Tie a rope around that Cow!

Sometimes **e**vil **C**ows **C**an **r**abidly **C**harge.



Title

Author

Restate

Answer

Transition

Context

Signal phrase

Evidence

Citation

Commentary

Repeat

Conclude

In "Stampede" by Catherine Gourley, Conrad, a farmer being pressured to sell his land in the wake of a drought, is a dynamic character who learns over the course of the story to stand up for himself. Early in the story, Conrad is intimidated by Belus McCord, an aggressive man who wants to buy his land. As Conrad tries to run Belus off the first time, the text states, "He raised his gun, surprised as how his hands were shaking. He had never killed a man and wasn't sure if he could" (p. 1). Conrad's shaking hands show that at this point in the story, he is afraid of Belus and unable to confidently protect himself and his land. His fear and self-doubt is shown not only through his anxiety in this first encounter but also by a fitful night's sleep. However, after Belus sends a stampede to destroy Conrad's crops and shows up the next morning to demand the land again, Conrad has changed. The story's final lines on page 1 state, "'I don't believe we'll go,' said Belus. Conrad raised his rifle. His hands were not shaking now. 'Oh, I believe you will." After being harassed by Belus, Conrad has found his voice and his courage. The change in Conrad—from timid and fearful to confident and assertive—shows that he is a dynamic character. Throughout the events of the story, Conrad learns to stick up for himself and not allow others to intimidate him.