

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

Unit 1: Narrative Elements

From *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson (p. 390) Study Guide
adapted from Holt McDougal Literature: Grade 9

Directions: Answer the following questions as we read the selection.

1. According to Bryson, what makes hiking wonderful?
2. What does Bryson's statement that "people have died in less trying circumstances" tell you about his perspective on the situation?
3. What is Bryson's opinion of AT maps?
4. Irony occurs when a situation turns out to be the opposite of what you'd expect. What does Bryson mean by "the pathetic irony" of it being the first day of spring?
5. How do the setting and mood change as the selection progresses?
6. How do the setting and mood at the start of the selection help to make the events that follow more exciting?
7. How do you think Bryson's attitude toward hiking the AT changes as a result of his experience?
8. Do you think Bryson considers Katz a satisfactory travelling companion? Why or why not?