**Reader’s Workshop**

“The Un-numbing of Cory Willhouse”  
Rob Thomas

Name:  
Date:  
Hour:

Directions: As we read “The Un-numbing of Cory Willhouse,” we came across the following unfamiliar words. Underneath each word is a task for you to complete. You may go back to the text as much as needed to complete these tasks.

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| Word | Definition |
| **Gnawingly**  adv. | as though greatly troubled, annoyed, worried |
| How does the word *gnawingly* help you to understand how Cory felt after stealing from Mr. Kim? | |
| **Allure**  noun | the power to entice or attract through personal charm |
| What was *alluring* to Cory and his friends that kept them interested in continuing their escapades? | |
| **Fulcrum**  noun | the support on which a lever rests or pivots |
| Draw a picture that labels the *fulcrum* of the seesaw that Chipper used to frighten several second-graders. | |
| **Malfunction**  noun | a failure to function normally |
| If there was a signal *malfunction*, what could be happening to the signal? Provide at least two possible *malfunctions.* | |
| **Innards**  noun | the internal organs of a person or animal; the inside parts of something |
| The text reads, “A clock face dangled; its *innards* hung in the smoky air…” (149). Draw a picture showing this piece of imagery. | |
| **Indignant**  adj. | angered at something unjust or wrong |
| Use the word *indignant* in your own original sentence to show that you understand the meaning. | |
| **Exhilarating**  adj. | invigorating and refreshing; cheering |
| It states that all of Cory’s hard work “…brought with it an *exhilarating* pleasure” (154). Explain how this hard work could be *exhilarating* for Cory. | |
| **Hypocrite**  noun | a person who professes beliefs and opinions that he does not hold |
| Provide a detailed explanation as to why Cory thinks that he is a *hypocrite* for helping the Kim family. | |

Directions: Using the text “The Un-numbing of Cory Willhouse,” answer the following short answer prompt in complete sentences.

**At the end of the story, Joey tells Cory, “…’My dad says you already have your punishment.’” Based on the story, explain what you think Mr. Kim means.**

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