

Tuck Everlasting
Chapters 17 & 18 ~ Strong and Vivid Verbs

Name _____

Date _____

Strong and vivid verbs are words that describe the action in a sentence. Some verbs are "stronger" than others, and these are the ones that tend to make your writing more effective. Here's how it works: take a verb like fall and another verb with a similar meaning like plunge. Now, compare these two sentences: 1) I watched the rock fall into the water. 2) I watched the rock plunge into the water. In the first sentence, you learn that the rock fell, but in the second sentence you also learn how the rock fell. The word plunge means "to enter quickly and forcibly into something". So, with the word plunge, the reader gets all the meaning of the verb fall, plus the additional meaning that explains how the rock fell as well. Strong verbs SHOW, not just TELL!

In these chapters, the author uses many strong and vivid verbs. Read the following passages. Circle each strong verb then complete the chart. (Some sentences have more than one strong verb.)

- A. *Miles pushed the rowboat off and sprang in, and soon they were gliding up toward the near end of the pond, where the water came in from the stream.*
- B. *The mist was lifting now, as the sun poked up above the trees, and the water sparkled.*
- C. *Suddenly the cane pole jerked in her hands and bent into an arch, its tip dragged down nearly to the water's surface.*
- D. *But just as suddenly the pole whipped straight again and the line went slack.*
- E. *The sky was blue and hard now, the last of the mist dissolved, and the sun, stepping higher above the trees, was hot on Winnie's back.*
- F. *And then Miles caught a fish. There it flopped, in the bottom of the boat, its jaw working, its gills fanning rapidly.*
- G. *They sat in the parlor... The ceiling swam with bright reflections and sunlight streamed across the dusty, chip-strewn floor.*

Strong Verb(s) Used	Explain why this is an effective verb choice
A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G.	