

Everyone was sure that Mrs. Granger had X-ray vision.

All the kids at Lincoln Elementary School knew that at the end of the line—fifth grade—Mrs. Granger would be the one grading their spelling tests and their reading tests, and worst of all, their vocabulary tests—week after week, month after month.

But he (Nick) figured that he got all the words he needed just by reading, and he read all the time.

It was still a week before school and Nick already felt like fifth grade was going to be a very long year.

Nick was an expert at asking the delaying question—also known as the teacher-stopper, or the guaranteed-time-waster.

Here he was in fifth grade, near the end of his very first language arts class with Mrs. Granger, and Nick could feel a homework assignment coming the way a farmer can feel a rainstorm.

Nick was famous for this, and the whole class knew what he was doing.

Unfortunately, so did Mrs. Granger.

A complete shutdown.

Everything he (Nick) had heard about this teacher was true—don't mess around with The Lone Granger.