

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## POWER VERBS

What are they?

Verbs are action words. They tell what's happening. They also tell you what to do.

Why are they important?

They are used to give instructions on quizzes, tests, and assessment exams, like FCAT!

<b>Analyze</b>	=	<b>take apart and carefully examine</b>
<b>Support</b>	=	<b>offer text-based evidence as proof</b>
<b>Explain</b>	=	<b>paraphrase or tell how or why</b>
<b>Infer</b>	=	<b>logically guess or assume</b>
<b>Formulate</b>	=	<b>logically create and produce</b>
<b>Compare</b>	=	<b>tell how things are similar</b>
<b>Contrast</b>	=	<b>tell how things are different</b>
<b>Predict</b>	=	<b>to <i>speak</i> something <i>before</i> it happens</b>
<b>Describe</b>	=	<b>tell about a character or scene in detail</b>
<b>Summarize</b>	=	<b>re-tell the main parts in general terms</b>
<b>Evaluate</b>	=	<b>judge or measure an action</b>
<b>Trace</b>	=	<b>track the sequence of events</b>

### Target Scene: *Hard & Cold*

1. Switch and Smooth paced before the long tin mirror that rested near their open dumpster.
2. "Why," Smooth grieved, "didn't we just split when we first saw they brought two cars?"
3. Switch, wiping his blade on his jeans, boasted, "What's two cars to me? What's three?"
4. "Nothing to you, Homz," Smooth admitted; "but, look at Doc – he ain't gonna make it!"
5. Little Doc moaned one last time, reached slowly toward Switch's back, then lay still.
6. Smooth knelt gently, closing his friend's eyes; Switch, however, just re-tied his red rag.
7. As police sirens drifted away in the distances, and a high-pitched scream came from a neighboring alley, Smooth urged, "Let's split, Cuz; they'll be back with a full crew!"
8. "Let'em come," Switch growled; "we draw even or join Little Doc – I don't care which!"

### Instructions: Respond to *Hard & Cold* by completing a thru l.

- a. **Read** and **analyze** the scene, *Hard & Cold*.
- b. **Support** the idea that Switch has very little compassion for others.
- c. **Explain** Smooth's reaction to Doc's situation.
- d. **Describe** the living arrangements for Switch and Smooth.
- e. What can you **infer** about the level of crime in their city?
- f. **Compare** Switch and Smooth.
- g. **Contrast** Switch and Smooth.
- h. **Formulate** a hypothesis as to why Switch is so driven to fight.
- i. **Trace** the sequence of events in this scene.
- j. **Evaluate** Switch's decision at the end of the scene.
- k. **Summarize** this scene.
- l. What do you **predict** will happen in the next scene?

## **Responses to *Hard & Cold***

**b.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**c.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**d.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**e.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**f.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**g.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**h.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**i.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**j.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**k.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**l.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## KEY

- b.** As Doc, one of Switch's young gang members, lay dying, Switch showed no real concern for his plight. As Doc reached for him, Switch did not reach back, having his back turned to his dying comrade. When Doc died, Switch just re-tied his red rag (bandanna), being more concerned about his street look than his young fallen member. Also, Switch said he wanted to get even with their rivals or die like Doc. He didn't care which. His decision and lack of concern included his cousin, Smooth.
- c.** Smooth was concerned that Doc was not going to make it. When Doc died, Smooth knelt down gently and closed his young friend's eyes.
- d.** They both apparently lived in the alley. The scene described a long tin mirror that may have belonged to them and a dumpster that was definitely *theirs*.
- e.** The level of crime is apparently very high. As the scene was closing, police sirens were heard drifting away in several directions, suggesting that there were problems all over town. Of course, the scene opens as a vicious slugfest has just concluded in the alleyway, resulting in the death of a young gang member called Little Doc. Also, there was a high-pitched scream coming from a neighboring alley, suggesting that someone was being attacked.
- f.** They both were apparently homeless, living in an alley. They were cousins. They were both gang members.
- g.** Switch was the leader of the gang; Smooth was a follower. Smooth was concerned about the fate of Little Doc, and grieved at his death; but, Switch wasn't and didn't. Smooth wanted to avoid another conflict, but Switch wanted to fight again to even the score, even if it meant death.
- h.** (Answers may vary.) Plausible response: Switch seems to feel that he's unconquerable, saying, "What's two cars to me? What's three?" He also seems to have a death wish! Perhaps life has not been kind to him in many years. And, perhaps he's seen too many of his friends die violent deaths and has decided that this is just how life is. His very name, Switch, suggests that he's earned a street reputation for wielding a knife (switch blade) with deadly skill.
- i.** Switch and Smooth survive a fight with a rival gang... Smooth questions the wisdom of choosing to fight when they were greatly outnumbered... Doc dies... Smooth shows some compassion by closing Doc's eyes which apparently were locked open in fear and shock... Sounds of violence are heard in the area... Switch decides he wants vengeance at any cost.
- j.** Switches decision, while understandable, is very inappropriate. Even a gang leader is a leader and must show some concern for the welfare of those he leads. It's wrong for him to choose death for someone else, especially a family member who obviously wants to live, even under their current conditions.
- k.** Two gang members survive a bout with rivals while at least one other, member, Little Doc, died. One of the survivors, Switch, wants to continue the bout, but the other one, his cousin, Smooth, wants to leave bad enough alone. The background noises of sirens and screams suggest that there will be little to no peace for either of them that night or any other night.
- l.** In the next scene, Switch will either get his revenge or his death wish. Smooth, if Switch does survive, will probably continue his gang ways. If Switch dies, Smooth will probably search for an escape route out of that living environment. If he finds no immediate escape, he will probably become the new leader and kill or be killed.