

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Use the strategy of visualizing to check your understanding.

### A Penny Saved

12        SETTING: A living room. MOM and DAD sit on a couch while  
 26 children REX and MANDY sit on the floor in front of them. TAD faces  
 41 them. He has charts on an easel behind him. A bright pink piggy bank sits  
 50 on a table in the center of the stage.

50        TAD: You're probably perplexed about the reason for this family  
 60 meeting. It is because of this! [points to the piggy bank] It seems that  
 74 someone has been raiding our vacation fund!

81        MOM [smiling]: And what evidence leads you to be so suspicious?

92        TAD: Well, we all know that a penny saved is a penny earned. We have  
 107 stashed away lots of spare change to use for our summer adventure. But  
 120 lately our piggy bank has been losing weight.

128        REX: It doesn't look thinner to me.

135        TAD: Well, look at this chart and spreadsheet. [points at the easel  
 147 behind him] Notice the steady decline in the bank's weight.

157        MOM [to DAD]: Did you help him make those on your computer?

169        DAD [to MOM]: He likes numbers and charts as much as I do. The  
 183 acorn doesn't fall far from the tree.

190        MANDY: So you think that one of us has been stealing money?

202        TAD: That is a precise summary of my investigation.

211        MOM: Well, you're a great detective. I'm sure you left no stone  
 223 unturned. What other evidence do you have?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

TAD: Well, after a previous incident [looks at REX], we put security tape across the bank's stopper. I cleverly marked the tape one day. The very next day, that tape had been replaced!

MANDY: Rex, how did you know where Mom keeps the tape?

REX: Why are you blaming me? I didn't do it.

MOM: Hold on a moment, Mandy. You should look before you leap. We need to consider Tad's evidence first.

DAD: I'm sure there's a reasonable explanation.

MOM [stands up]: There is another explanation. After all, there are two sides to every coin. Tad, I'm your so-called "thief."

TAD [astounded]: You? Why would you take money from the piggy bank? You and Dad have lots of money!

MOM: Well, you may think we're rich, but sometimes we don't have as much money on hand as we need. And I didn't really "take" anything. Let me ask you this: What do I give you every morning on your way to school?

REX [proudly]: Three quarters each for snacks!

MOM: Tad, pick up the piggy bank. [He does.] Give it a shake and tell me what you hear.

TAD: Not as much change, that's for sure. [shaking again] Maybe some rustling sounds, like paper.

MOM: Like dollar bills, perhaps? When I take out coins, I replace them with bills. That's why the bank seems lighter.

TAD: Well, I guess all's well that ends well, then.

MOM: Tad, they say that a fool and his money are soon parted. If that's true, a smart boy like you will never go broke!



The family's piggy bank was mysteriously losing weight.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.**

**1. Which speaker calls the family meeting?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. What point of view is expressed by Tad’s first lines of dialogue?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Which speaker suggests shaking the piggy bank, and why?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. What point of view does Mom express in her final lines of dialogue?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to rate and accuracy. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.**

	Words Read	–	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		–		=	
Second Read		–		=	