Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive

Directions: Read the following descriptive paragraph written by Meridel Le Sueur in 1934, describing how it felt on a sweltering day in Oklahoma. When you finish reading, fill out the concept map graphic organizer putting his main/central idea in the middle with supporting details in the surrounding boxes.

 ...it was so hot you couldn’t sit around looking at the panting cattle and counting their ribs and listening to that low cry that is an awful asking. We got in a car and drove slowly through the sizzling countryside. Not a soul in sight. It was like a funeral. The houses were closed up tight, the blinds drawn, the windows and doors closed… Through all these windows eyes were watching--watching the wheat go, the rye go, the corn, peas, potatoes go. Everywhere in these barricaded houses were eyes drawn back to the burning windows looking out at… food slowly burning in the fields… Then an awful thing happened. The sun went down… and men and women began to pour out of the houses, the children lean and fleet as rats, and tired lean farm women looking to see what had happened. The men ran into their fields, ran back for water and they began to water their lands with buckets and cups, running, pouring the puny drops of water on the baked earth as if every minute might count now… Not a word was spoken. In intense silence they hurried down the rows with buckets and cups, watering the wilted corn plants, a gargantuan and terrible and hopeless labor… Even the children ran with cups of water, all dogged silent, mad, without a word. (Years of Dust, p. 55)



What are some possible transition words for this text structure? Write them below:

Directions: Write details about Billy Jo Kelby’s Pa, Bayard Kelby in the web diagram below. Use this descriptive graphic organizer to help you write a descriptive paragraph about Billy Jo Kelby’s Father for your news article.

