt as they departed with their wagon.

The woodsman grinned. "There must be actual money inside that cave," he said to himself. If he could only move the rock, he could get the money first.

He spent all night working. First, he scooped out enough shovelfuls of dirt to clear a large space around the rock. Then he hauled a thick tree branch over and placed it beneath the bottom of the rock and used it to lift the rock high enough so he could roll it away. It took many tries, but just as the sun began to rise, he finally rolled the rock away.

"I can't wait to see what's inside the cave," he said, exhausted and out of breath.

But to the woodsman's dismay, there was nothing inside the cave. No money, no jewels. Only an empty

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that site again.

Not long after, the man and his wife returned. Their faces were beaming with joy.

"The tunnel is open," the wife shouted. "Now we can get to town faster to sell our wagons."

"At last," the man agreed. "Our lives will be so much easier now that we have a shortcut to the marketplace! And we'll have more time to build new wagons."

"Yes, and enough money for food."

Name: _____

The Secret of the Cave

By Neal Levin



1. What is the secret of the cave?

a. It has an abundance of secret riches.

b. It is the man and wife's secret hiding place.

c. The cave is a shortcut to the marketplace.

d. The woodsman wants to live in the cave.

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3. Reread the following sentence from the story.

> *The man and the woman dug with their shovels to loosen the dirt, but the rock stood in place.*

Which of the following definitions of <u>stood</u> is being used?

a. to be on your feet

b. to stay firm or not move

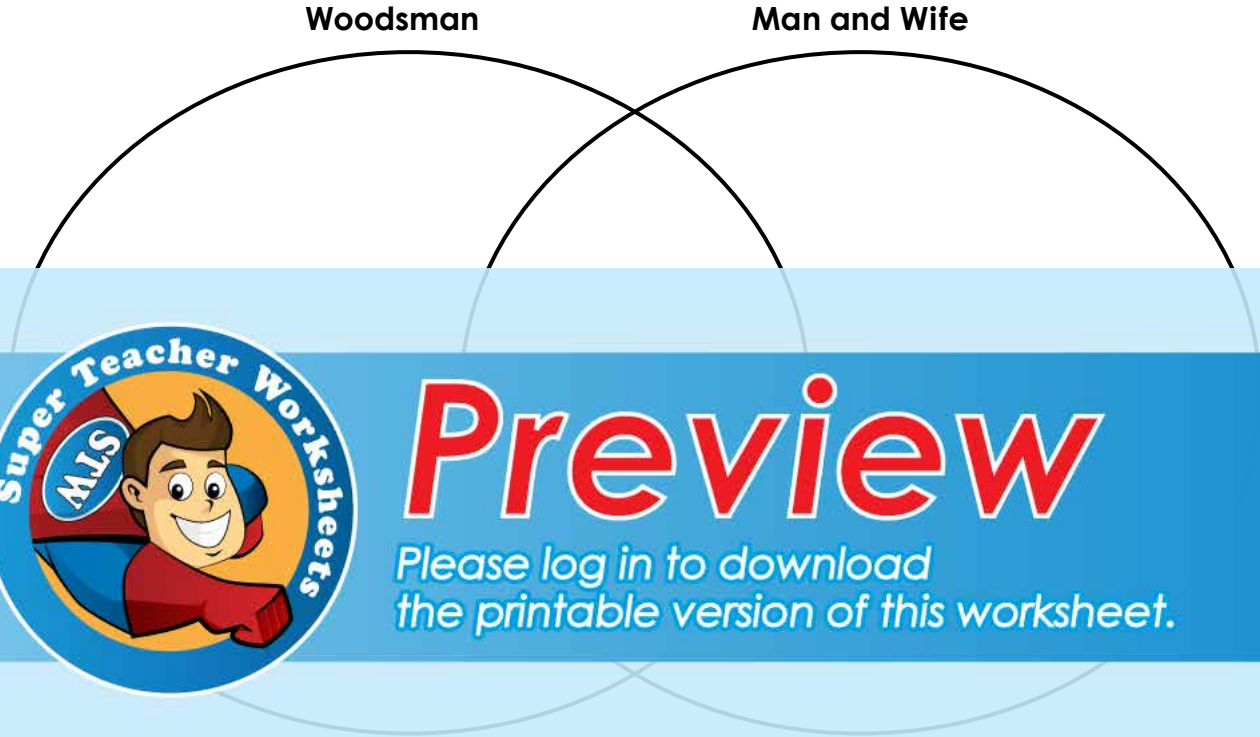
c. a simile for height

d. to have a strong belief

Name: _____

The Secret of the Cave

4. Compare and contrast the woodsman's and man and wife's point of view by completing the Venn diagram. Consider their thoughts, words, and actions in your answer.



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5. The woodsman concluded that the cave had jewels and money because he overheard the man and wife speaking. What is one example of dialogue the woodsman overheard that led to his conclusion?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

The Secret of the Cave



The following terms are vocabulary words from the story. Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition by writing the corresponding letter on the line.

1. ____ haul

2. ____ no avail

a. forehead

b. a small piece of fabric

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6. ____ brow

7. ____ exhausted

8. ____ beaming

9. ____ dismay

10. ____ woodsman

f. widely and happily smiling

g. a person who works in a forest

h. without success

i. as much as a shovel will hold

j. move or change position

Name: _____

The Secret of the Cave

In the story, "The Secret of the Cave," you read about a man, his wife, and a woodsman wanting to get into a cave. What is the theme of the story? Use details from the text to support your answer.

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ANSWER KEY

The Secret of the Cave

By Neal Levin



1. What is the secret of the cave?

a. It has an abundance of secret riches.

b. It is the man and wife's secret hiding place.

c. The cave is a shortcut to the marketplace.

d. The woodsman would live in the cave.

2. Why was the woodsman disappointed when he entered the cave? Use text evidence to support your answer.

3. Reread the following sentence from the story.

> *The man and his wife began dug with their shovels to loosen the dirt, but the rock would not budge.*

Which of the following best defines the word *budge*?

a. to be on your feet

b. to stay firm or not move

c. a simile for height

d. to have a strong belief

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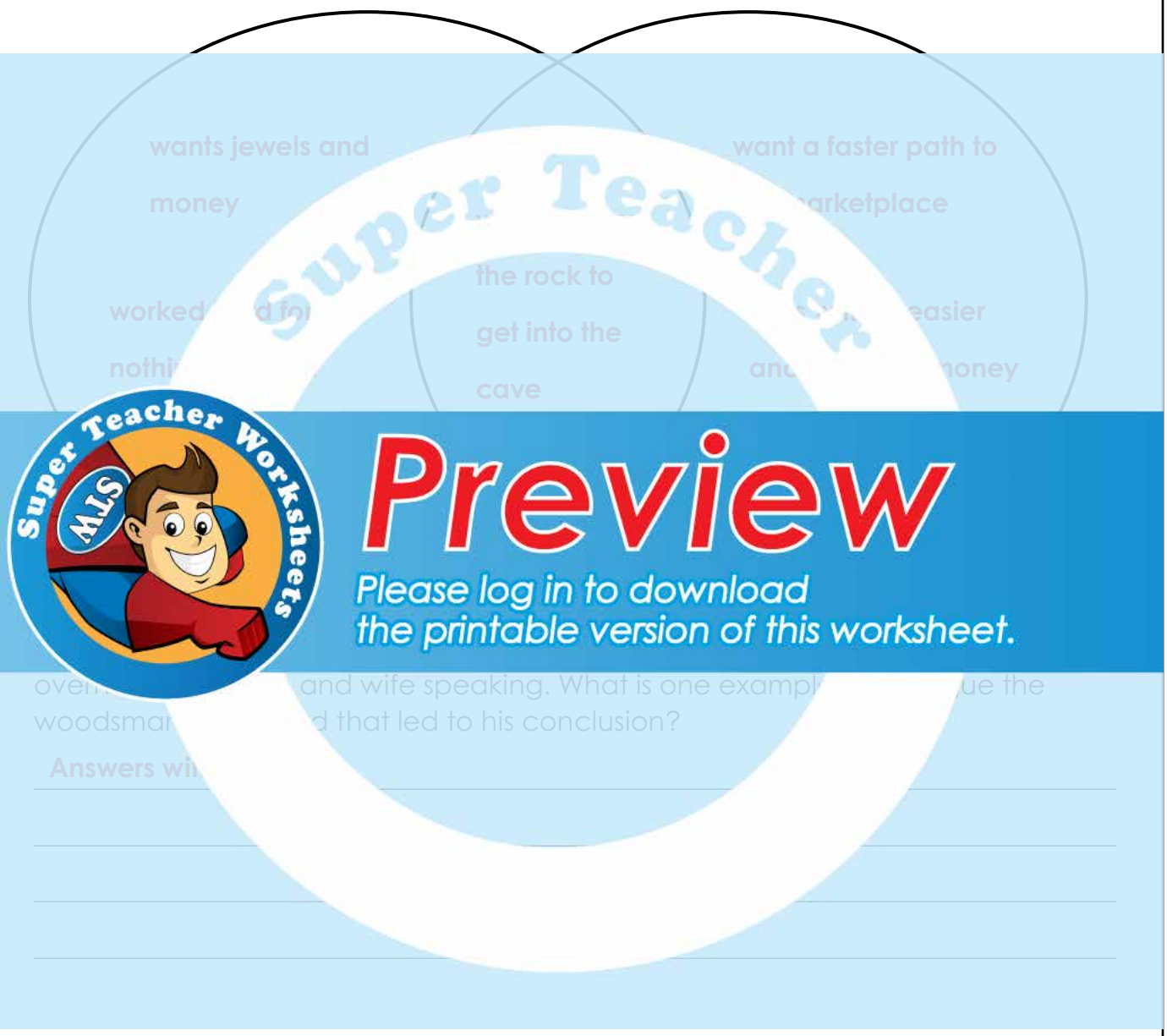
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ANSWER KEY

The Secret of the Cave

4. Compare and contrast the woodsman's and man and wife's point of view by completing the Venn diagram. Consider their thoughts, words, and actions in your answer.



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ANSWER KEY

The Secret of the Cave

The following terms are vocabulary words from the story. Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition by writing the corresponding letter on the line.



1. e haul
2. h no avail
3. j budge
4. b
7. c exha
8. f beaming
9. d dismay
10. g woodsman

g. forehead
c. very tired a
d. an unhappy and disc eeling
g. a person who wo
i. as much as a shovel will hold
j. move or change position

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