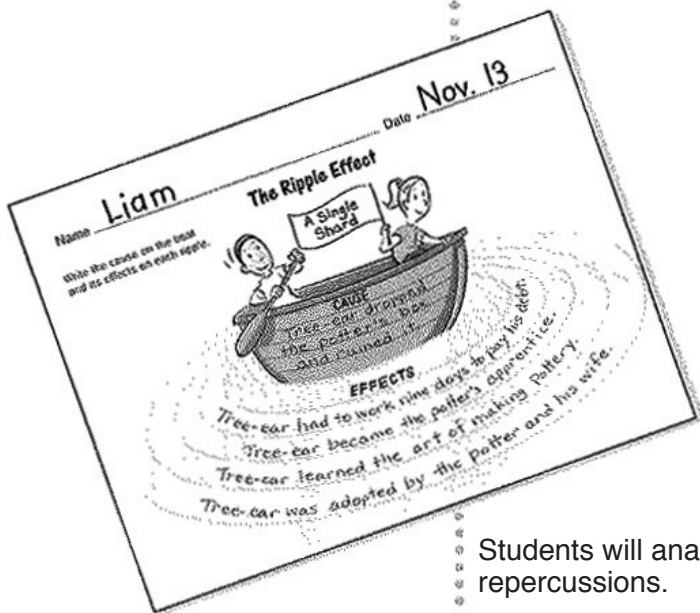


Cause  
and EffectThe Ripple  
Effect

## Materials

The Ripple Effect graphic organiser

## Purpose

Students will analyse the ways in which an action can have multiple repercussions.

## Directions

1. Discuss the idea that when you throw a stone into water, the ripple spreads in all directions and can have an effect on several different things. A duck might take flight because of the sound, a boat might rock because of the wave, a sandy beach might erode when the wave hits the shore, and a fish might dodge the descending stone. And each of these effects might in turn create further repercussions.
2. Relate this concept to an occurrence in a novel or nonfiction text that students are reading. An author might create a situation in which an action affects other events and characters in the story; a single political act might have resounding repercussions.
3. Pass out copies of the RIPPLE EFFECT graphic organizer to students, and ask them to write a sentence describing an action (by a character, real-life individual, political body, or nature) from a novel or nonfiction text they are reading.
4. As the students continue reading, have them write down the many different effects that result from this single action. If these effects cause further repercussions in the story or text, have students list these, too.

## Teacher Tip

As a creative-writing exercise, ask students to write a cause-and-effect story. You might provide a cause, such as 'Mr Smith forgot to set his alarm clock' or 'Mrs Jones dropped her wallet', and have students use that scenario as a starting point. Then ask volunteers to read their stories. Discuss how the same cause resulted in different outcomes.



SCHOLASTIC

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Ripple Effect

Write the cause on the boat  
and its effects on each ripple.

