“First Day in School” – W.O. Mitchell

**NAME: DATE:**

Answer the following questions for the short story. You may use detailed bullet points.

**Pre-Reading**

1. What do you suppose you will be reading about in the short story? Make three specific predictions.
2. Think back to your *earliest* memory of school. Describe the events or episodes that you remember.
3. What did you imagine the principal’s office was like when you were very young?

**During Reading**

1. Stop frequently in the story to make note of questions you have or predictions that you make.
2. Note any vocabulary words that you do not know the specific meaning of below. It may be helpful to write them in context.

**After Reading**

1. Artie Sherry describes Miss MacDonald for Brian and Forbsie before they meet her. Is this characterization accurate? What is your impression of her?
2. Describe Mr. Digby, the principal. How is his role as a disciplinarian contrasted by his actions?
3. Contrast Mr. Digby’s and Miss MacDonald’s treatments of Brian. Why is Mr. Digby more successful?
4. W.O. Mitchell uses a third person omniscient narrator to tell his story. He enters the thoughts of only Brian and Mr. Digby. What does Mitchell gain by presenting the inner world of his central characters and presenting an external view of his minor characters?
5. What is your impression of Brian’s home environment? Select images and dialogue that formed your impression.
6. What is the significance of the image of the fly at the end of the story? How is the image related to Brian’s conflict with school authorities?
7. Create a plot diagram of the story in the space below.