

The Ransom of Red Chief (page 82)**Grammar SkillBuilder: Pronouns and Their Antecedents**

Key Concept: Writers use pronouns to take the place of nouns.

Antecedents

The noun that a pronoun refers to or replaces is called its **antecedent**. The antecedent usually comes before the pronoun. Notice the position of the antecedents in the following sentences. The antecedents are underlined and the pronouns are in slanted type.

Sam said that *he* would go.

Sam and Bill made *their* plans.

The plan is good. *It* should work.

Activity

For each sentence, underline the antecedent and write the correct pronoun in the blank.

Example: The kid was in the street. He was throwing rocks at kittens.

1. The town was called Summit. _____ was flat as a pancake.
2. Bill and Sam had some money, but _____ needed even more.
3. The cave made a good hiding place because _____ was far from town.
4. The boy wanted the kidnappers to call _____ Red Chief.
5. Before long, the kidnappers felt as if _____ were the captives.
6. Red Chief had the kidnappers under _____ thumb.
7. The night seemed to last forever. _____ seemed more like a week.
8. Bill thought _____ hand might need medical attention.
9. Mr. Dorset wanted to be paid to take _____ son back.
10. The kidnappers made _____ getaway in the dark of night.