

Unit 5

Unit 6

Unit 7

Unit 8





JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

DRAFTING

COACHING

REFLECTING



JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

DRAFTING

COACHING

REFLECTING



**PRACTICE TEXT**

When Nicolas' alarm buzzes loudly in the morning, he knows he must quickly rush out of bed in time to feed the animals before sunrise. Nicolas likes to feed the horses first because while they hungrily gobble up their feed, they let him stroke their beautiful manes and brush their shiny coats. Even though Nicolas has fed the tigers and snakes every day for two years, he still feels his heart quickly pound when he approaches their cages. He talks in a soothingly calm voice to his favorite tiger, Natasha, because he senses she likes him, despite her scarily sharp fangs. Nicolas takes care of exotic animals, but he doesn't work at a zoo.

After Nicolas feeds the animals, he quickly runs back to see what his family is doing. His older sister, Karen, usually cooks breakfast for the whole family, so Nicolas impatiently plays outside until she loudly yells, "Come inside, it's ready!" His father likes to curiously read about town activities at breakfast and suggest new things the family can do together after school and work. Nicolas' mother lovingly reminds Nicolas, Karen, and their younger sister, Mary, that they must diligently do their physical exercises before schoolwork begins. Nicolas lives with his family, but he doesn't live at home.

The whole family changes into their practice uniforms and briskly strides to the arena. Nicolas' family will intensely work together to build flexibility, trust, and teamwork. To build flexibility, Nicolas spends thirty minutes carefully stretching all of his muscles. Without loose muscles, Nicolas can't jump as far. To build trust, Nicolas, Karen, and Mary practice calmly



falling off a platform with their arms outstretched; one at a time their parents strongly catch them before they hit the mat. Without trust, Nicolas' family would not be courageously brave. To build teamwork, Nicolas and his family repeatedly practice their routine until they get it right. Nicolas trains every day but he isn't a competitor. Nicolas and his family are acrobats in a traveling circus.

JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

DRAFTING

COACHING

REFLECTING

# SEEING

JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

DRAFTING

COACHING

REFLECTING

## SKETCHING



JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

DRAFTING

COACHING

## SHAPING

SLANT



CENTRAL QUESTION

REFLECTING

## VISION STATEMENT







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COACHING

REFLECTING





JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

DRAFTING

COACHING

REFLECTING

**MY WRITING: What's Working**

**MY QUESTIONS**

JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

**MY TEACHER'S THOUGHTS**

**MY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

DRAFTING

COACHING

REFLECTING

**MY WRITING: What's Working**

**MY QUESTIONS**

JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

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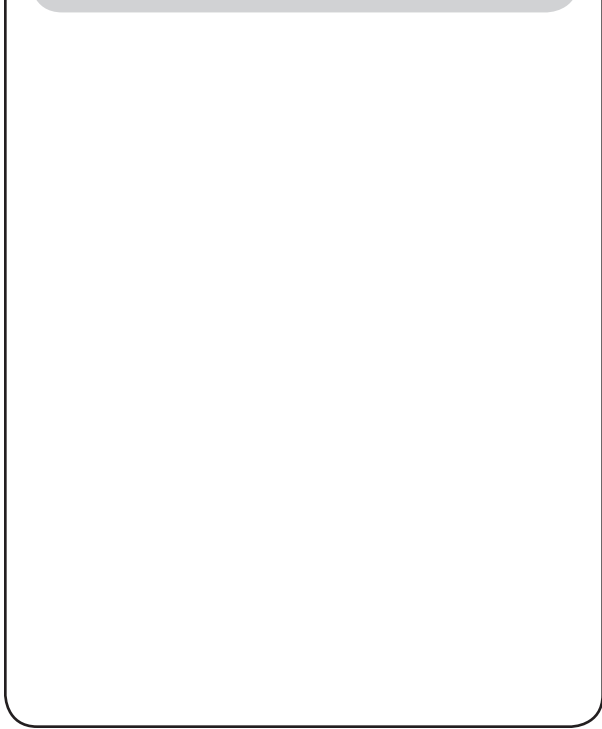
**MY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

DRAFTING

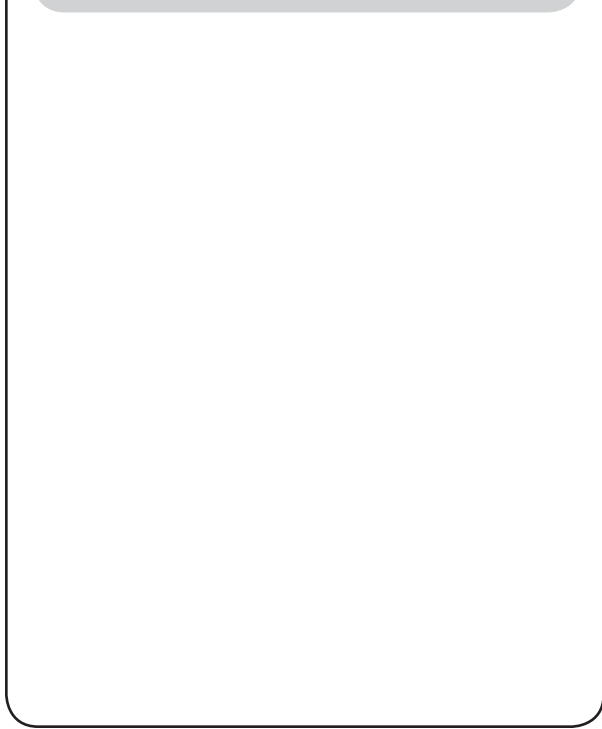
COACHING

REFLECTING

**MY WRITING: What's Working**



**MY QUESTIONS**

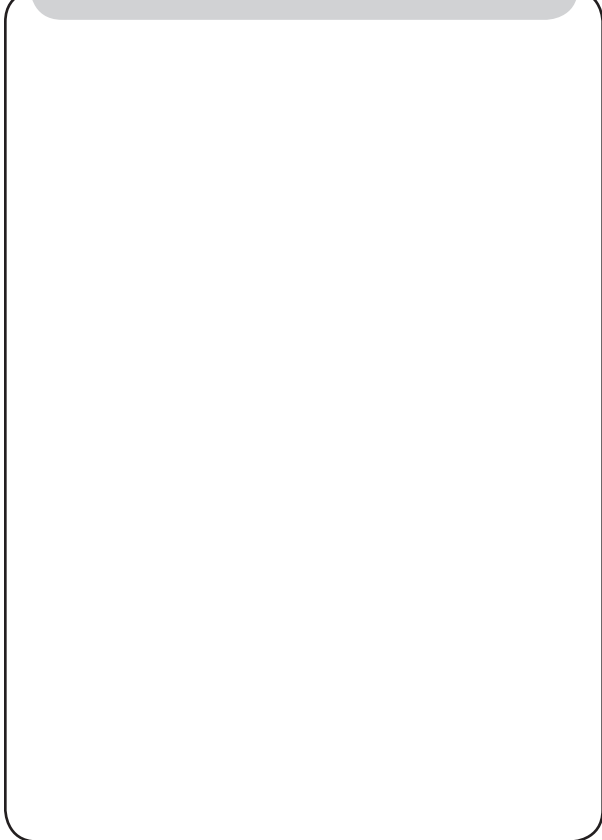


JOURNALING

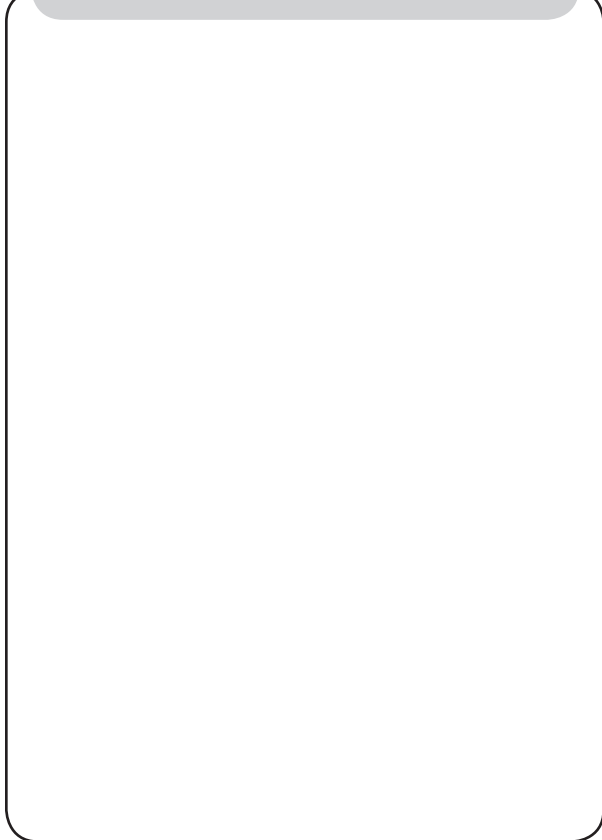
PRACTICING

VISIONING

**MY TEACHER'S THOUGHTS**



**MY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**



DRAFTING

COACHING

REFLECTING

**MY WRITING: What's Working**

**MY QUESTIONS**

JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

**MY TEACHER'S THOUGHTS**

**MY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

DRAFTING

COACHING

REFLECTING





JOURNALING

PRACTICING

VISIONING

DRAFTING

COACHING

REFLECTING