

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Educator's Guide

## About the Series

**Definitely Dominguita** is an own-voices early chapter book series about a Cuban-American girl who loves the classics her Abuela read her as bedtime stories and loves to pretend. With two newly-found friends, Pancho Sanchez and Steph Williams, Dom Melendez has contemporary adventures while pretending to be characters from books like *Don Quixote*, *Treasure Island*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *Sherlock Holmes*.

## About Book 1

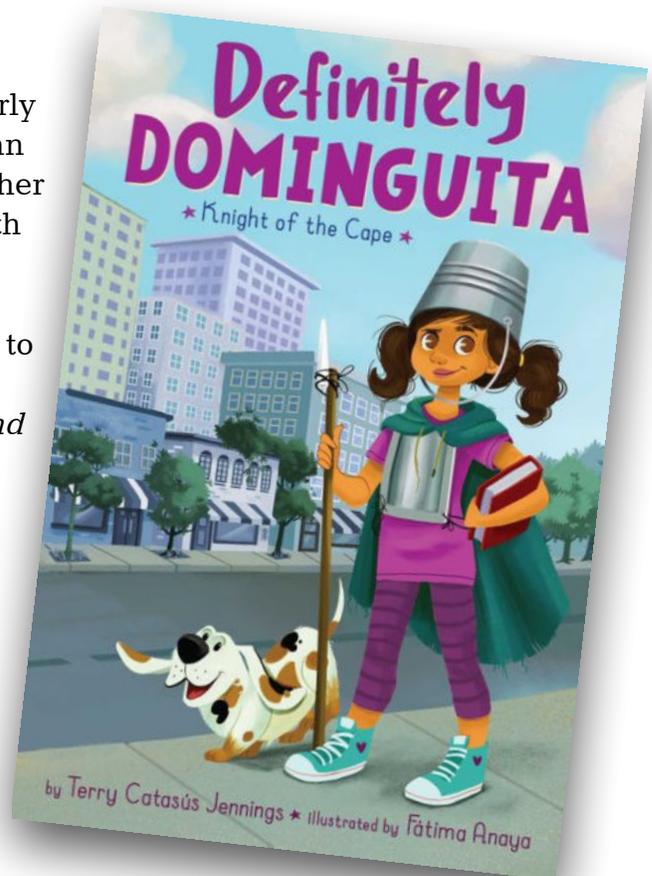
*The Knight of the Cape:*

**Definitely Dominguita, Book 1**

By Terry Catasús Jennings

Illustrated by Fátima Anaya

Published by Aladdin/Simon & Schuster  
Grades 1-4, Ages 6-9.



All Dominguita wants to do is read. Especially the books in Spanish that Abuela gave to her just before she moved away. They were classics that Abuela and Dominguita read together, classics her abuela brought with her all the way from Cuba when she was a young girl. It helps Dominguita feel like Abuela's still there with her.

One of her favorites, Don Quijote, tells of a brave knight errant who tries to do good deeds. Dominguita decides that she, too, will become a knight and do good deeds around her community, creating a grand adventure for her to share with her abuela. And when the class bully tells Dominguita that girls can't be knights, Dom is determined to prove him wrong. With a team of new friends, can Dominguita learn how to be the hero of her own story?

"While the plot is carried by Dom's search for knightly deeds, the focus is on the relationships in her vibrant Cuban American community. It's heartwarming to see adults take a young girl's knightly play seriously. Even better are the friendships she builds with her squire, Pancho Sanchez, and her master of the cookies, Steph, who walks with a brace. A charming adventure that will encourage kids to become knights in their own communities as well." —*Kirkus Reviews*, **Starred Review**

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Educator's Guide

## About the Creators

### Author Terry Catasús Jennings

landed in the United States on September 11, 1961, after a short flight from Cuba. On September 12th, she was enrolled in seventh grade in an American school. Her family, including her father who had been jailed during the Bay of Pigs invasion, was now in a free country. The only catch for twelve-year-old Terry was that she could count in English and recite the days of the week and the months of the year, but not much more. Often being the only Cuban in her school—even through college—Terry knows what it's like to be the new kid on the block. She is delighted to have the opportunity, with **Definitely Dominguita**, to portray a child of immigrants who is normal—no different than her peers—other than she loves the classics (like Jennings did as a child) and thinks Cuban food rules. Explore more at [TerryCJennings.com](http://TerryCJennings.com).



**Illustrator Fátima Anaya**, born in the tiniest country of Central America, always wanted to craft stories celebrating the magic in the ordinary. Even before she could write, she started to illustrate every moment. This passion for drawing motivated her to achieve a BA in graphic design at Don Bosco University in El Salvador. Her inspiration comes from love, peace, childhood, and sometimes historical events. Explore more at [FatimaAnaya.com](http://FatimaAnaya.com)

**This Guide** was created by Terry Catasús Jennings with Cheryl Freeman, Retired Teacher from the Sunrise Valley Elementary School in Reston, VA.

**The Photos** are of a young Terry Catasús Jennings.

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Character

## Making Inferences & Using the Text to Understand the Characters

The **Definitely Dominguita** series is full of interesting characters. As the reader, you can make inferences about them because of what they say and do. For each character, circle the words that describe the character and then use the story to support your thinking. You may use your own descriptive words as well.

### Dominguita

kind unique brave lazy thoughtful weird friendly helpful bossy

Choose one of the words you circled. Tell us what Dominguita does or says in the book that supports your choice:

Dominguita is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

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### Pancho

smart friendly quiet loud thoughtful hard-working whiny honest

Pancho is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

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### Steph

spunky friendly lonely quiet mysterious open cautious smart

Steph is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Poems To Understand Character

Writing poems can lead you to think more deeply and achieve a better understanding of character. Below are several poem forms to help you further understand character. We will explore the Acrostic, Diamante, and BioPoem forms.

## Acrostic Poem

D \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

U \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Poems To Understand Character

## Writing a Bio Poem

After reading the first two chapters of **The Knight of the Cape**, write a bio poem about how you see Dominguita. Then write a poem about yourself. Compare and contrast the poems.

After reading the whole book, write a new bio poem about how you see Dominguita. Compare and contrast the two poems so that you can observe the growth and changes in the character.

### Bio Poem Template:

Line 1. First Name only

Line 2. Son/Daughter of (Parent names)

Line 3. Three adjectives that describe character

Line 4. Who loves to (name two things character likes to do)

Line 5. Who is happiest when (name one thing that makes character happiest)

Line 6. Who is afraid (name something character is afraid of)

Line 7. Who wants (name one thing that character wants or needs)

Line 8. Who likes to wear (name the things character wants to wear)

Line 9. Who lives in (name the town where character lives)

Line 10. Last Name only

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Poems To Understand Character

## Your Bio Poem

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Who is \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Who is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who loves to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Who is happiest when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who is afraid of/that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who wants \_\_\_\_\_

Who likes to wear \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who lives in \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Poems To Understand Character

## Diamante Poem

In the diamond shape, write a Diamante Poem about Dominguita and one of her friends using their character traits. Find a diamante poem lesson at [Study.com](http://Study.com).

Describes Dominguita

Describes Second Character

Dominguita

adjective      adjective

-ing word      -ing word      -ing word

two words or phrase      two words or phrase

-ing word      -ing word      -ing word

adjective      adjective

Other Character

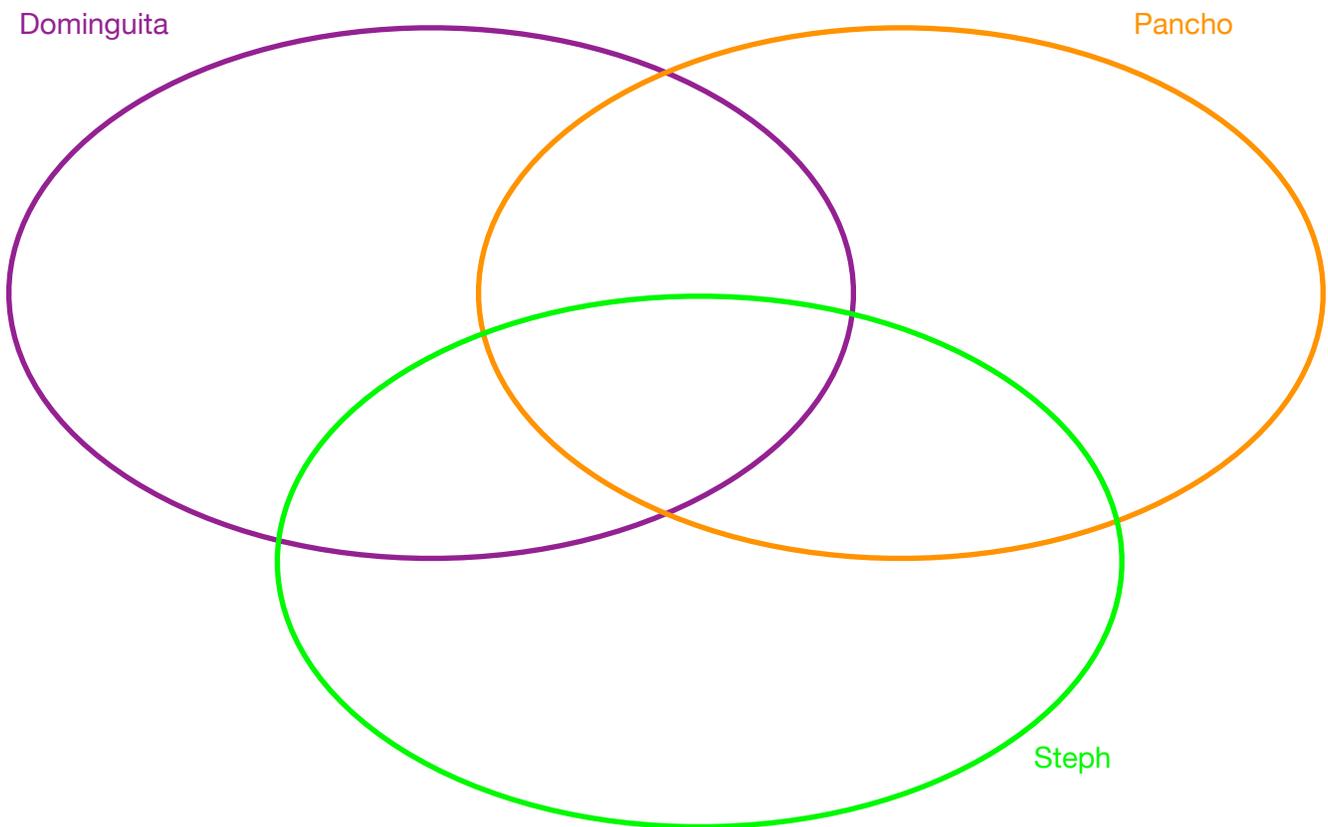
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# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Character

## Compare and Contrast Characters Using Venn Diagrams

Cut out these words and place them in the oval belonging to each character. You may add other words to describe the characters. Think about what makes the characters the same and different. Some words may not describe anyone. For a variation, you could include yourself in the diagram instead of one of the characters.

bossy	honest	loud	real
cautious	imaginative	mysterious	smart
friendly	kind	open	spunky
hard-working	lazy	quiet	thoughtful
helpful	lonely	reader	unique



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# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Character

## Character Change: Class Discussion or Writing Prompt

How does Dominguita change in *The Knight of The Cape*? What happens to make her change?

How does Pancho change in *The Knight of The Cape*? What happens to make him change?

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Character

## Traits of a Hero

What is a hero? At the end of the book Dominguita is told that she is a hero, but she does not think she is. List things she did which made her a hero and things which let you understand why she doesn't believe she is.

Dominguita is a hero because . . .	Dominguita is not a hero because...

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Setting

## Mapping Activities

### Activity 1:

Read chapter three, starting with "Dominguita's home..." to understand what the neighborhood looked like and how it felt to live there. Draw a picture of the neighborhood on a separate piece of paper. Add as many details as you can using the text as your guide. Explain why Dominguita loved where she lived.

### Activity 2:

In a group, locate the following in *The Knight of the Cape* .

Trace Dominguita's walk from her home to Yuca, Yuca on the first day of her quest.

Trace Pancho's and Dominguita's walk once they met at Yuca, Yuca.

Dominguita's house is marked by a star.

Yuca, Yuca is marked by a neon green circle.

Place a marker for:

- Fuentes Salvage
- Basketball court
- Fire Station
- Animal Shelter
- Kowalski's Grocer
- Place where Dom and Pancho found Roco

The book doesn't exactly pinpoint the park where Dom and Pancho met Steph. In book two, you will learn that this park is called Monroe Park. Can you figure out where Monroe Park may be?



# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Setting

## Sensory Group Activity

Sensory details appeal to the reader's senses. What details does the author use to help you imagine living in Dominguita's neighborhood? Work with a group to complete this chart about the setting of *The Knight of the Cape*. Present group findings to the class.

### Dominguita's Neighborhood

	Yuca, Yuca	Fuentes Salvage	Kowalski's Grocer
SIGHT			
SMELL			
TASTE			
TOUCH			
HEARING			

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# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Plot

## Order Important Events

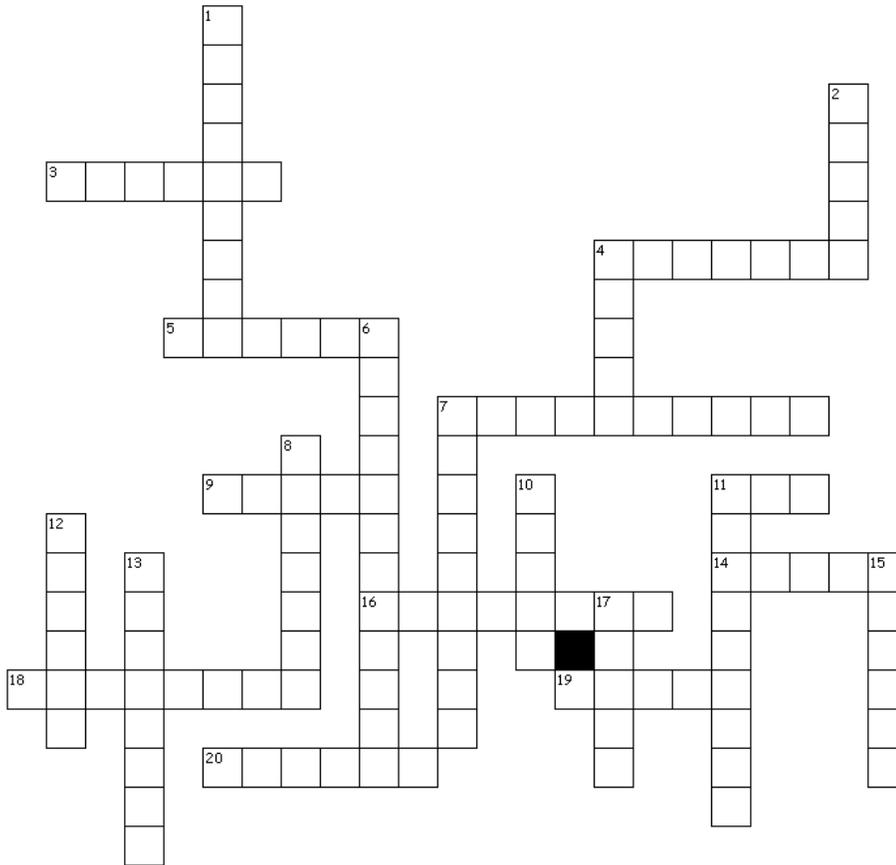
Choose six important events that take place in the book. Write them in order in the boxes below. Cut them out and give them to a friend to put in chronological order.


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# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

## The Knight of the Cape Criss Cross Puzzle



**Across**

- 3. companion or helper to a knight
- 4. brave
- 5. doing brave deeds
- 7. packs that horses wear to carry gear
- 9. rascal, villain
- 11. make someone a knight
- 14. horse
- 16. kidnapped
- 18. inspires fear
- 19. something worn as protection

**Down**

- 1. acts with honor
- 2. adventurous journey to accomplish a deed
- 4. keeping watch when you'd normally sleep
- 6. payment
- 7. villain
- 8. junk
- 10. weapon used by knights
- 11. cruel and wicked
- 12. kitchen tool to draw up meat juices
- 13. daring
- 15. young lady
- 17. mistake

**Student Name:**

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# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

## Similes

When a writer describes something by comparing it to something else, she is using figurative language that creates a picture for the reader to imagine. When she makes a comparison using the word like or as, she is using a simile.

Here are some sentences. Underline the similes. Do they create a picture that helps you to understand the sentence?

*The boy was as quiet as a mouse when he entered the library.*

*Even with glasses, he was as blind as a bat.*

*When she discovered the answer, her face lit up like a lightbulb.*

Look on these pages and find similes in **Definitely Dominguita**.

Chapter 4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Page 10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Choose one of the similes and illustrate it on the back of this paper.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

## Collective Nouns

Dom is happy that Pancho knows a lot about animals. She thinks he might be able to protect them if they run into a troop of monkeys, a pride of lions, or a crash of rhinos.

Names like troop, pride, and crash are known as collective nouns. A collective noun names a group of a certain kind of animal.

Can you find other collective nouns that apply to other animals?

Tigers

Caterpillars

Crows

Turtles

Crocodiles

Hawks

Geese

Peacocks

Illustrate your favorite collective group of animals.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

## Spanish Words & Foods

Dominguita and Pancho both speak Spanish as well as English. They can both read in Spanish. Are you bilingual? Do you know anyone that has this superpower? There are many Spanish words and foods in *The Knight of the Cape*.

Draw a line from the Spanish word to its meaning.

ROCINANTE	GRANDMOTHER
YUCA	LORD OF A CASTLE
CAPOTE	ROOT VEGETABLE THAT MAKES TASTY FRITTERS
DON QUIJOTE	BIG BANANAS
ABUELA	DELICIOUS, STICKY SWEET BUNS
CASTELLAN	HERO OF A BOOK WRITTEN IN EARLY 1600S
PLANTAINS	LITTLE SUNDAY
DOMINGUITA	CAPE
BUÑUELOS	DON QUIJOTE'S HORSE

**Student Name:**

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# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Vocabulary

## Figurative Language

Circle whether the passage shows alliteration, simile, or metaphor.

Choose one of these phrases or passages to illustrate.

**Alliteration:** Repeated sounds

**Simile:** Drawing a comparison between two things using "like" or "as"

**Metaphor:** Referring to one thing by mentioning another

A	S	M	"Strutting like he was really going somewhere"
A	S	M	"Played dead like a possum"
A	S	M	"Held the book as if it were holy"
A	S	M	"Puckered Pickles"
A	S	M	"Noble deeds with valiant steeds and damsels in distress"
A	S	M	"Lined up limes and lemons"
A	S	M	"Dom tried to shake the cobwebs from her head"
A	S	M	"The word pinballed inside her head"
A	S	M	"Her eyes became slits"
A	S	M	"As if bringing a baby bird back to its nest"
A	S	M	"Bent like puppets arms"
A	S	M	"As if he'd been called to the principal's office"
A	S	M	"Rows of radishes"
A	S	M	"Camouflaged like a chamaleon"
A	S	M	"Like the wooly worms that tell how long winter will last"
A	S	M	"Shook her head like a puppy who has just gotten out of a pond"
A	S	M	Arranged apples
A	S	M	You were like a lightning bolt

**Student Name:**

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# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Making Connections

## Writing Activity

When reading *The Knight of the Cape*, use the following journal topics to help put yourself in Dominguita's shoes. Here are some sample topics:

*Think what you would do if a bully teased you. Explain what you would do and give reasons that support your decision.*

*Talking to Abuela makes Dominguita happy. Do you have a friend or relative who makes you happy? Write about someone who makes you happy. Give reasons why that person makes you happy.*

*Dominguita is proud of what she is doing. She is proud she can save people who need help. What are some things that make you proud?*

*Which character would make a good friend? Explain using examples from the story, connecting them to your own life.*

*Choose a character and explain how you are similar and different to him or her. Use examples from the story and your life.*

*Write letters to Dominguita. Tell her what you think of her quests and why you think it was important that she was helping those in need rather than damsels. Tell her why you are like her and what you would do in her position.*



# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Questioning

## Television Interview

With a partner, pretend you are doing a television interview with Dominguita.

Write questions that you would ask Dominguita.

Exchange the questions with your partner and answer as if you were Dominguita.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Questioning

## Big Questions / Little Questions

Learn to ask big questions and make connections to your life by reading more thoughtfully.

Begin with a group activity:

As a class, discuss the differences between little question and big questions. Then work in a small group to put the questions below into two categories: little questions or big questions. Answer each question, and discuss why it falls into each category.

- *Does Dominguita feel lonely?*
- *Why is Dominguita lonely?*
- *What is the teacher's name?*
- *Who is Abuela?*
- *What does Dominguita's name mean?*
- *How is Dominguita persuasive?*
- *How is Dominguita different from many of her classmates?*
- *What are the problems that need to be solved in the book?*
- *Is Ernie Bublasi a bully?*
- *What does Ernie do to show that he is a bully?*

# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Questioning

## Big Questions / Little Questions

Read chapters \_\_\_\_\_. Write three big questions and three little questions. You don't have to write the answers, but think about what you might say as an answer. Did the questions make you think about the stories and the characters? Could you answer them with a yes or a no or just a few words?

### Little Questions

1.

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2.

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3.

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# Definitely DOMINGUITA: Questioning

## Big Questions / Little Questions

### Big Questions

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2.

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3.

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Student Name:

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