

The False Glitter of Gold

by Helene Mercury

[SETTING: *a dark, narrow canyon in the Superstition Mountains, 1868*]

JACOB WALTZ: Superstition sure is a fine name for these foothills—how easily people believe any ole rumor, overstatement, or lie! [to FRITZ] Bark once, buddy, if you agree that's the doggone truth.

FRITZ [*looking up at WALTZ and wagging his tail*]: Woof!



Highlight in yellow setting details that are clues to the theme.



Setting

Organizer

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Setting

Organizer

JACOB WALTZ*[bending over to open a chest and pull out a scroll]*: Truth is, rumors of riches brought me nothing but headaches and heartbreak—now, Fritz, if you agree, just yipyap your yes.

FRITZ *[looking up at WALTZ and pricking up his ears]*: Yipyap!

JACOB WALTZ: So listen to the message I'm leaving for the world. *[opens scroll and and recites in singsong voice]* Never believe all you're told: all that glitters sure isn't gold; a legend of gold makes a terrific story, but most find neither riches nor glory. *[pauses; then with a satisfied look]* Fritz, how about howling if that isn't the most commonsense, logical, and levelheaded message I ever wrote?



Highlight in green character details that are clues to the theme.



Character

Organizer

JACOB WALTZ [*bending over to open a chest and pull out a scroll*]: Truth is, rumors of riches brought me nothing but headaches and heartbreak—now, Fritz, if you agree, just yipyap your yes.

FRITZ [*looking up at WALTZ and pricking up his ears*]: Yipyap!

JACOB WALTZ: So listen to the message I'm leaving for the world. [*opens scroll and and recites in singsong voice*] Never believe all you're told: all that glitters sure isn't gold; a legend of gold makes a terrific story, but most find neither riches nor glory. [*pauses; then with a satisfied look*] Fritz, how about howling if that isn't the most commonsense, logical, and levelheaded message I ever wrote?



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Character

Organizer

[FRITZ looks up at WALTZ and lets out a long howl.]

JACOB WALTZ[drops the scroll in the chest, then pulls a small gold nugget from his pocket]: I guess I'll just add this, too. It is the only one I ever found. Maybe now I'll be rid of this terrible gold fever!

[WALTZ puts the nugget in the chest and then buries the chest.]



Highlight in pink plot details that are clues to the theme.



Plot

Organizer

[FRITZ looks up at WALTZ and lets out a long howl.]

JACOB WALTZ[drops the scroll in the chest, then pulls a small gold nugget from his pocket]: I guess I'll just add this, too. It is the only one I ever found. Maybe now I'll be rid of this terrible gold fever!

[WALTZ puts the nugget in the chest and then buries the chest.]



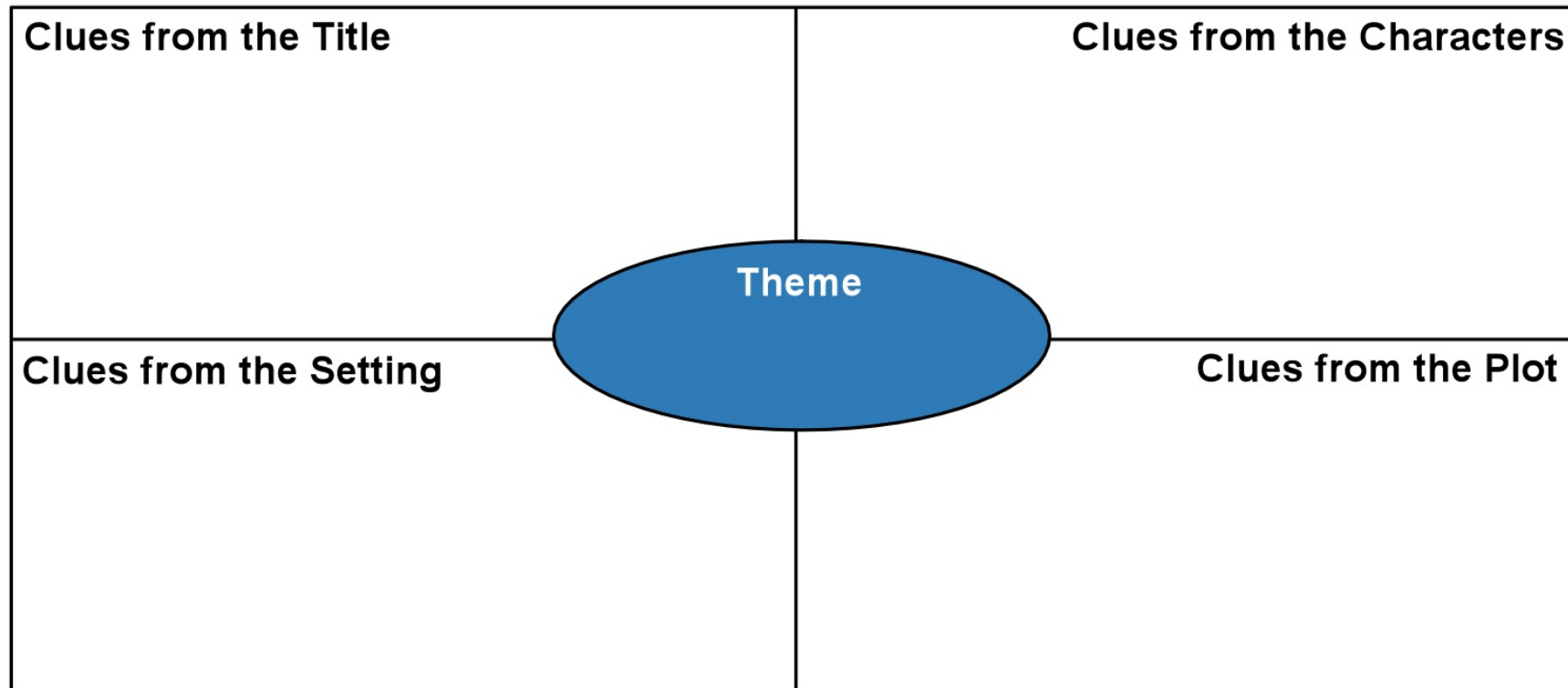
Highlight in pink plot details that are clues to the theme.



Plot

Organizer

Drag the labels to reveal clues to theme.



Waltz buries the chest.

Gold's shine can be misleading.

Rumors of gold brought Waltz only sadness.

Waltz puts his only nugget in the chest.

Waltz is satisfied with his poem.

Waltz puts his poem in the chest.

"Superstition Mountains" suggests luck or foolishness.

Waltz's poem is a warning to others.

Many gold rushes took place in the 1800s.



Drag the labels to reveal clues to theme.

