

Name _____

To **reflect** means to look back on an experience and to think deeply or carefully about it. In the case of a narrative conclusion, it also includes determining how or why a particular event was significant. The reflective close demands that the writer be insightful in describing the main experience, event, or message of the story. A reflective ending draws a conclusion about the experience. It may share a lesson learned with the reader, offer some thoughts about how the experience changed the writer's life.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Read the story summary. Then answer the questions. Then, on a separate page, write a reflective conclusion for this story using first person point of view.

Two significant things happen to Harley when she is thirteen years old—her parents get divorced, and her aunt gives her first diary. She is suddenly lonelier than she has ever been in her life, because her twin sister has been accepted into a school for the arts in New York City, and she goes there to live with her father so she can attend the school. Left behind with her mother, who begins to date again and is often out in the evenings, Harley turns to her diary. She soon fills it, and as the years go by she continues to get herself new diaries and to fill them, too. She finds writing to be both comforting and an enjoyable way to pass the time, and when she is a senior in high school, she begins to write stories. One day she submits a story to a magazine and it is published. It's the first time since the events of the divorce began that Harley feels completely whole and mostly happy.

1. How does Harley change through the course of this story?
2. What do you think that an adult Harley might use this story to communicate to teenagers?
3. What do you think Harley might have grown up to do as a result of these events?