

Name: _____ Date: _____

Failures and Successes of Kindness

Directions: Read "The Good Deed" by Marion Dane Bauer and "Failures of Kindness" by George Saunders. Then complete the activity below, which will prepare you to answer the writing prompt on page 24.

1 George Saunders writes, "Each of us is born with built-in confusions." What does he mean? What is a "built-in confusion"?

2 Here is the first "built-in confusion" Saunders names:

"We're central to the universe (that is, our personal story is the main and most interesting story, the only story)."

A Explain what you think Saunders means.

B Explain how this idea applies to Heather. How does this "built-in confusion" lead her to a failure of kindness? Use text evidence to support your answer.

3

Here is the second "built-in confusion" Saunders names:

"We're separate from the universe (there's US and then, out there, all that other junk—dogs and swing sets, and low-hanging clouds and, you know, other people)."

A

Explain what you think Saunders means.

B

Explain how this idea applies to Heather. How does this "built-in confusion" lead her to a failure of kindness? Use text evidence to support your answer.

4

How does Heather overcome the built-in confusions that Saunders names? What act of kindness does she perform?