







## Talk About It

This mail carrier won't get stuck in traffic. What are some other problems he overcomes by using this vehicle?



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# SMART THINKING



## Vocabulary

participate	grimaced
ordeals	anticipated
nourishing	dejectedly
encounter	victorious



## Word Parts

Many English words have **Latin Roots**. Prefixes and/or suffixes are added to the roots to form words.

The root *ject* means *throw*.

The prefix *de* means *down*.

*Dejectedly* means in a downcast manner.

# Rites of Passage

by Luis Rivera

Carlos sat at his friend Aaron's house trying to prepare their oral report on "rites of passage." These are celebrations that mark a special moment in life, like growing up. All humans **participate** in rites of passage, but Carlos could not think of anything he would take part in.

In social studies they had read about Native Americans. Some of their young people went through **ordeals**, or challenges, which tested a young person's spirit and bravery.

Ana's quinceañera





Carlos learned that some of the tests required boys and girls to spend time alone in nature. They had to find **nourishing** food to stay healthy. They might have had to face a dangerous animal, which would have been a scary **encounter**. Carlos **grimaced** at the thought. Aaron noticed the look on his face.

“How is your research going?” Aaron asked.

“Well,” Carlos said, “my sister, Ana, got to have a quinceañera. That means fifteenth year.” Carlos thought of how Ana had **anticipated** the event all year, but he did not look forward to anything like that.

Aaron said, “Yeah, when I’m thirteen I get a bar mitzvah, which in the Jewish tradition means I’m a young man. My sister, Rachael, had her bat mitzvah, which means she’s a

young woman.” Carlos sat **dejectedly** in his chair, almost giving up on the report, when an idea hit him.

“Wait a minute, Aaron! We have our report! You can talk about your family ceremonies and I can talk about Ana’s!” They had solved their problem and felt **victorious!**

Aaron added, “You know what another rite of passage is, don’t you, Carlos? A driver’s license!”



## Reread for Comprehension



### Monitor Comprehension

#### Compare and Contrast

One way to monitor your understanding of a text is to compare and contrast characters or events. When you compare and contrast, you tell how things are alike and how they are different. You can use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast things.

Use a Venn Diagram as you reread “Rites of Passage.”

