



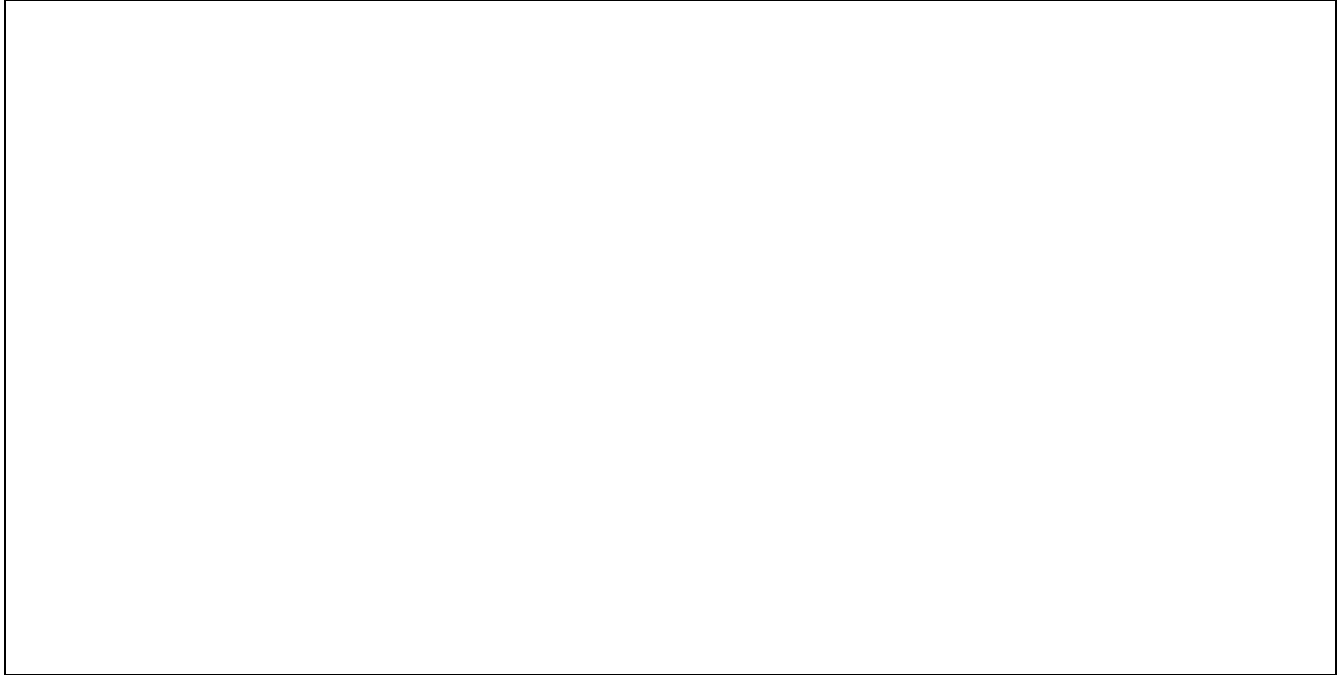
# **Decodable Passages**

## **All Second Grade**

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## The Big Box

Illustrate the story here:



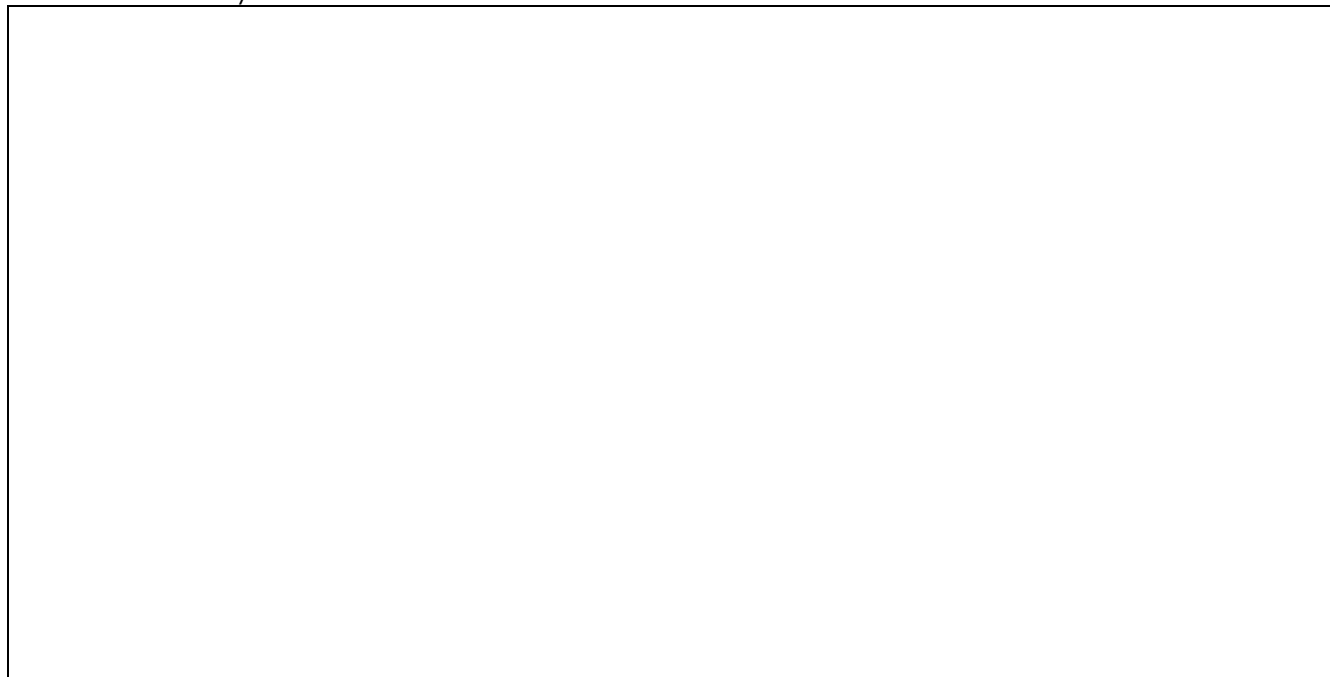
Nils, Jon, and Mag got a big box. What is in the box?

Nils looks in the box. Nils sees a hat in the box. Jon looks in the box. Jon sees a map in the box. Mag looks in the box. Mag sees a book in the box.

Next, the kids see pots and pans and bats in the box. A lot is in this box!

## Brad Quits

Illustrate the story here:



Fran and Brad are in a band. "I quit," said Brad. Brad grabs his bag. He slams it into the van. Fran can see Brad is mad.

Fran and Brad get in the van. "You are mad," said Fran. Brad hits his bag. "Yes! I am mad," said Brad.

Fran grabs his hand. "Let's rest a bit." Brad grins. "Yes. Let's rest." Brad and Fran rest a bit. "I am not mad," said Brad, "I do not quit." "I am glad," said Fran.

## The Fox and the Red Hen

Illustrate the story here:



The fox can not get up. He is in a pit. The red hen looks at the fox. "Oh no! You are in the pit." "Yes, I am in the pit. Can you help me?" asks the fox. "Yes, I can help, but do not jump on me!" said the red hen.

The red hen helps the fox. The fox did not jump on the red hen. The red hen and the fox are glad the fox is not in the pit.

## The Frog and the Slug

Illustrate the story here:

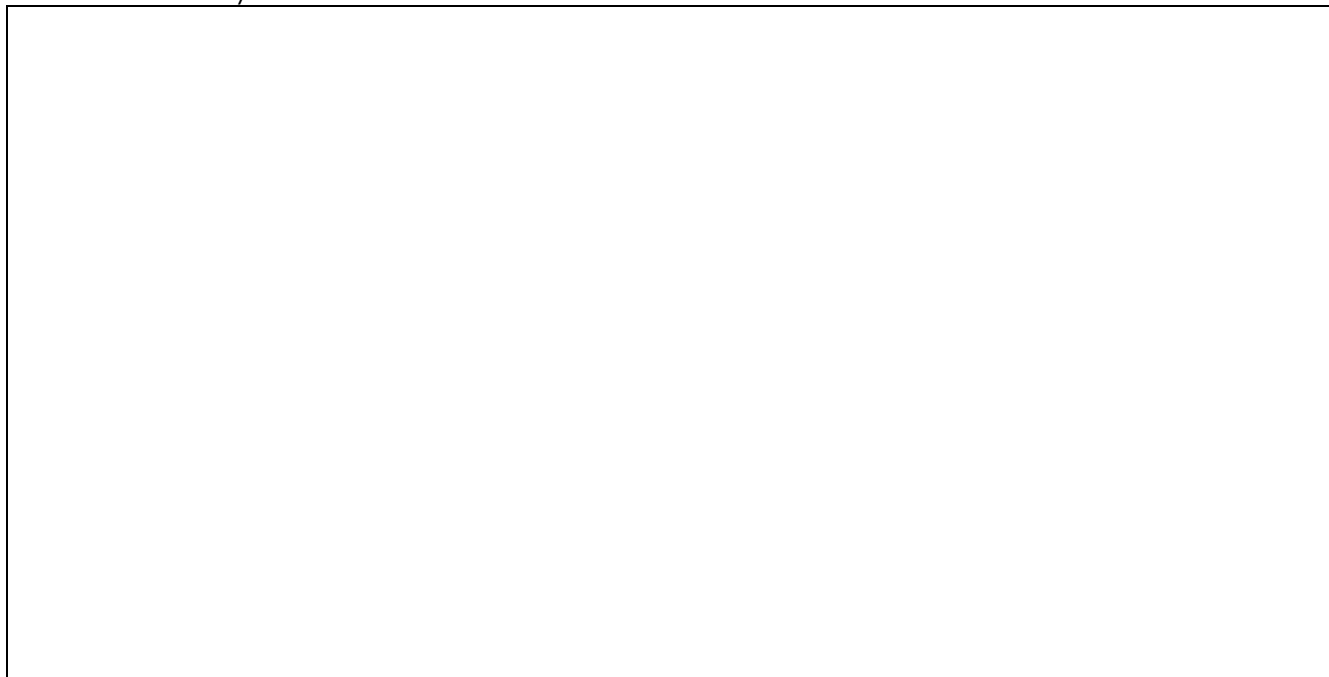


Glen is a frog with black spots. Glen is in the pond. The pond has pads. Glen can jump from pad to pad. He can flip and flop on the pads in the pond.

Glen sees a slug in the pond. The slug is on a pad. "Do you have legs to jump?" Glen asks the slug. "I do not have legs. I can not jump." said the slug. Glen lets the slug get on his back. Look! Glen and the slug can jump from pad to pad!

## A Craft for Mom

Illustrate the story here:



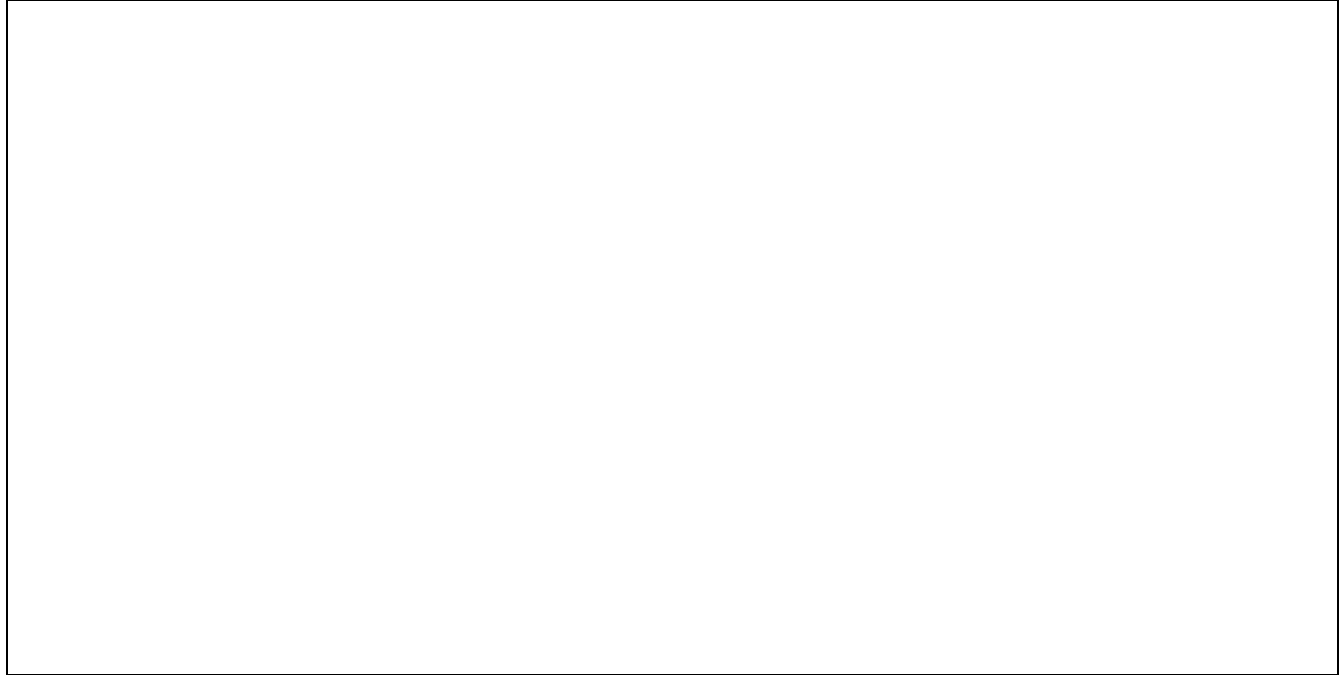
Brent and Clint must get Mom a gift. The kids went to Gram's Craft Stand.

Brent helps Clint cut ten red dots. Next, Clint helps Brent stamp six red spots. The gift Brent and Clint craft is a crest. The kids set the crest in a box.

The crest Brent and Clint craft is grand. "Yes!" said Mom, "This is the best gift. You are the best kids."

## Buzz Sells Milk

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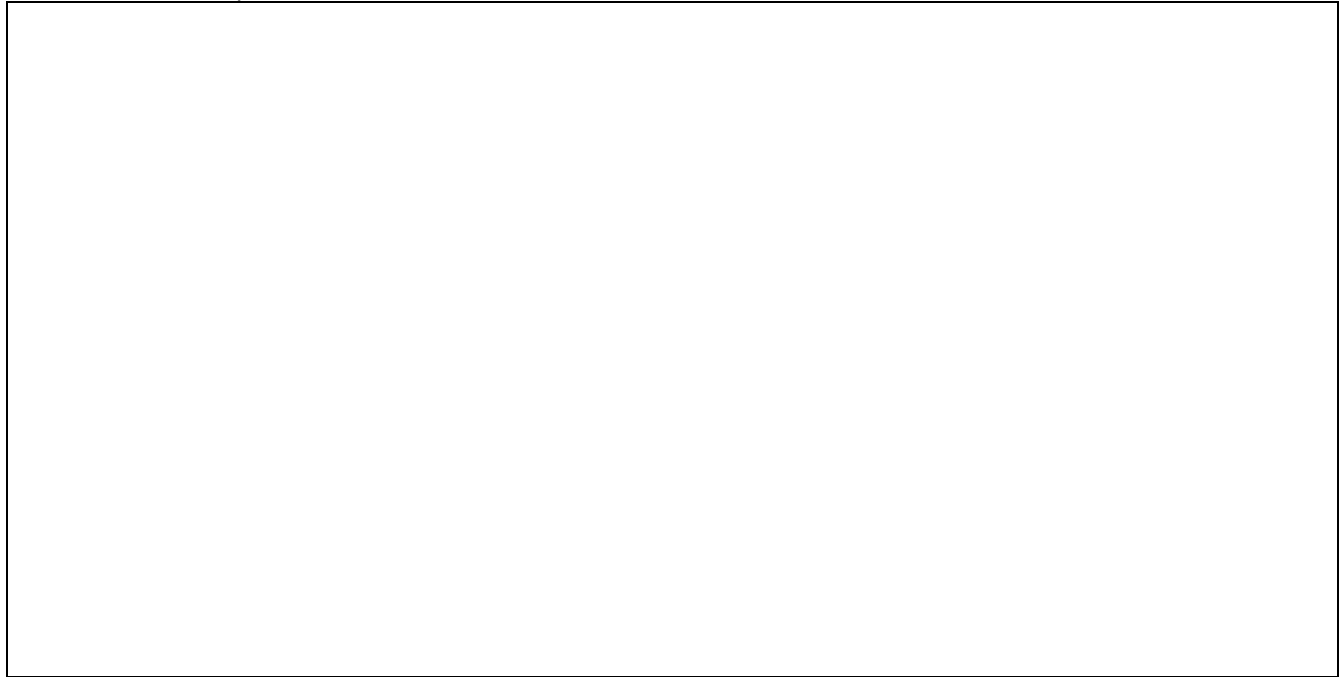


Buzz has a fun job. His job is to sell jugs of milk at the mill. Buzz runs up a tall grass hill to get the milk. He huffs and puffs at the top of the hill. Buzz fills six glass jugs with milk. Not a drop spills.

Next, Buzz runs the milk jugs to the mill. Buzz sees Tiff, Will, and Russ at the mill. “Do you want milk?” asks Buzz. “Yes!” yell the pals. The pals get the jugs. The boss gets the bill. Buzz did a swell job.

## Let's Golf

Illustrate the story here:

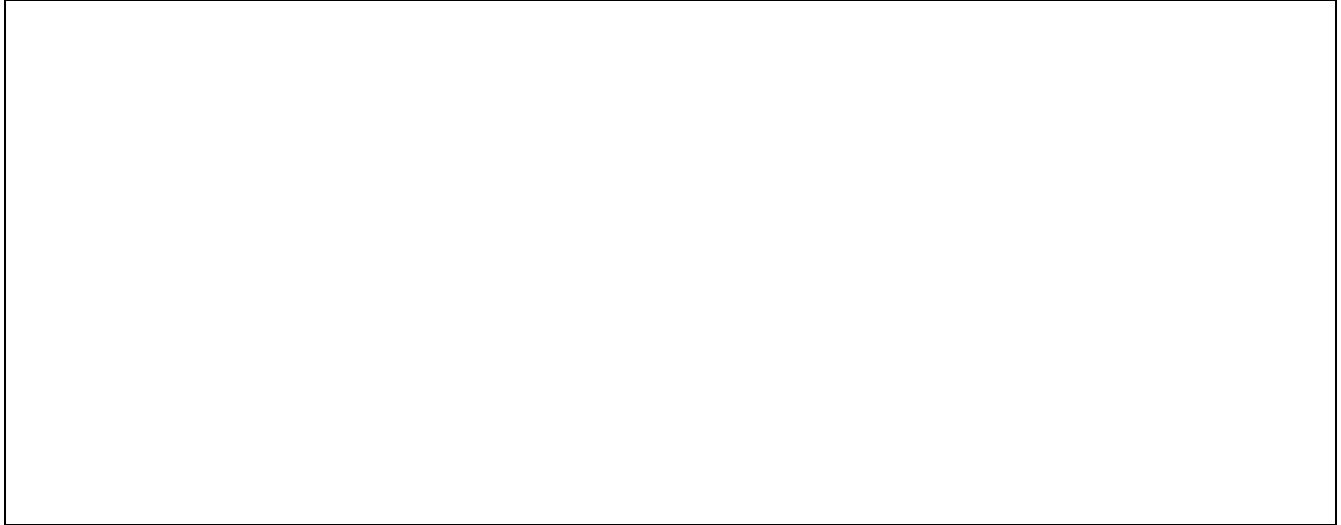


Ross and his mom went to the mall. Ross got golf clubs and golf balls. The golf balls are small. The man from the mall said Ross can hit the balls in the hall.

Ross taps the ball with the club. The ball rolls up the hall and hits the tall wall. "Look at me!" Ross calls to Mom from the hall. He did not want to stop but Mom said he had to go. It was fun to hit golf balls in the mall!

## Snacks for the Pets

Illustrate the story here:



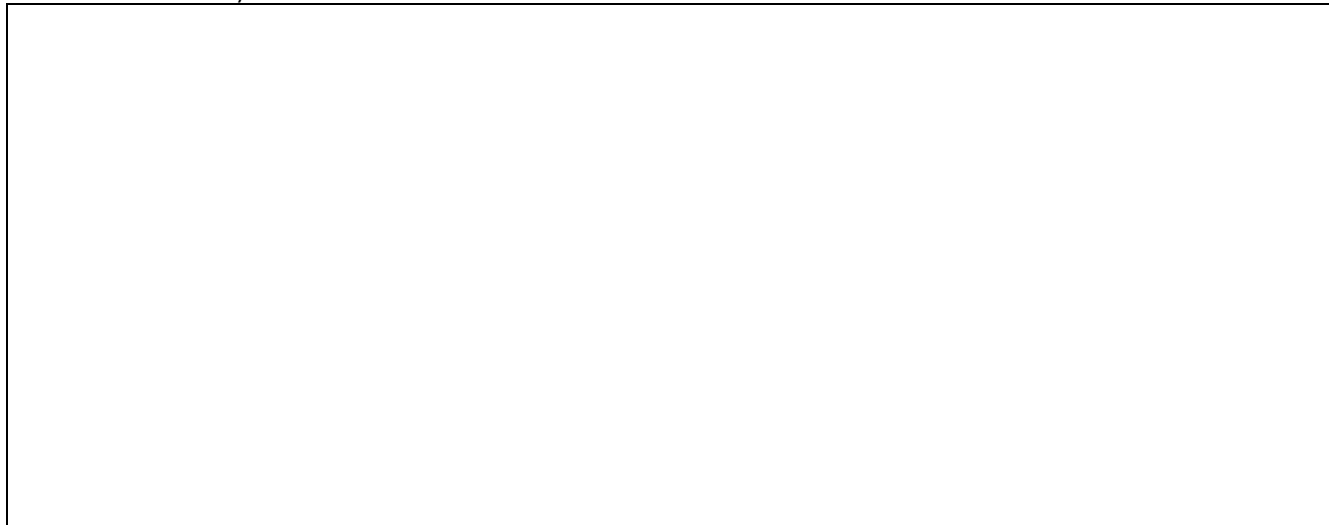
Beth has a lot of pets. She has ten small chicks and six big sloths. She grabs a big bag of snacks and drags it to the pet pens.

The ten small chicks run to Beth. “Do you chicks want a snack?” Beth asks. “Cluck, cluck, cluck,” go the chicks. The chicks peck at their snacks. Beth looks up in the tree at the sloths. “Do you sloths want a snack?” The sloths nod. Beth hands the sloths their dish of snacks. Munch, munch, munch go the sloths.

Beth grabs the last snack in the bag. “I will have this snack,” Beth says. Beth sits on the grass and snacks with the pets.

## The Ship Dock

Illustrate the story here:



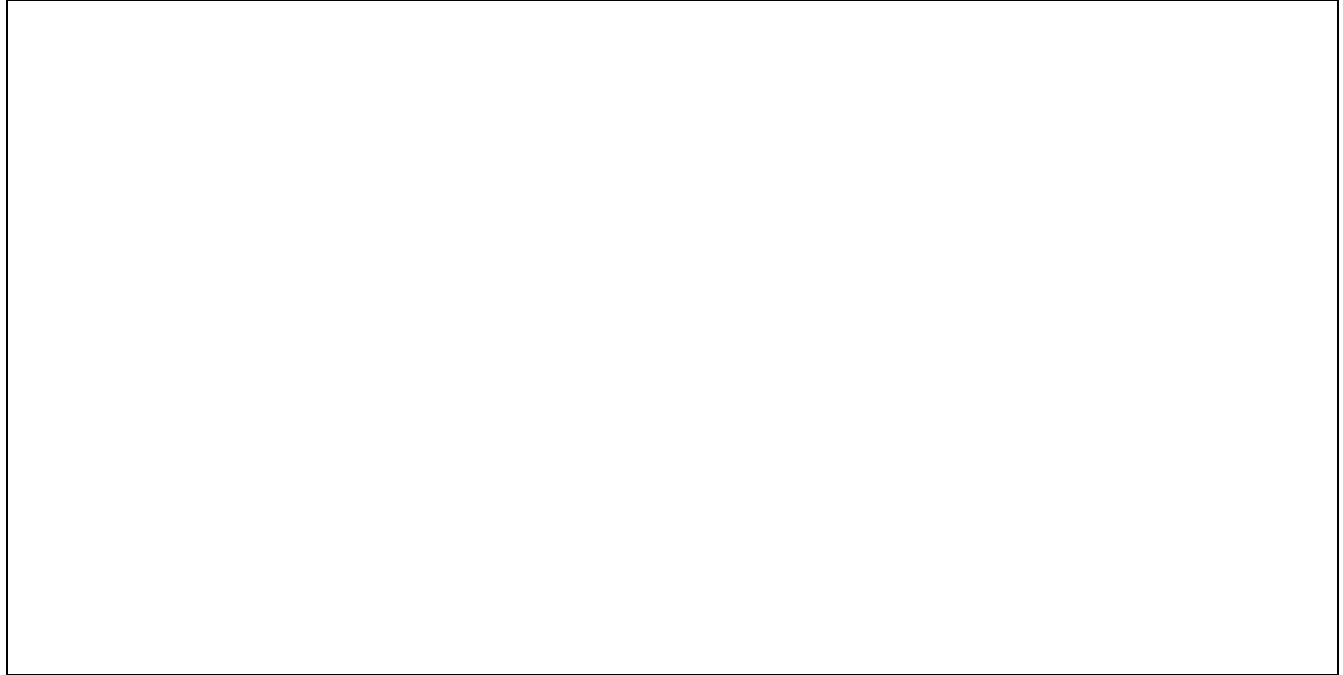
Quin goes to the dock with Jax. They sit on the dock and look at the ships. Jax looks up and sees a big clock. "What is that clock for?" he asks. Quin says, "There is a bell in the clock. When the bell rings, the ships can go to the dock."

Quin and Jax look for ships that could go to the dock. "I think that tall black ship will go to the dock," said Quin. "I think this big pink ship will go to the dock," said Jax.

The bell rings. Ding dong. Ding dong. Which ship will go to the dock? The tall black ship goes past the dock. The big pink ship goes past the dock. "Look!" said Quin. Jax sees a small red ship. The small red ship stops at the dock. "We should have said the red ship!"

## Five Mile Hike

Illustrate the story here:

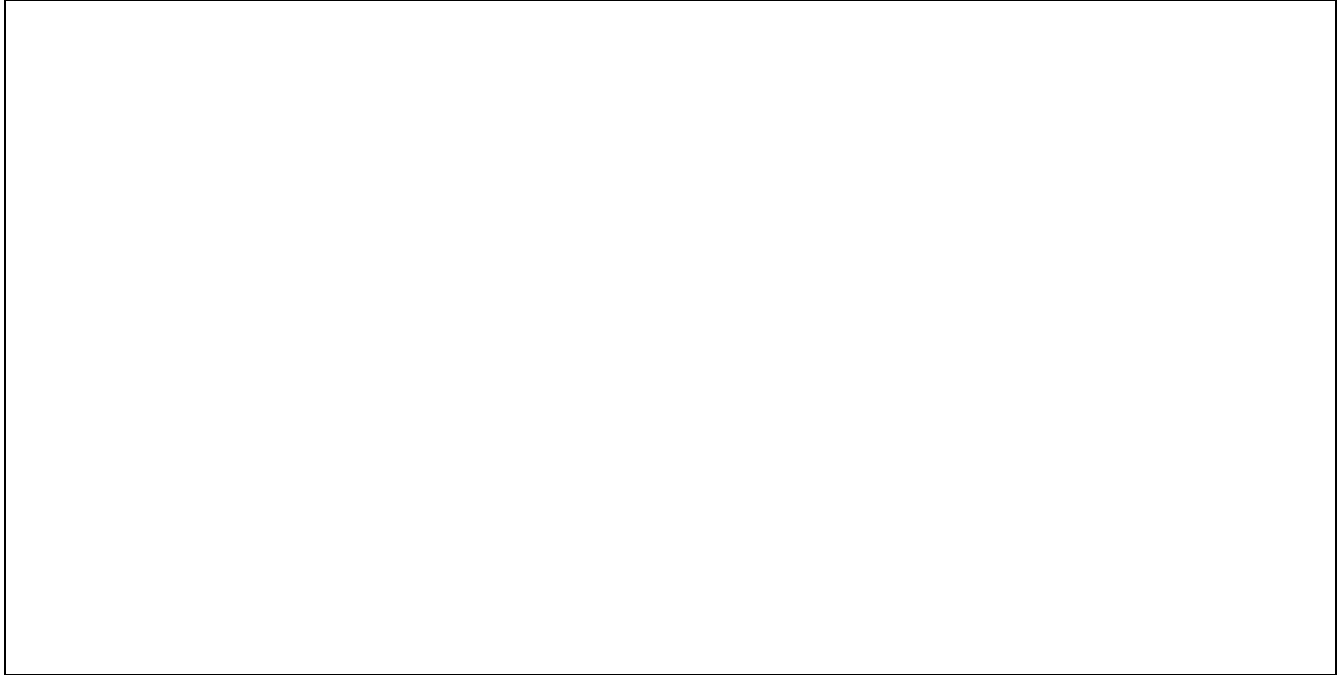


Chan rides his skates to the lake. When Chan gets to the lake, he looks for his pal Eve. He sees Eve on the black dock. “Want to hike?” asks Eve. “Yep!” Chan says. “OK. Grab these snacks for us to have on the hike,” says Eve.

Eve and Chan hike for a long time. “This is a long hike!” says Chan. “Yes. It is five miles” says Eve. Eve and Chan talk as they walk. Eve tells Chan when they are close to the top. “Here we are! The top of the hill!” Eve yells. Eve and Chan can see for miles. “Thank you for this grand hike,” says Chan with a wide smile.

## A Cake for Tess

Illustrate the story here:

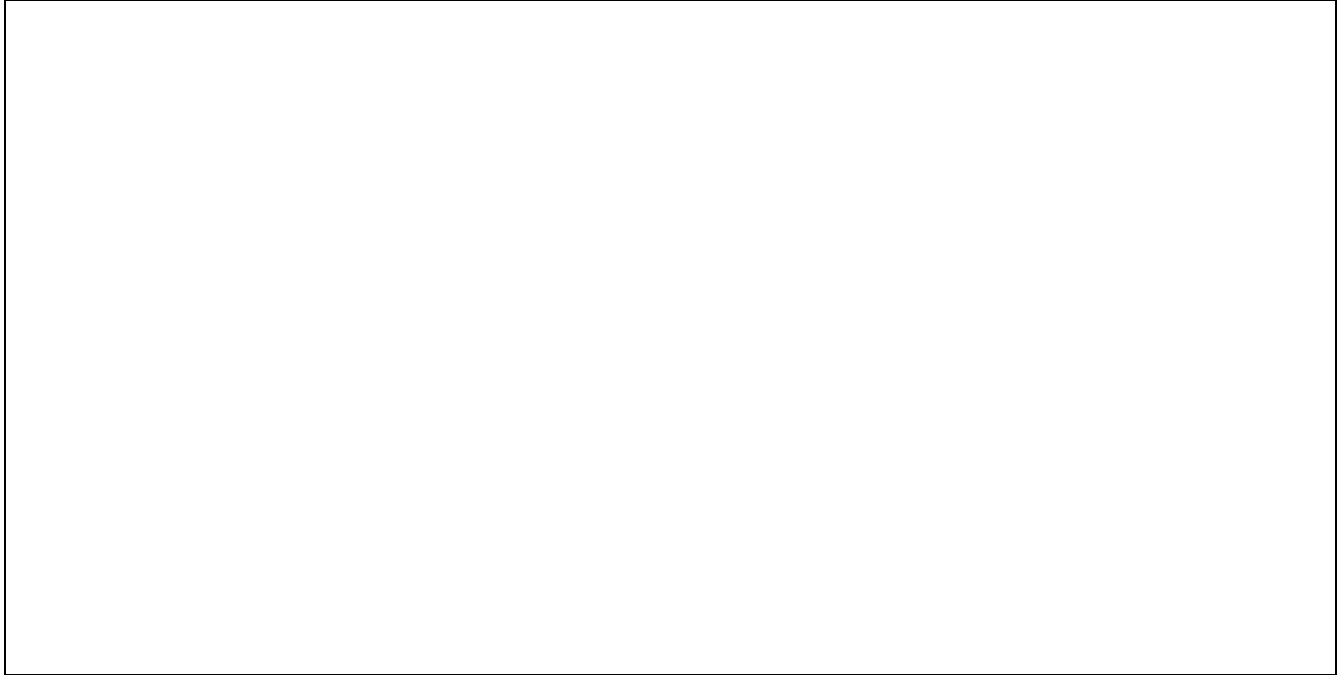


Niles and Blake want to bake a cake for Tess. Tess is their big sis. She will be a bride, so they want to bake a white cake. Niles and Blake mix the cake while Dad gets one pan. The mix goes, Drip! Drip! into the pan.

They ask Dad for help with the stove. The cake bakes for a long time. Next the cake goes on a glass plate. "The cake looks so cute. I want to take a bite!" says Niles. "We can not take a bite. This cake is for Tess!" says Blake.

## June's Bike Shop

Illustrate the story here:



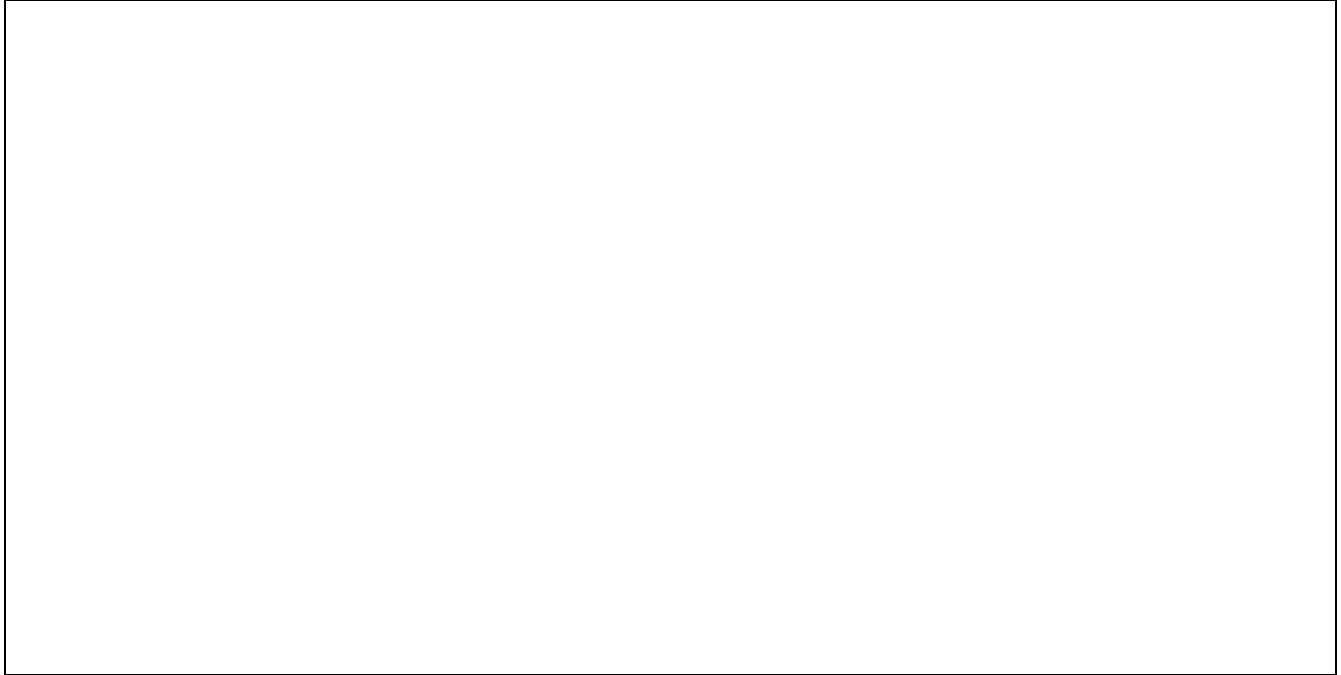
June sells bikes. She will give you such a nice price you will not think twice. Steve and Grace come to June's shop to get bikes.

"I love this red one, it looks fast," said Steve. "I love this blue one, it looks fun," said Grace.

"Can you give us a good price," asks Grace. "Done and done," said June. Steve and Grace smile and ride off with their bikes.

## Two Foxes

Illustrate the story here:

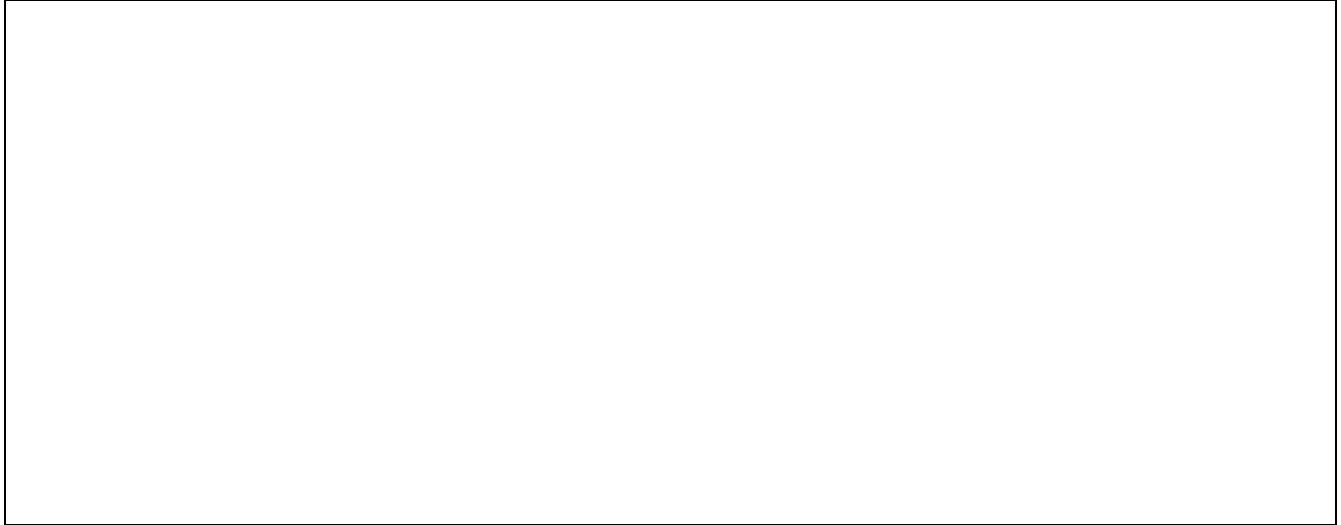


Alex lives in a home close to the lake. Two foxes live in a den next to him. Alex likes to see the foxes in the bushes by their den. Alex is nice to the foxes. When Alex goes for walks, he brings boxes of snacks for the foxes.

Alex loves when the foxes munch on the snacks. The foxes like Alex so much, they give him kisses. Alex wishes he could see the foxes all the time. But they like to spend lots of time in their den.

## Will the Whale

Illustrate the story here:



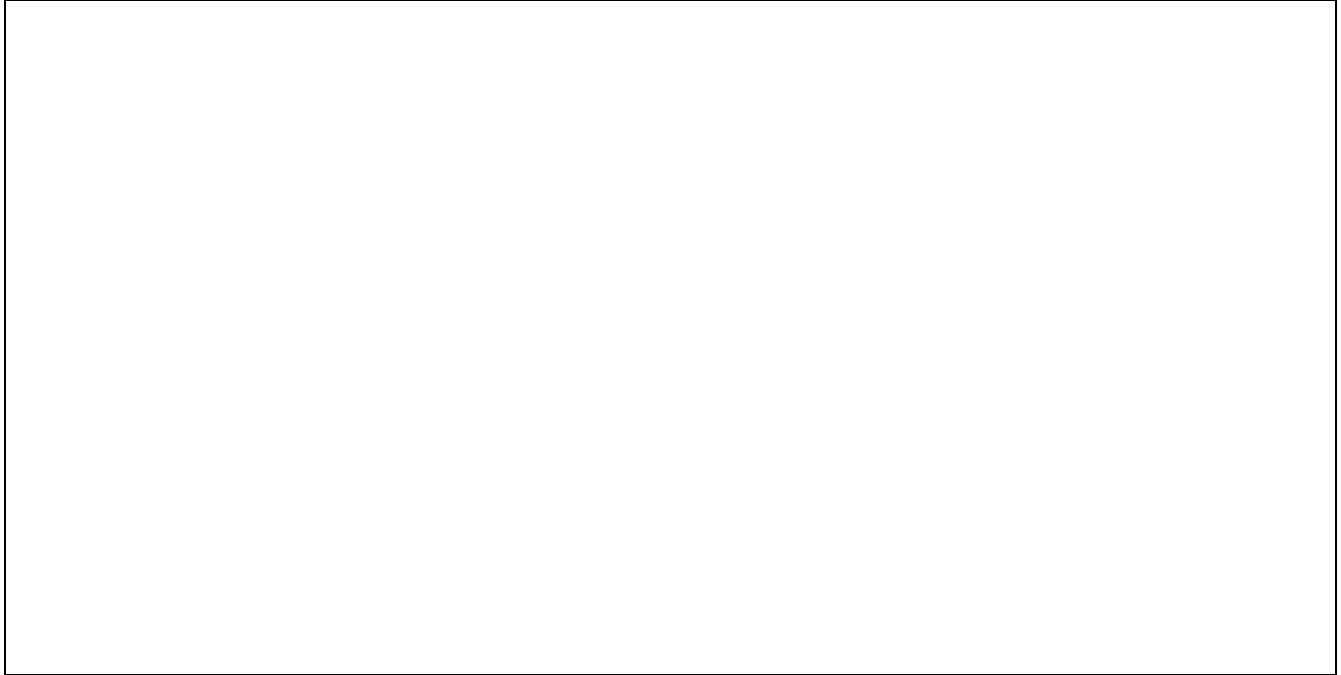
Once upon a time there was a whale named Will. Will lived with many whales in a pod. Will loved his pod. The pod splashed and jumped in the waves. The pod drifted from place to place.

One time, Will and his pod of whales ended up in a cove. The cove was filled with fish and shrimp. The fish swam in the waves. The shrimp drifted with the tide. Will and his pod of whales flicked their fins to splash the fish. The fish flicked their fins back at the whales.

The whales and the fish did not splash any of the shrimp. And the shrimp did not splash any of the whales or the fish. The whales and the fish had fun while the shrimp just drifted.

## We Love Camp

Illustrate the story here:

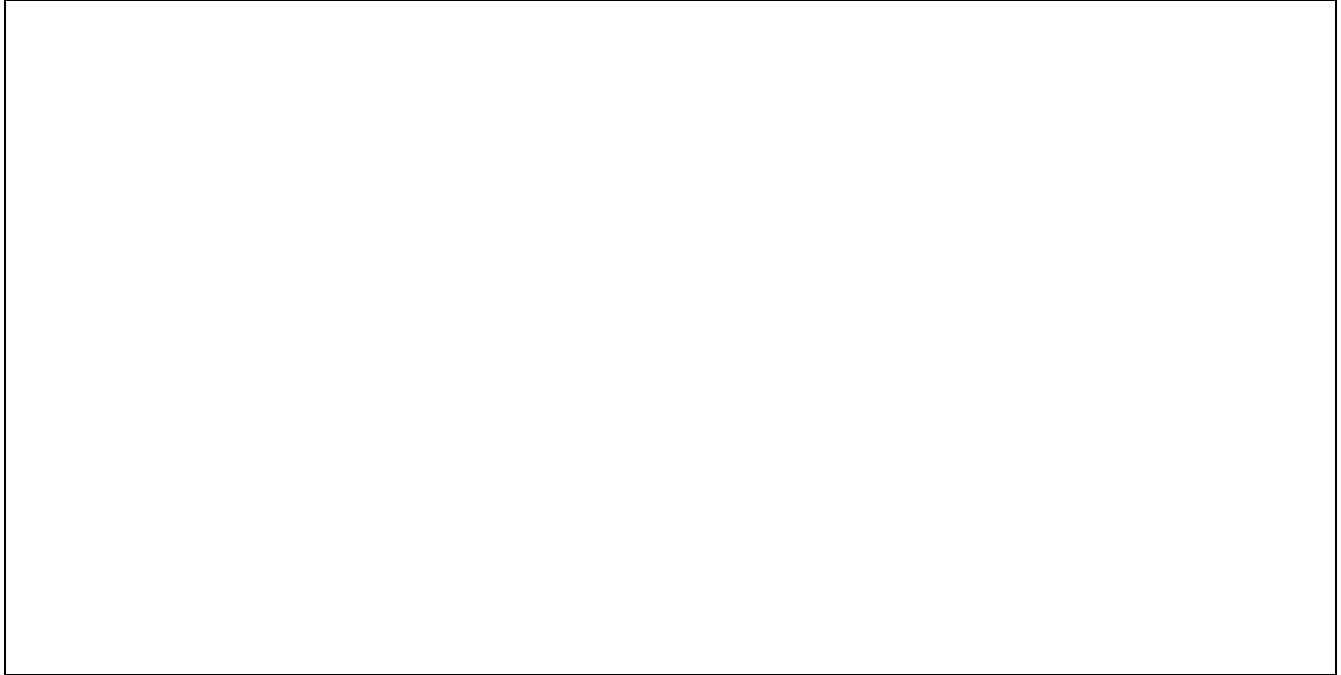
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of the story.

Going to camp is so much fun. We all get to spend time doing things we love. Chance is fishing at the pond. Ming and Beth are boxing in the ring. Sage is resting in the tent.

Jace and Tess are acting on the stage. Len is looking for bugs in the grass. We will be sad when camp ends. We love spending time at camp!

## Jo's Friend Russ

Illustrate the story here:

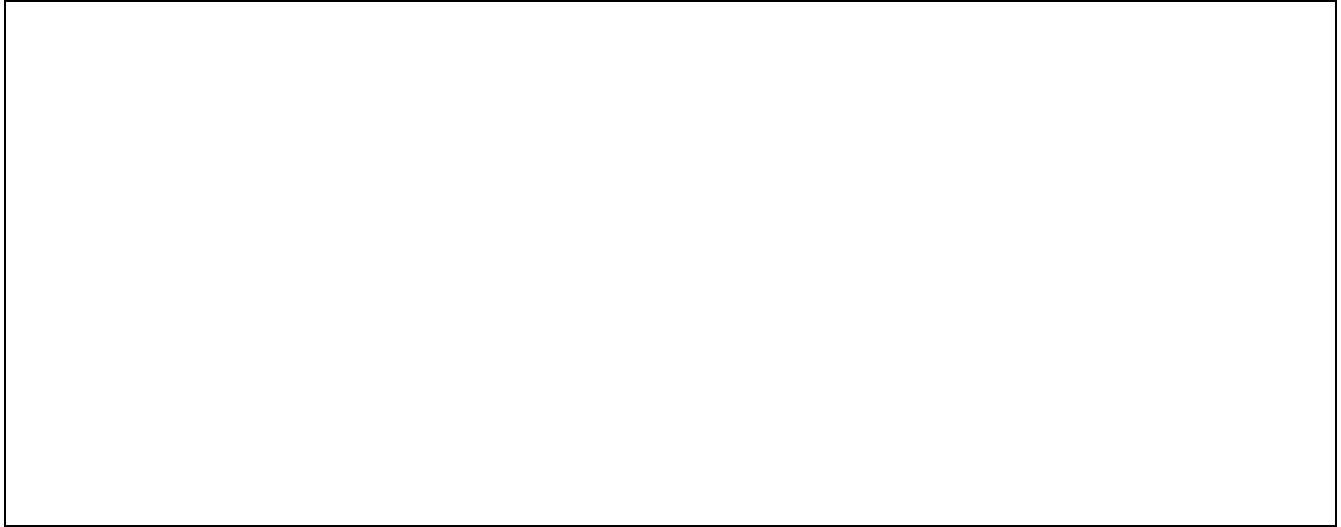
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of the story.

Jo has a best friend named Russ. Russ and Jo go on bike rides in the fall. In the spring, they swim in the lake. At the lake, Jo brings snacks and Russ brings drinks.

They also love acting, singing, and telling jokes. Russ likes spending time with Jo and Jo likes spending time with Russ. Russ and Jo will be friends for a long time.

## Mo and the Sandbox

Illustrate the story here:



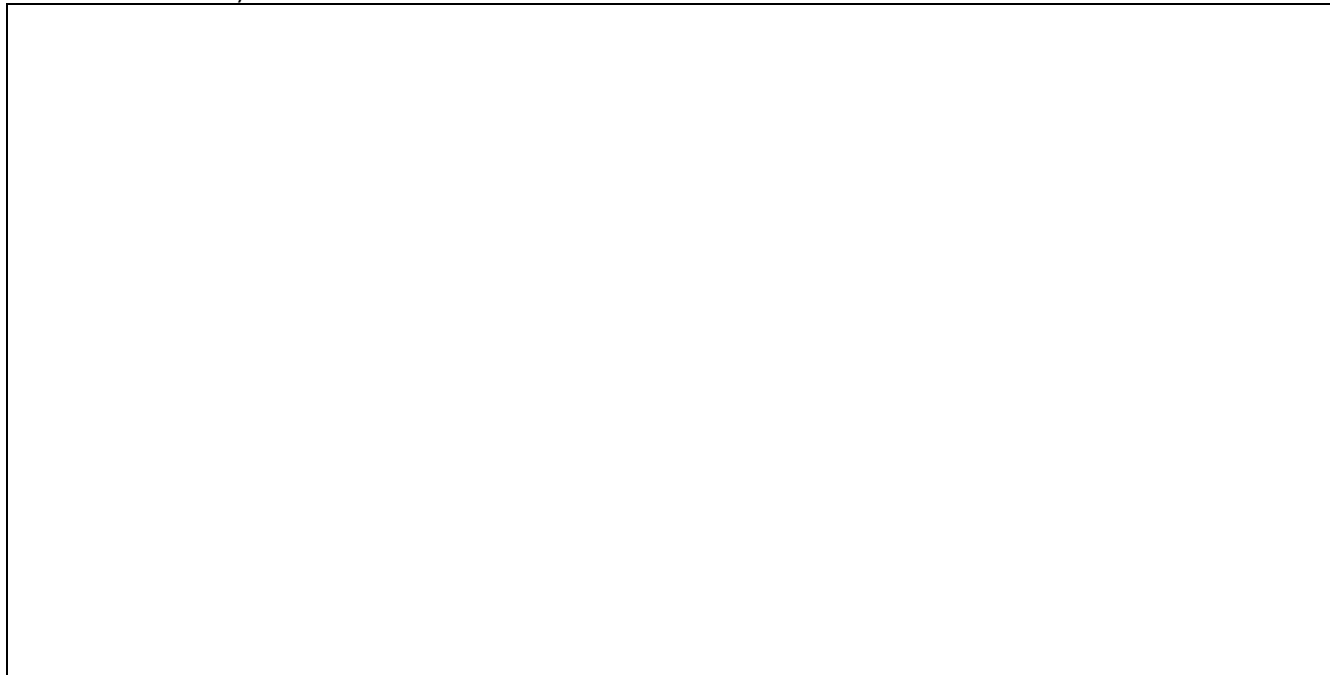
Mo was at home with his grandmom. Mo sat in his sandbox while grandmom swept the tile. When grandmom was done with the tile she yelled to Mo, “bath time!”

Mo did not want to take a bath. He still wanted to sit in his sandbox. “Mo, you must get in the bathtub because you are full of sand,” said grandmom. “OK, fine,” said Mo. He picked up his stuff from the sandbox and got in the bathtub.

When Mo was done with his bath he sat with grandmom. “Can I tell you something, grandmom? The bath was not so bad. It got rid of all the sand just like you said.” Grandmom gave Mo a big hug and a kiss.

## The Rocket Contest

Illustrate the story here:



Denzel and Edwin dash to the rocket contest. The man at the gate says “Get your tickets, get your tickets! You do not want to miss the big rocket contest. Which rocket will be the fastest and win the prize basket?”

Denzel and Edwin get to the contest just in time. They grab their blankets and look for a nice spot to sit. They are all set to see the rockets go! They see the blue rocket take off, then red, then pink, then white. They go up, up, up, so fast. Which is the fastest? The blue rocket wins!

## Music Class

Illustrate the story here:

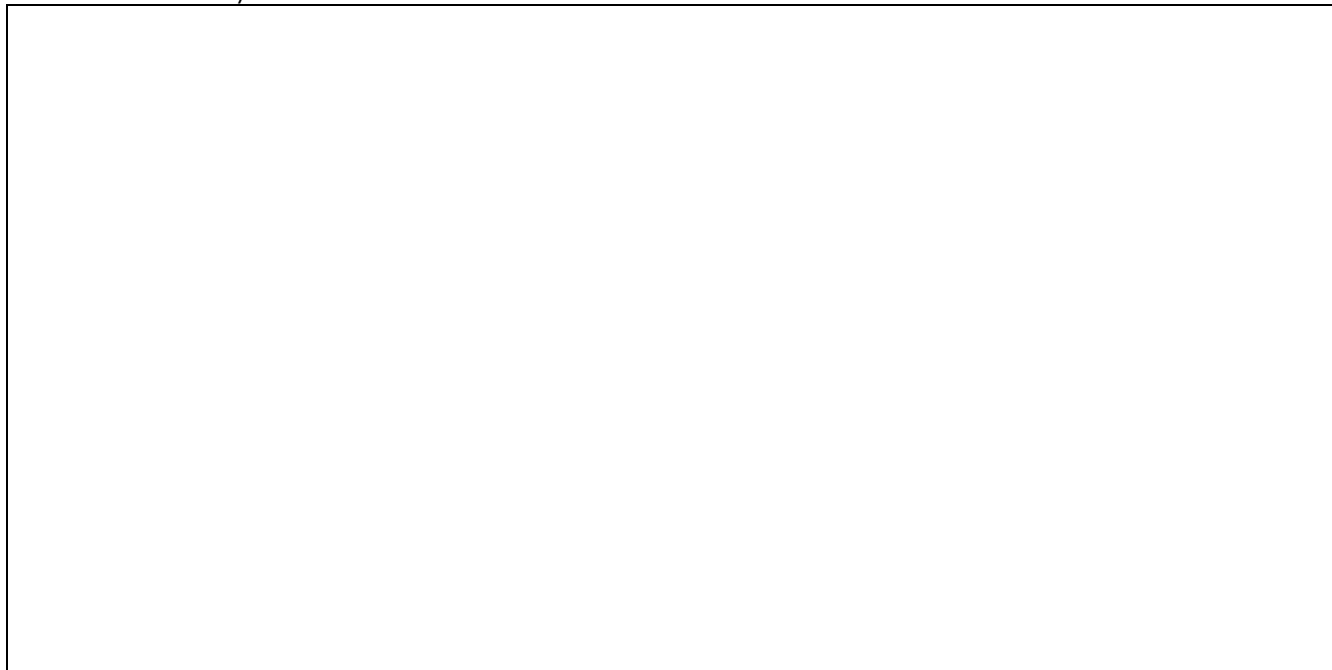
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Music class is the best because we get to sing. It is no secret that I love to sing. If you sing well, you get to have a solo.

When I have a solo in music class, I pretend I am on a huge stage. It is silent for a moment, then I begin. I sing and sing like time is frozen. At the end, my friends clap for me. That is a nice bonus.

## Robin and Stitch

Illustrate the story here:



Robin is walking Stitch the bulldog. They walk to a patch of grass beside a big ditch. Robin tosses a stick and Stitch dashes to fetch it. The stick lands on the edge of the ditch. “Oh no! That is a bad place for the stick to land,” thinks Robin.

“Stop Stitch!” she yells. Stitch stops and does not budge. Robin walks up to the edge and grabs the stick. “Good job Stitch! I got your stick. Do you want it back?” Robin tosses the stick and Stitch jumps to catch it.

## The Gold Rush

Illustrate the story here:



Long ago, bold men and women drove west to find gold. They left their old lives behind in hopes of being rich. These were wild times. Mines exploded with gold that could be sold for lots of cash.

Some folks got rich, but most did not find any gold. The men and women who did not find gold went back to their old homes. There they told the tale of their tragic time in the Wild West gold rush.

## A Trip to the Jungle

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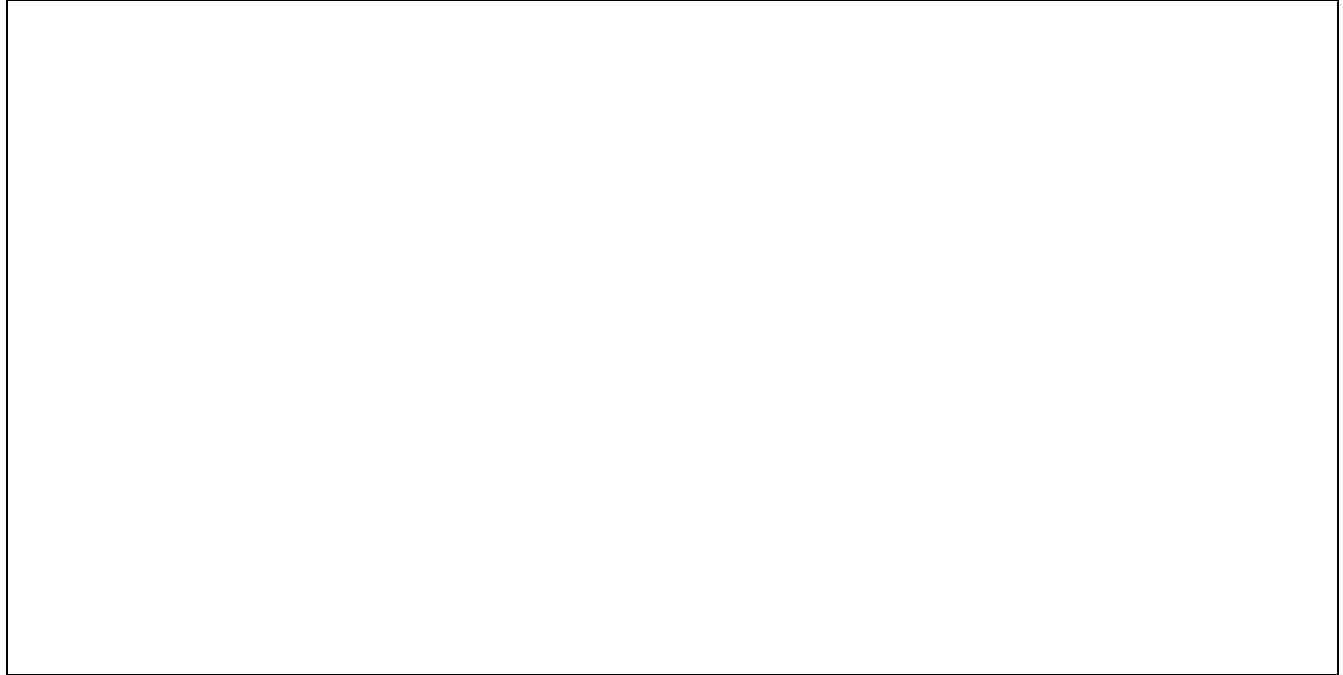


Salma and Felix are going on a trip to the jungle. They packed their duffle bags and got on a plane to Brazil. Once in Brazil, they rode a shuttle to the jungle. In the jungle, they saw an anaconda in the grass. They also saw a sloth dangle from a vine.

At the end of their trip, they even got to see a puma! Pumas like to hide, so not many people get to see them in the wild. Salma and Felix were thrilled. “I am so happy we got to see these animals,” said Salma. “Me too!” said Felix.

## Trip to the Market

Illustrate the story here:

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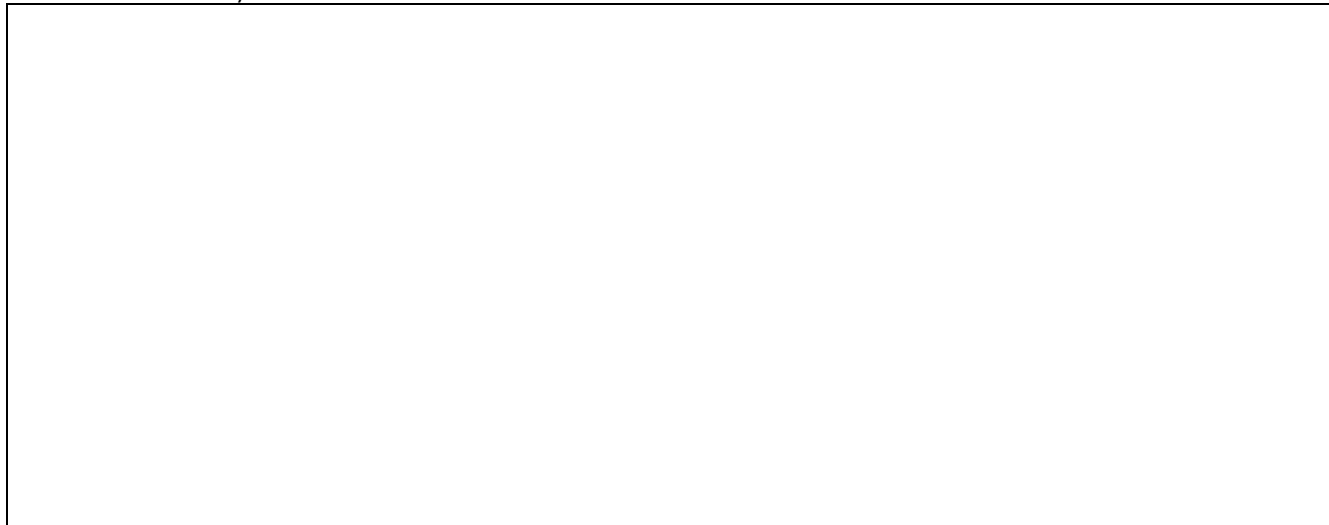
Mom and Marcus went to the market. They wanted to pick up some pork, corn, rice, and a jar of mango jelly. They liked this market more than the large store with all the people. The market was on a farm.

Mom parked the car and Marcus got the cart. This would be a short trip since they only wanted four things. Marcus got the rice and jar of mango jelly. Mom picked up the pork and corn.

Once they had all their items, they gave the saleswoman their cash. Then, they departed the market. They got back in their car and drove home for a yummy lunch.

## The Worst Pet Ever

Illustrate the story here:



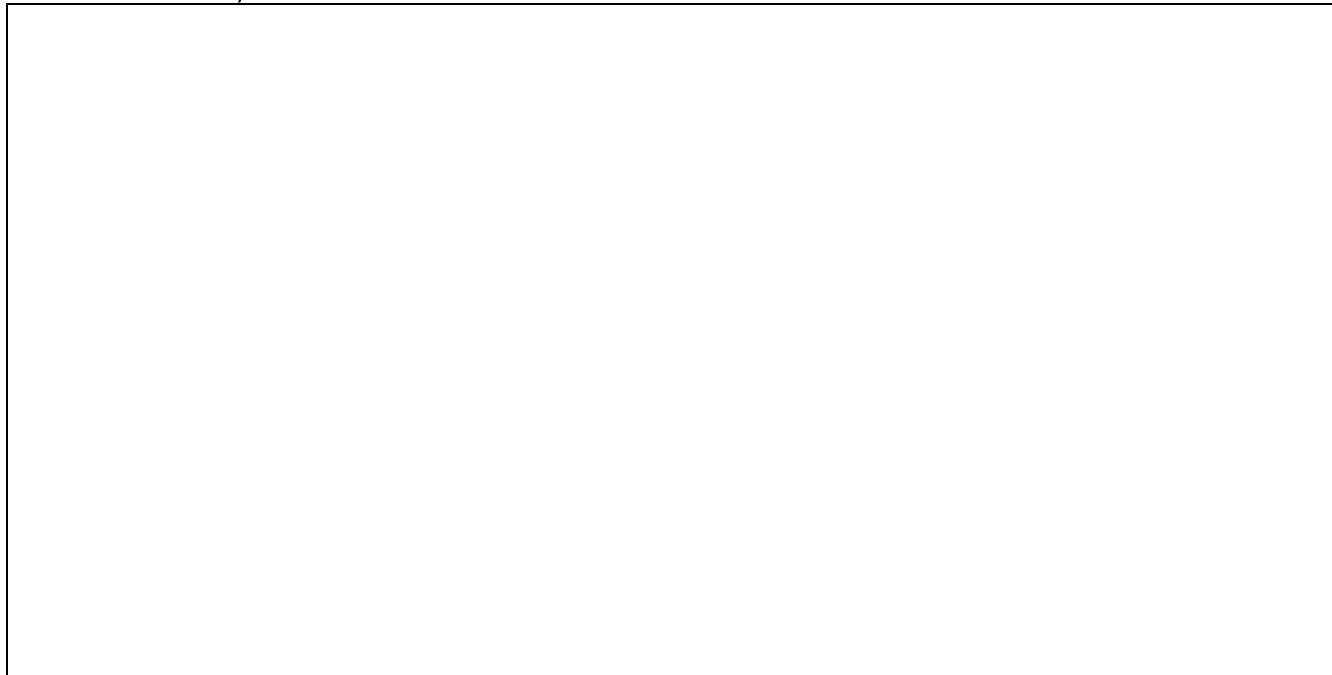
Morgan has wanted a pet for a long time. One morning, there was a small box on the table with her name on it. Inside the box, there was a bunch of dirt. Under the dirt was her new pet, a worm!

Morgan was sad. She thinks a worm is the worst pet in the world. She wanted a dog or cat or even a hamster, not a squirmy worm! What were her mom and dad thinking? This pet will not work. She started to cry.

Just then, mom and dad came in and said, "We got you! It was a joke! We are going to the pet shop!" Morgan was so happy. She wiped her face and gave mom and dad a hug. She was going to get the best pet ever!

## Fishing at the Port

Illustrate the story here:



Travis and his father wanted to go fishing at the port. They drove to the tackle store to pick up some items. They had to get some fishing line and a jar of worms.

Travis found the jar of worms under a large rack of fishing poles. His father found the fishing line. He picked the extra sturdy line so they could catch big fish. They gave the clerk a credit card for their items.

Travis and his father left the tackle store, got in the car, and drove north to the water. This would be their third trip to the port. Last time, they went home with five fish. This time, they hope to catch more.

## Sunday Fun

Illustrate the story here:

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On Sundays, Gail visits her brother at his farm. Gail loves to go to the farm because there is so much to do. She starts the day in the garden. If it did not rain, she sprays the plants with water.

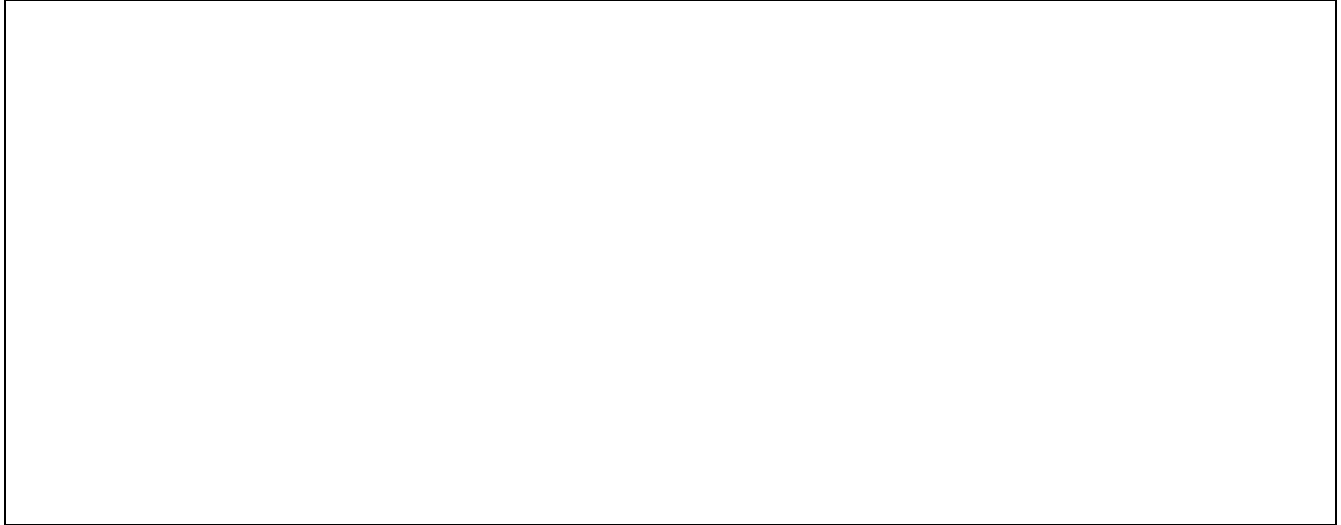
Then, Gail and her brother walk on the trail from the garden to the pond. As they walk, Gail hunts for snail shells. When she finds shells, she tucks them in her pocket. She will paint them when she gets home.

At the pond, her brother likes to fish. He strings bait onto his fishing pole and waits for a bite. While they wait, Gail plays in the mud and clay.

At the end of the day, they walk back up the trail to go home. As they walk, they see the sun set and the day fade away.

## Deep in the Green Forest

Illustrate the story here:



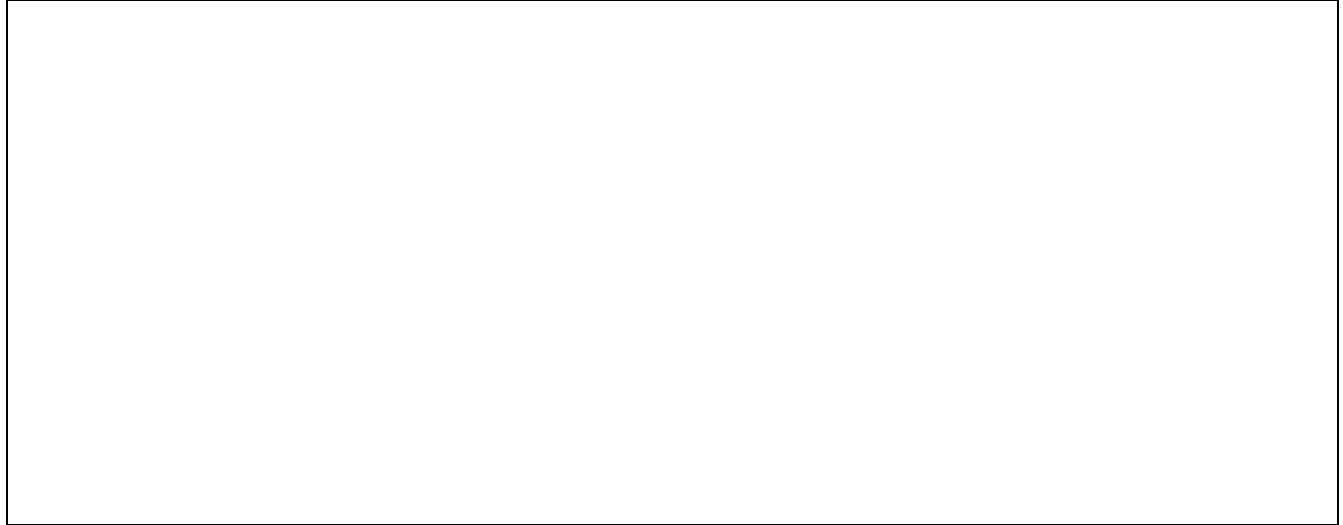
Once upon a time, there was a fox who lived in a valley. She spent her days deep in the green forest. Each day, she would wake up from her sleep and greet the forest animals. She would say hello to the animals in the trees above her. She would also say hello to the animals who rested by the stream.

One morning, the peace of the forest was broken by a horrid scream! The fox looked up to see where the scream came from. She saw a fallen tree. She peeked in and came upon a monkey. The monkey was stuck in the fallen tree. "Can you please help me get free?" pleaded the monkey. "I will try my best," the fox said.

The fox pushed very hard and in the end the monkey was freed! "Thank you so much," the monkey said as he leaped into another tree. As the fox walked back to the valley, she beamed with pride for helping the monkey.

## A Trip to the Coast

Illustrate the story here:



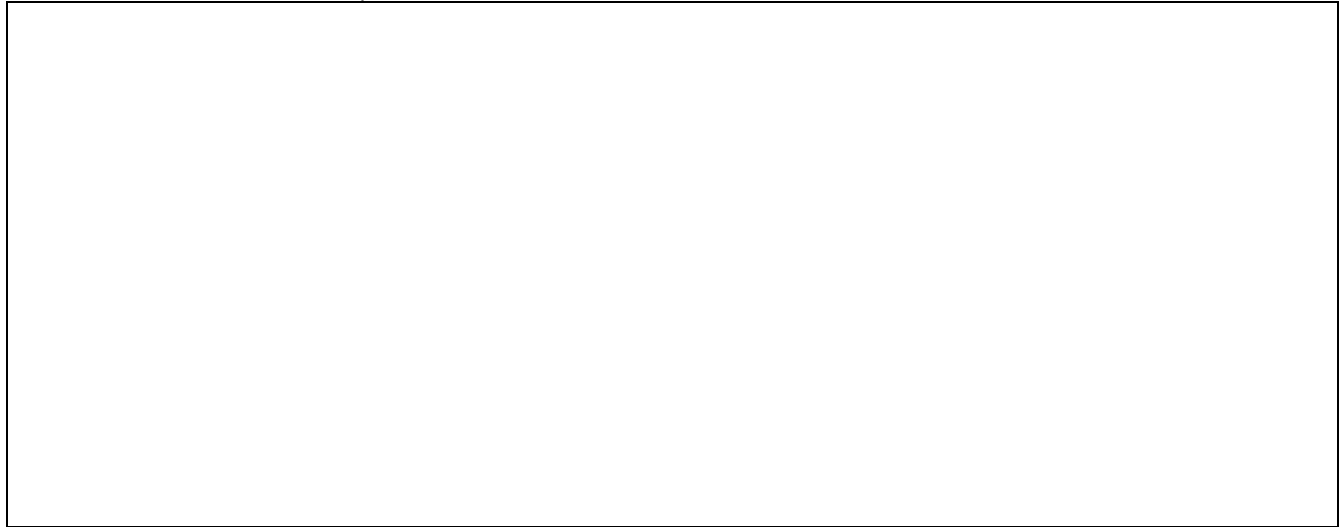
Harvey owns a big yellow boat. Every summer, he takes the boat on a trip to the coast. This time, he wants to bring his friends, Layla and Joe, with him. There is just one problem, Layla can not swim! Layla must be able to swim if she wants to go on the boat.

Layla started swim lessons to grow her skills. She even got a swim coach to teach her. She started slow, but Joe helped her get better. After four weeks of lessons, Layla could swim! Now she could paddle, kick, and float all by herself.

Layla showed Harvey her skills. Harvey was thrilled! The next day, Harvey and Layla and Joe set sail to the coast.

## The Right Job

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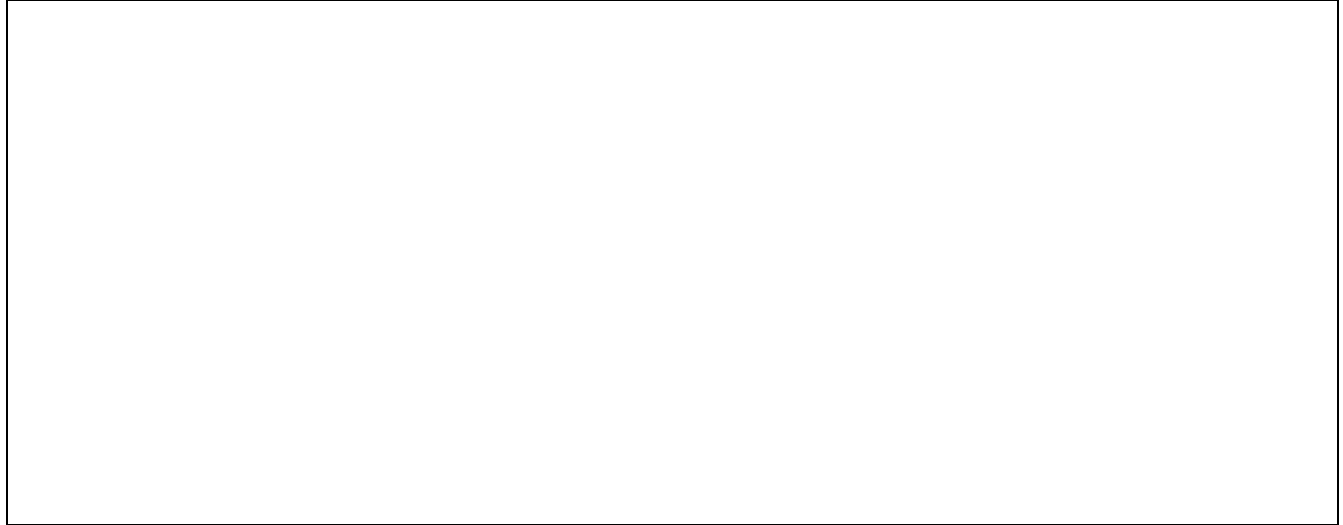
Curt is a pilot. This means he must fly planes for work. He sports a white shirt and a necktie when he is on the plane. He has been flying for a long time. Sometimes Curt must fly at night when there is no light in the sky.

At night, everyone on the plane is asleep and it is silent. This is peaceful, but sometimes it gets boring. Curt prefers to fly in the daylight. This is when he can see the land below and talk to people.

Curt also likes seeing the sights in the places he goes. He delights in exploring the parks, theaters, and stores wherever his flights take him. But what he likes best is being high up in the sky. Being a pilot is the right job for Curt!

## Aiden's Goal

Illustrate the story here:



Aiden had to find a way to make money. He needed to save up for his dream car. He wanted to get a jeep, but jeeps are not cheap. He needed to find a job that paid very well, so he could own his dream car. What could he do?

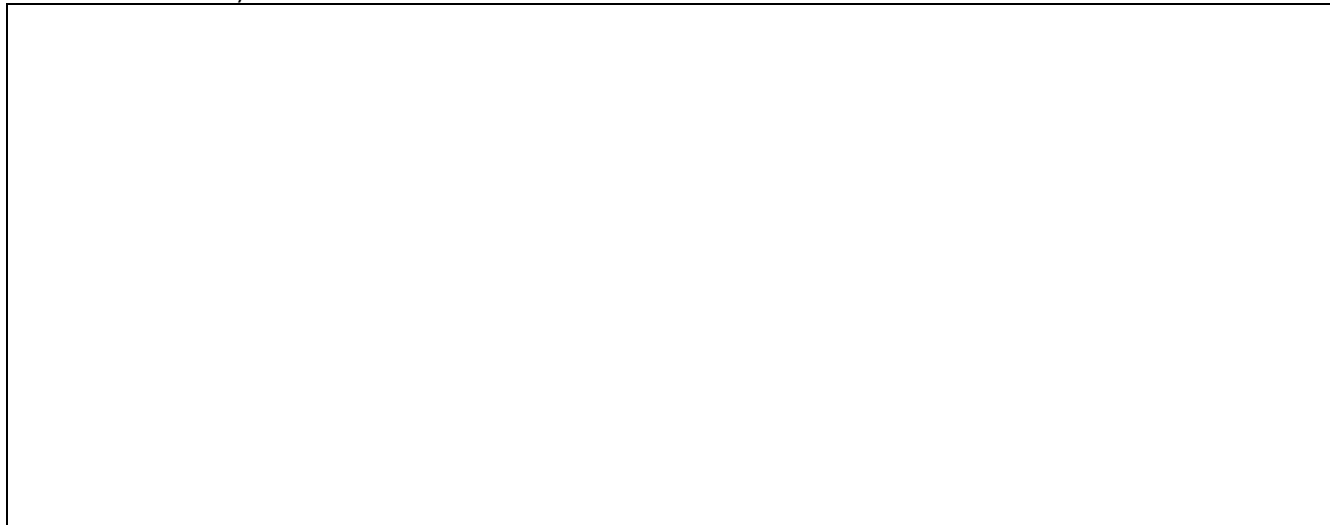
Aiden went to his father for advice. His father said he should study. "How will studying get me my dream car?" Aiden asked. His father explained that he could study a trade like welding or carpentry. He could also take more classes to get a degree.

People who had a trade or a degree could make a lot of money. Aiden needed to think over what his father had told him. It would take longer to study, but in the end, Aiden would be able to get his dream car and more.

After days of thinking, Aiden chose to take more classes. This would help him reach this goal and his next one, whatever that might be. Aiden's father was almost always right.

## Brooklyn's Reading Nook

Illustrate the story here:



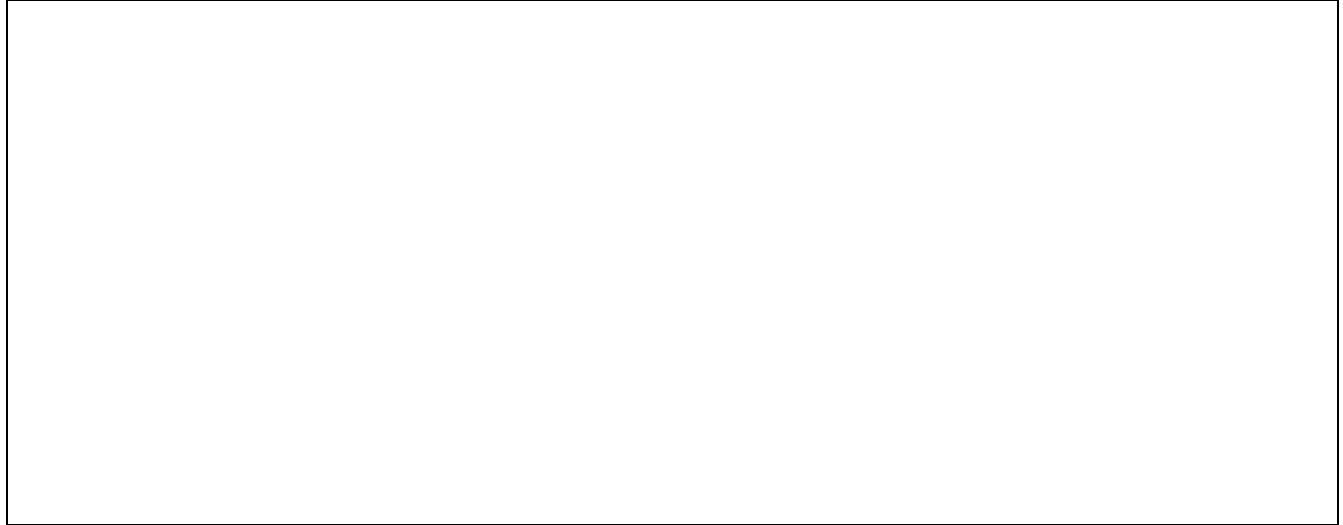
Brooklyn got a new book. For weeks, Brooklyn had been looking for this book in every bookshop. She put it at the top of her list because she was confident that this story would be a good one. Brooklyn loved her reading time on the weekends.

Each Saturday, she was able to sit in her reading nook and dive into a good book. Last weekend, she finished a story of a famed football star. This weekend she would be starting Little Red Riding Hood. But this story is not the classic she remembers from her childhood.

In that book, Little Red Riding Hood is a small child. This modern story is a twisted tale. Little Red Riding Hood is a grown-up when she goes for a walk in the woods. Brooklyn could not wait to pull on her cozy hooded blanket and curl up in her nook with her book.

## The Groom is Late!

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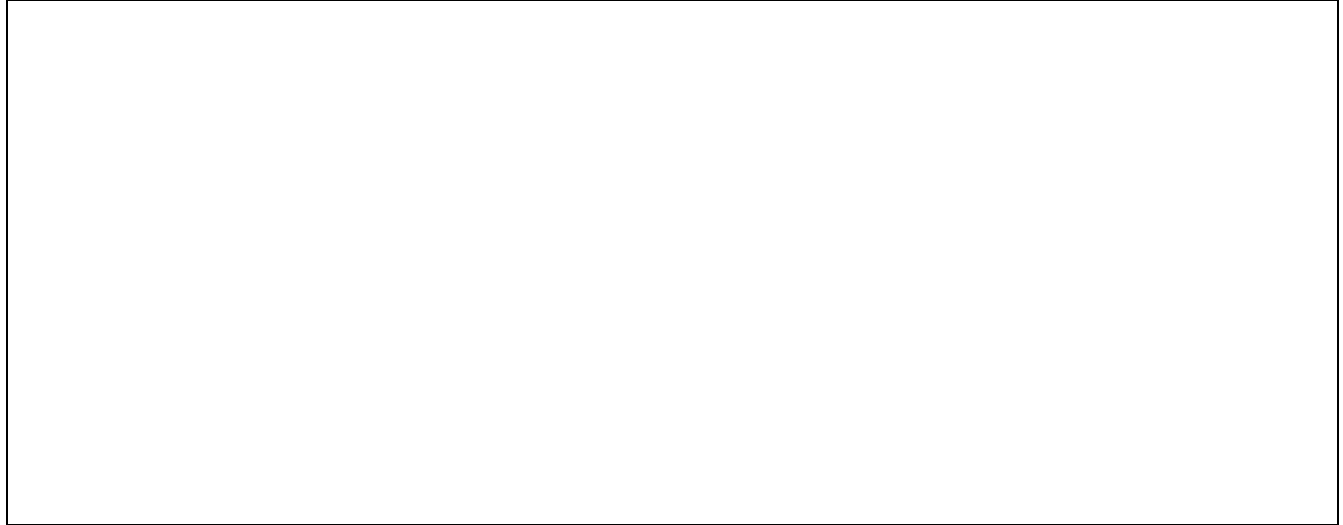
The flustered groom rushed into the church. He was very late. Not only was he late, but he had not even finished dressing. He was still pulling on his boots. He ran to his best man and said, “I slept in! My alarm did not go off!”

“Keep your cool! Better late than never,” said the best man. The groom smoothed his shirt as best as he could and finished pulling on his boots. “All set!” said the groom. “Time to see my bride.” Just then, booming music started to play, and the church doors swung open.

The bride was so graceful as she entered the room, she seemed to be floating. As she reached the groom, she whispered, “Better late than never.” The groom blushed and said, “my alarm did not go off!” With a smile, the bride took her groom’s hand and said, “Next time I will put the alarm on for you.”

## Cruise Ship Trip

Illustrate the story here:



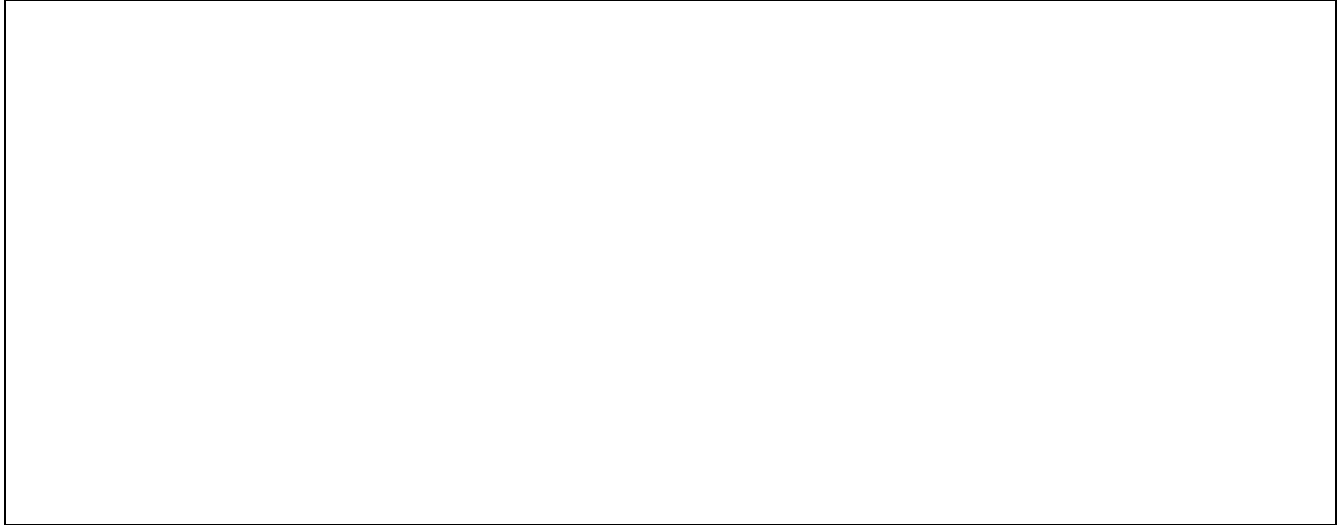
Drew and Marley were thrilled as they walked onto their first cruise ship. They had been packing for this trip for months. Their suitcases were so full they almost did not close. When they got to their cabin, they looked out their window and saw the vast blue sea. It was very pretty!

They left their suitcases in the cabin and went to grab a bite to eat by the pool. Yes, the new cruise ship had a pool! How cool! Drew drank apple juice while Marley chewed on some fruit. They watched the crew greeting everyone as they came onto the ship.

"This is going to be a fantastic trip!" said Marley. "Yes, I think when we get back on Tuesday, I will feel relaxed and renewed!" Drew said as the ship's horn blew. Honk! Honk! "And off we go!" Marley squealed. It was a dream come true.

## Classroom Clean Up

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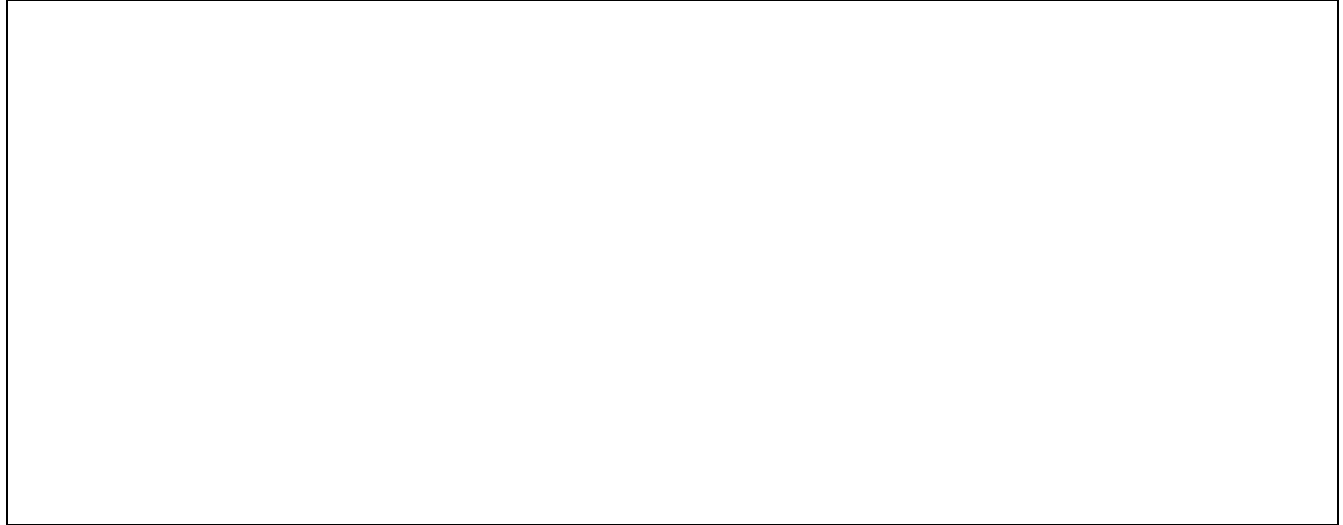
Miss Booker had so many things to do. Classes would be starting next week. She wanted the classroom to be perfect for the children's first day!

On Tuesday, she needed to clean the floors and closets. They were filled with dust and grime from the summer months. On Thursday, she would need to unpack all the boxes. The boxes contained her books, games, and puzzles. On Friday, she would decorate the door and create a display in the hallway. She also wanted to put up a new welcome banner.

Then on the weekend, she was going to plan the cool games and projects they would do during their first week. Miss Booker was so excited for her new class!

## Trip to the Zoo

Illustrate the story here:



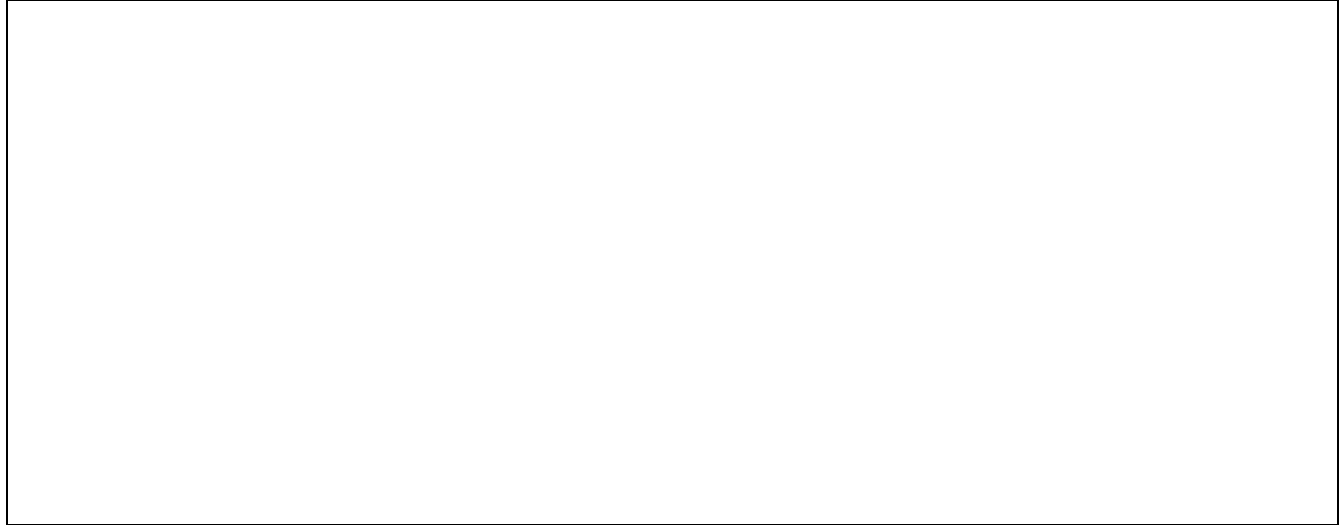
Audrey and Willow could not wait to see all the animals at the zoo. As they reached the entrance, Audrey paused and asked, “did you bring the tickets?” “Yes! I have them right here,” said Willow.

The first display they visited was full of birds. “Look at that pretty macaw! Its wings are like a rainbow,” exclaimed Audrey. “I see the macaw,” responded Willow, “but look at this hawk! It caught a fish in its claws.” Willow could have spent hours at the bird display, but Audrey said she wanted to see more animals.

The next display contained a lion sleeping on a large lawn. The lion woke up for five minutes, but then yawned and fell back asleep. “He seems to have day and night mixed up,” snickered Audrey. “Well, it’s not his fault. If I had to hunt for my food, I would want a nap too,” Willow commented. Audrey smirked and said, “That reminds me, I am hungry. Can we go hunt for some food at the snack stand?”

## Surprise on the Track

Illustrate the story here:



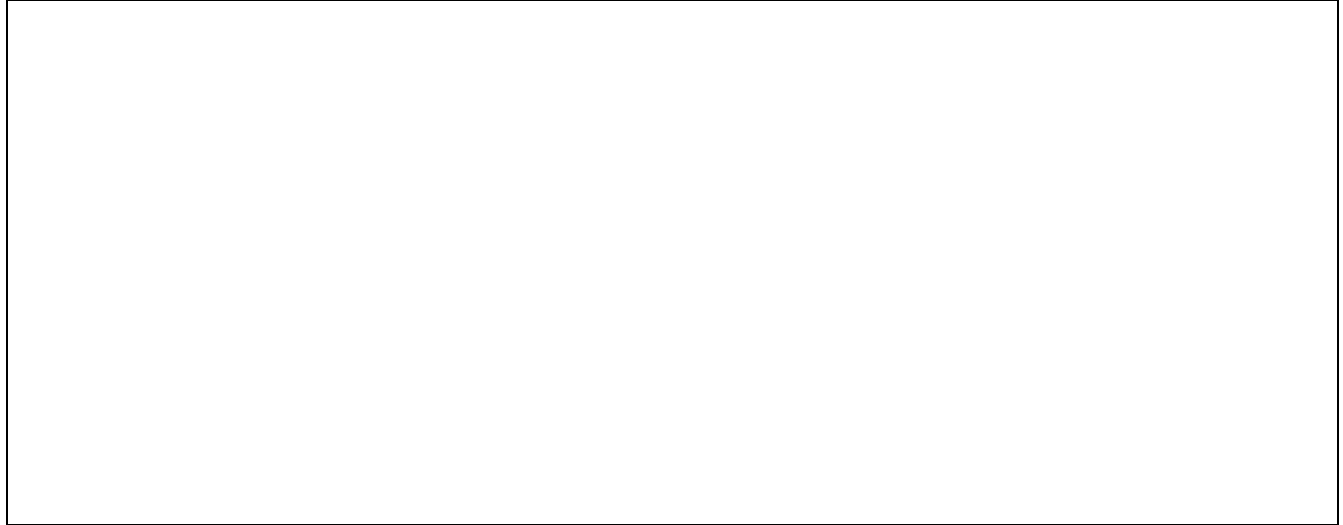
“Ready, set, go!” yelled the track coach. The first race of the fourth-grade track meet had begun. Heather had been waiting for this track meet for months. She was ready to win.

At first, Heather took the lead. But, as she sprinted to the finish line, she saw some other fourth graders catching up to her. She did not want to give up her lead. She worked on keeping her breath steady as she ran and leaped over the hurdles.

Heather was almost to the finish line when, all of a sudden, she saw something white wander onto the track. “A swan!” yelled a child in the stands. A swan wandered onto the track from the swamp up the road. The swan began to waddle to the finish line. Heather crossed the finish line at the same exact time as the swan. “So, who won the race?” asked the class. “It’s a tie! Heather and the swan both won!” exclaimed the track coach.

## The Right Choice

Illustrate the story here:



In February, Boyd and James had a choice to make. Their mother said they could get a new pet, but they had to agree on which pet to get. As the boys entered the pet store, their mother's voice rang in their heads. "Boys, you need to pick a pet that is cute, sweet, and spirited."

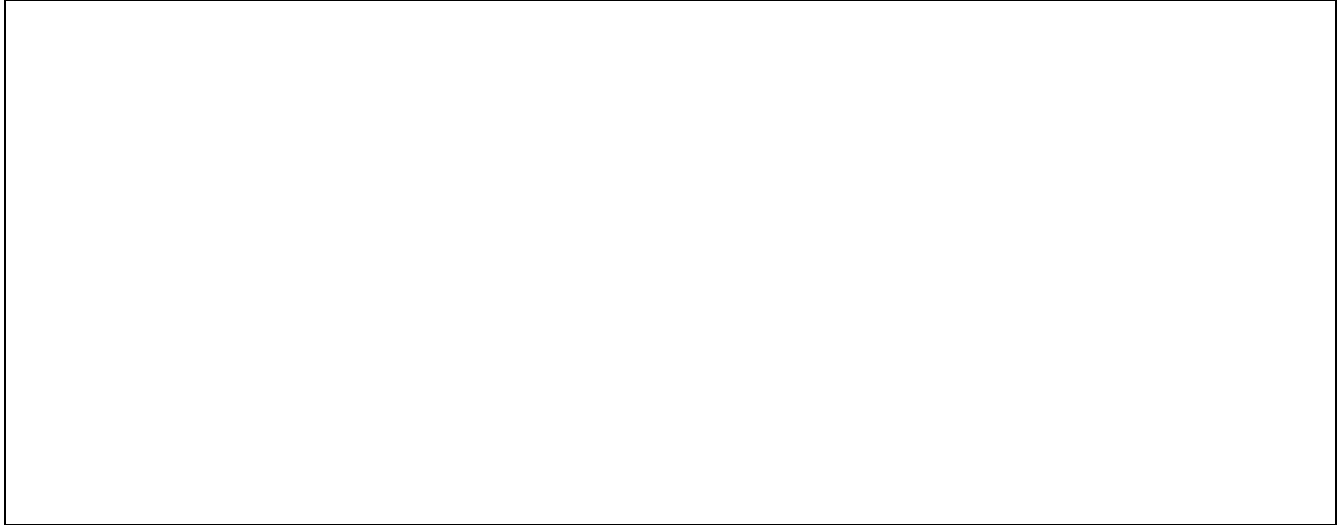
The boys looked at all the choices of pets. Boyd saw a small kitten. "This kitten is cute," said Boyd. James pointed to a spunky puppy. "This puppy looks sweet," said James.

Crash! Just then, the boys heard a big noise. They turned to see a bin of dog toys spilled on the floor. Right in the middle of this mess was a tiny yellow bird. The bird must have gotten free from its cage and flew into the bin.

When the yellow bird saw the boys, she joined them and sat in Boyd's hands. "I think we have our new pet," Boyd said. "Yes, she is cute, sweet, and spirited," said James. "And she made the choice for us!"

## Summer at the Farmhouse

Illustrate the story here:

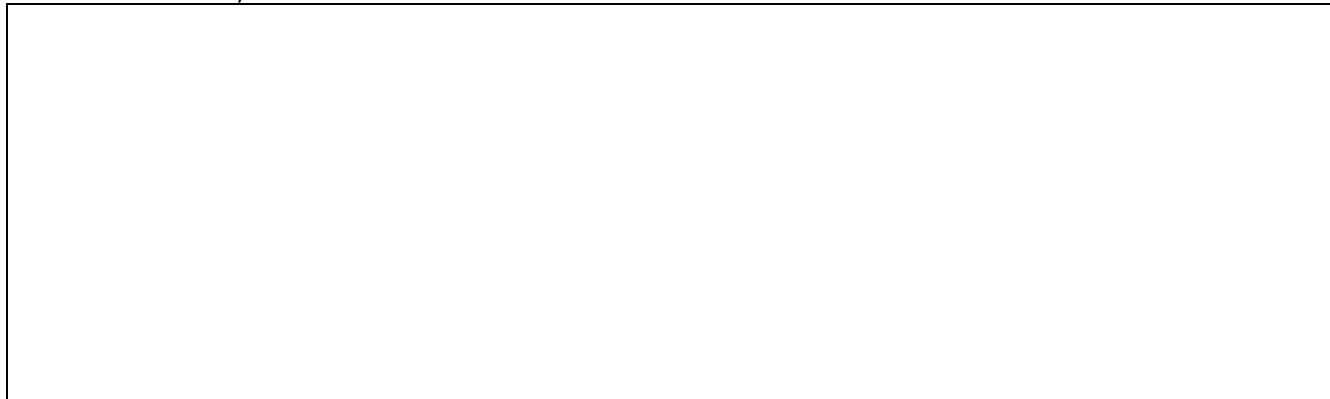
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of the story.

Joey is staying with his grandmother for the summer. His grandmother owns a farmhouse close to town. Joey likes to help his grandmother around the farm. However, he most enjoys watching the animals who live outdoors.

On Monday, he saw a brown owl hunting a small mouse. The mouse found its way back underground just before the owl swooped down. On Wednesday, he walked down to the stream south of the farm. This stream is full of trout and Joey likes to watch them swim. Then on Friday, he went to the meadow where the cows graze. He picked some wildflowers for his grandmother. Joey hopes to return to his grandmother's farmhouse each summer.

## A New Coin

Illustrate the story here:

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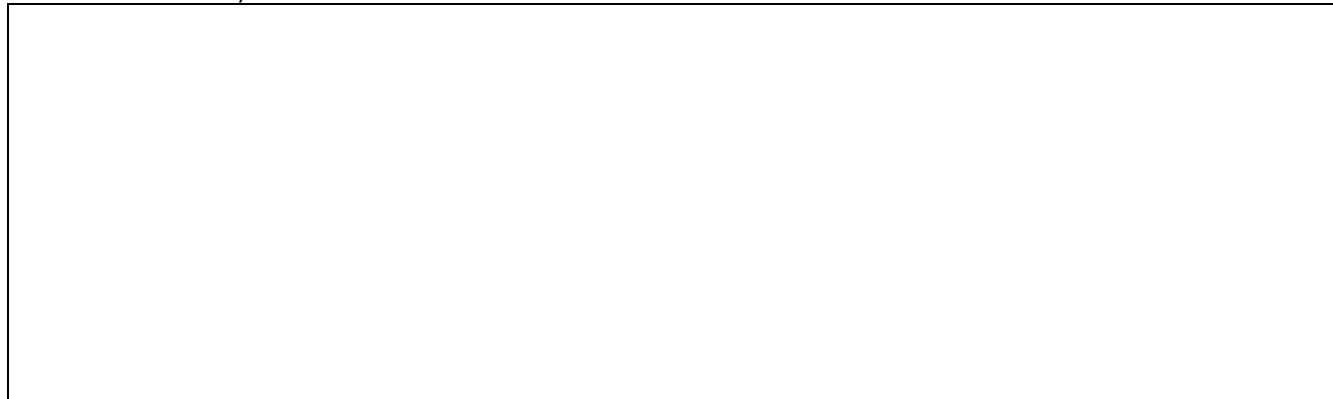
While walking home from work, Carson saw a coin laying on the ground. “This is my lucky day! I found a coin,” said Carson. But as Carson inspected the coin, he began to notice that he had never seen a coin quite like this before. This coin had a hole in the middle of it, and Carson did not recognize the markings on it.

Carson wanted to find out where this coin came from. When he got home, he went online to see what he could find out. He looked for any coins with holes in the middle. He found that there are several kinds of these coins around the world. Japan, Norway, and Spain all have coins with holes in the middle. However, as Carson looked at the coins on his computer screen in more detail, he found one that was an exact match.

He ran into the family room and shouted to his father and sister, “My newfound coin is from Japan! Japanese coins are called yen. Who could have lost it?” Carson’s father considered for a minute, and then said, “I remember the mailman telling me he had taken a trip to Japan last month. It could be his. I will ask him on Wednesday!”

## Birdwatching

Illustrate the story here:



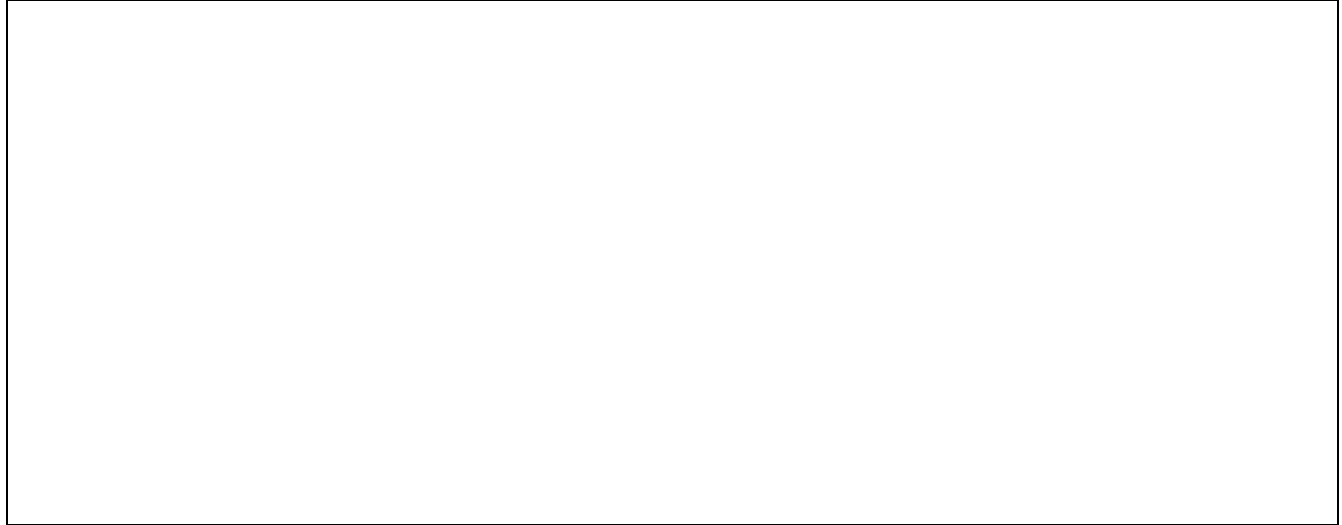
With her notebook in hand, Cassie walked into the forest ready to study some birds. She loved birdwatching, and she had a knack for finding birds in new places. As she walked, she wrote down the names of the different birds she saw. She would even sketch a drawing of each bird in her notebook.

About one hour into her hike, Cassie knelt to rest and eat a snack. As she ate, large crumbs fell to the ground. Snap! Cassie heard a noise very close to her. When she turned around, she saw a small brown bird pecking at her leftover crumbs. It was a wren! Cassie had never seen a wren in real life, but she knows about them from reading her books.

Cassie knows that wrens have short wings and hold their tails upright. Wrens are also known for singing loud, complex songs. This little wren seemed to love Cassie's snack. When all the crumbs were gone, the wren lifted its wings. Cassie watched it fly away into the forest. Cassie was so thrilled with her wren sighting that she sang a long tune all the way home.

## Trip to the Baseball Park

Illustrate the story here:

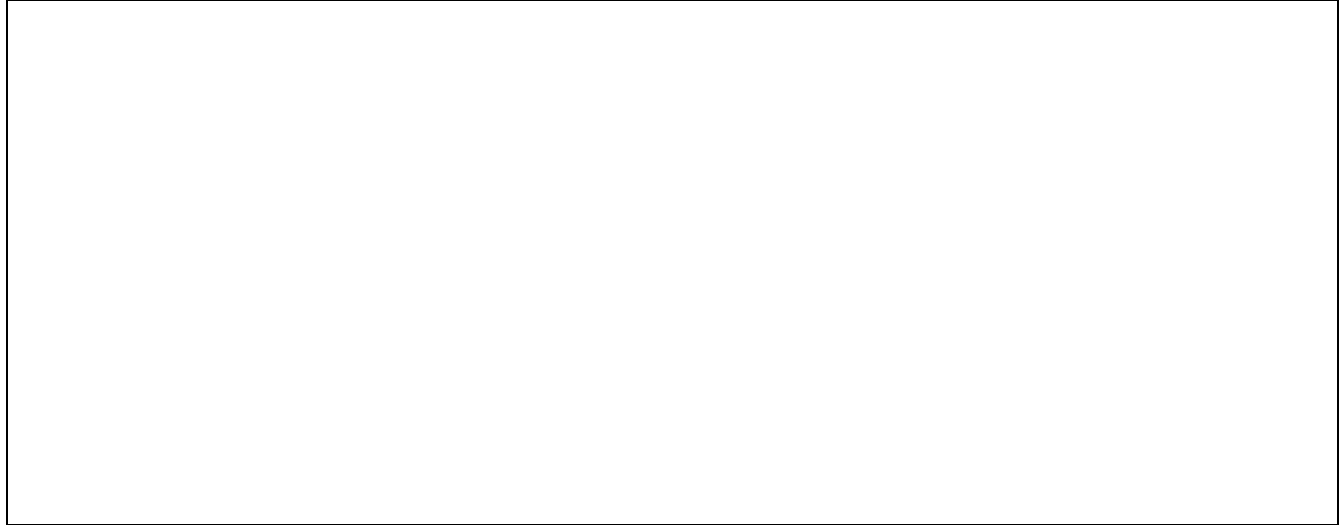
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to draw an illustration of the story.

The boys and girls of Miss Brown's third grade class are jumping up and down with delight when the buses pull up in front of them. All the third grade classes are going on a trip to see a baseball game today. After the teachers check who is present, the students and teachers make their way onto the buses and sit down. As they drive to the baseball park, the students look out the windows and sing silly songs.

Once inside the park, they look at the numbers on the benches to find their seats. The game starts a few minutes later. The students cheer as they watch the home team score the first points. The home team makes some impressive runs, passes, and pitches. As the game is about to end, the classes scream with joy. They see themselves on the big screen! On the ride back home, the students and teachers talk about the thrilling events of the day. They all agree they should take a trip to the baseball park again soon.

## Growth Spurt

Illustrate the story here:



Akeem woke up one morning feeling quite strange. His arms stretched longer than they ever have before. When he stood up, he hit his head on a shelf! He felt like he had a brand new body.

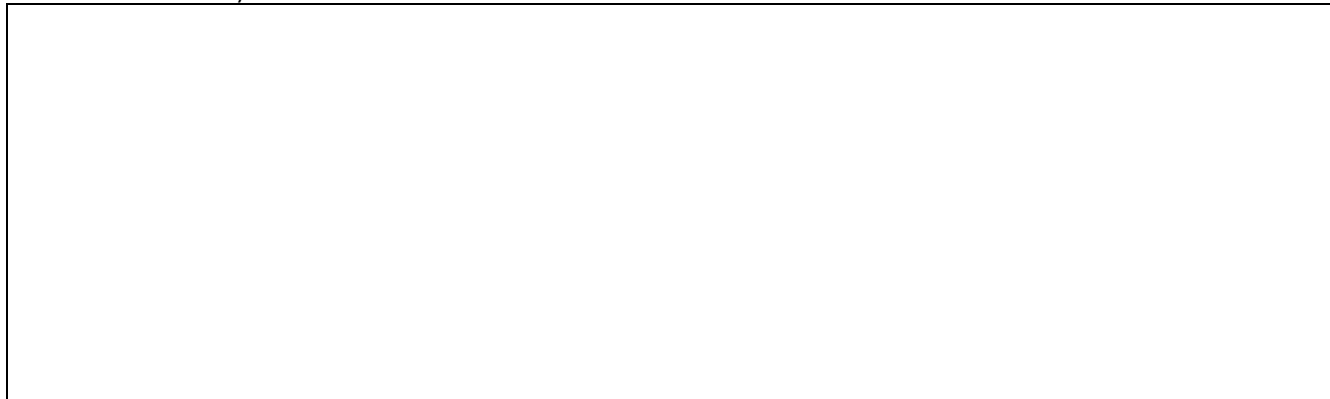
When Akeem got dressed, none of his clothes fit. His arms were longer than his shirt sleeves. His shoes were smaller than his feet. Even his longest pants were now too short. What was he going to do?

Akeem walked into the kitchen with his too big body in his too small outfit. "Wow," grandma exclaimed, "you had a growth spurt! You got taller overnight! Now you may be the tallest kid in your class!"

Akeem's big brother got up from the table and stood next to him. The top of Akeem's head only reached his brother's elbows. "Well, you're still shorter than me," he said with a grin.

## Rollercoaster

Illustrate the story here:



When Kenzer and Sidney got to the front of the line, they finally saw the cars rushing past them. Up close, they seemed a lot faster. As the kids sat in their seats, they double checked that their seatbelts were firmly locked in. Then, they breathed deeply and closed their eyes.

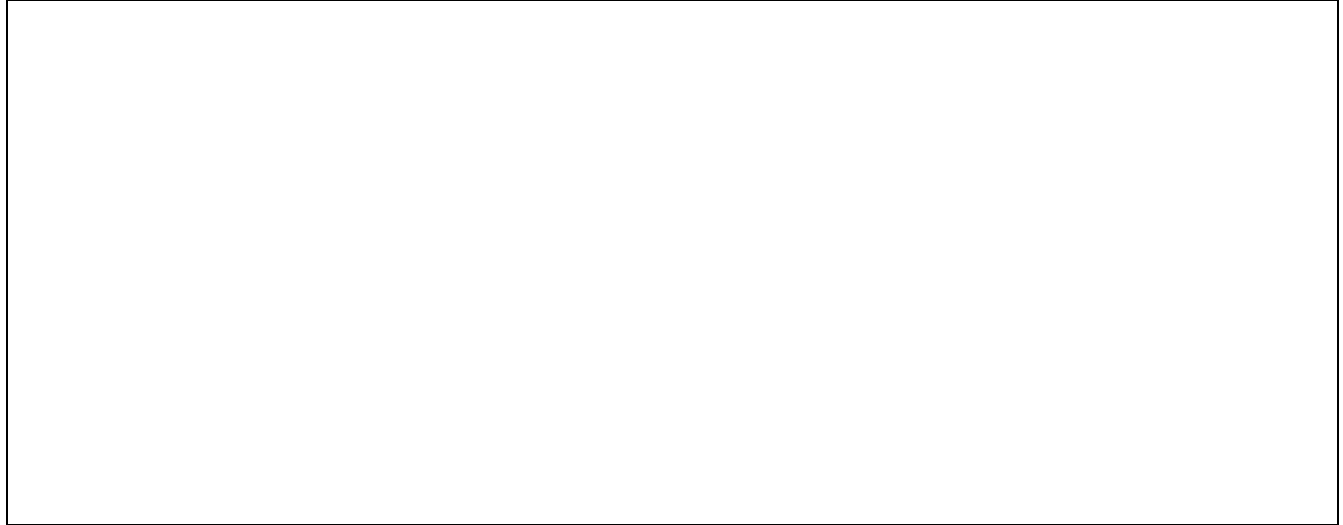
The rollercoaster inched up the tracks so slowly it hardly felt like they were moving. When it got to the top, Kenzer timidly peered over the edge. Just when it felt like they got stuck, the car fell quickly. Instantly, they screamed loudly.

Kenzer's belly was doing backflips. Sidney's curls were blowing in the wind. Their arms and legs were flailing in the sky. Then, just as quickly as the ride started, it was finished. They sat silently for a moment, hardly understanding what just happened.

As Kenzer and Sidney took off their seatbelts, they looked at each other and yelled, "that was awesome!" Then they got back in line to take another ride on the roller coaster.

## A Dreadful, Stormy Day

Illustrate the story here:



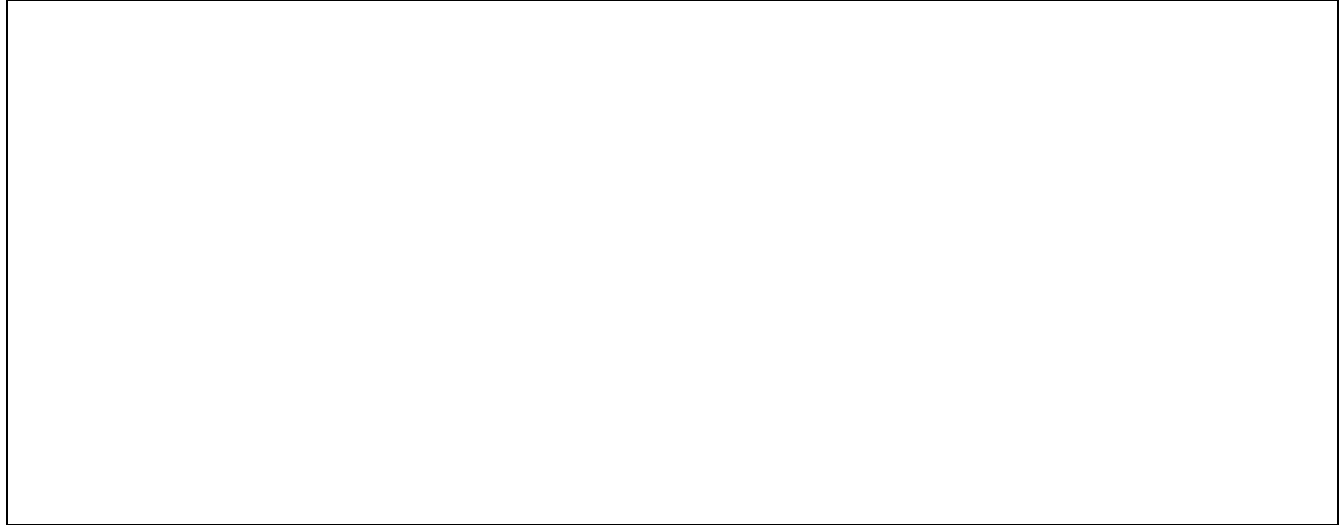
Today Hailey was feeling restless. She wanted so badly to go outside and play but there was a huge storm. The wind was blowing powerfully, and the rain was extremely heavy. It was not safe for Hailey to go outside. She was clueless about how to have fun inside and started to become hopeless.

As she was searching her room for something to play with, she found an old box hidden deep under her bed. She assumed it was full of useless junk, but when she opened it, she found one of her old games.

Hailey lost the game a long time ago and was thankful to find it. At last, she was feeling hopeful. She showed the game to her sister, and they played for countless hours. It was delightful. They didn't even realize the storm had passed. What Hailey assumed would be a pointless day turned out to be delightful!

## Unlucky

Illustrate the story here:



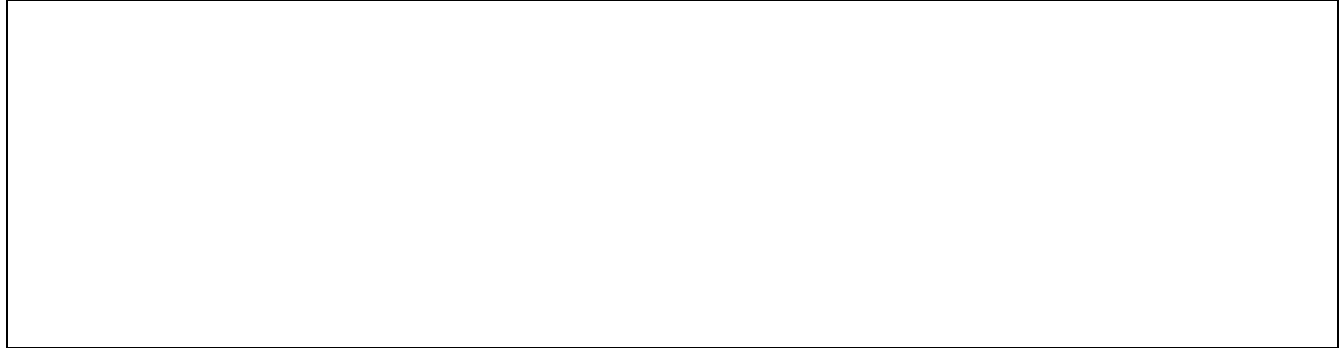
Something very unlucky happened to Lee last week. As he was walking into his classroom, he did not see the puddle on the floor. He slid and fell in front of his entire class. That's not even the worst part! Lee was holding a jar of marbles with the lid unscrewed. When he fell, the marbles flew everywhere.

Lee laid on the floor, covered his face, and wanted to cry. But then, all of a sudden, his best friend, Jayvon, sat down next to him. Jayvon uncovered Lee's face and helped him up. "Don't worry," Jayvon said, "people fall all the time." At first, Lee felt uneasy. When he looked around at his classmates, nobody made fun of him for falling.

Instead, Lee's classmates began picking up all the marbles that spilled. Some of them even told him about times when mistakes like this happened to them. It turns out, it is not that unusual to slip and fall. "I am thankful to have such nice friends," Lee said.

## Dinner at Grandma's

Illustrate the story here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of the story.

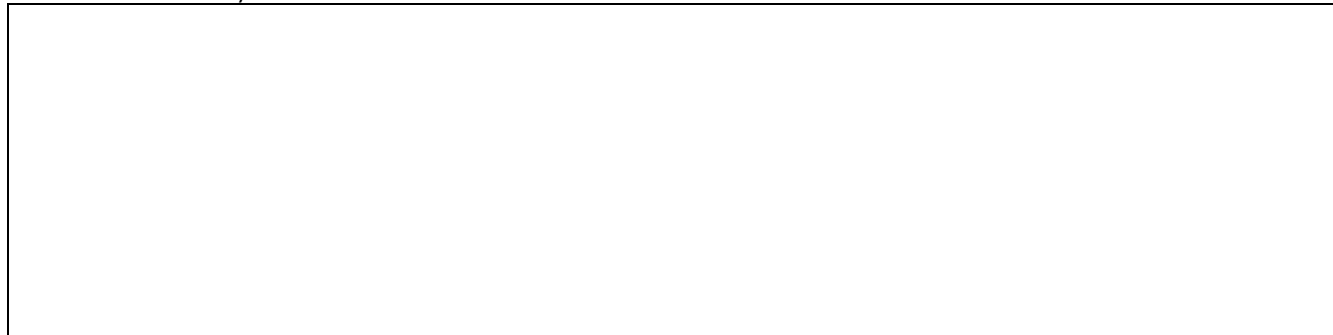
Every Sunday David and Alexis go to Grandma's house for dinner. This Sunday, they got to help Grandma cook. "Here, put these aprons on," Grandma said as she greeted the kids at the door. David and Alexis helped each other untie and retie the aprons so they fit just right.

"First, we must preheat the oven," said Grandma. "Next, we wash the potatoes and use a knife to remove the skin. David, that can be your job." David began cutting the potatoes. "Now we need to boil some water. Alexis, this will be your job. Dump this cup of water into the pot then refill it and add more until the pot is full." Alexis began filling the pot. "Grandma, this potato still has a bit of skin. Should I redo it?" asked David. "No, that is perfect," Grandma responded.

As the kids cooked, they retold jokes their friends told them and showed Grandma a preview of the new show they were watching. When the meal was ready, David and Alexis sat down to eat. Grandma got a cake from the fridge and placed it on the table. "I premade this as a surprise for dessert!" she said. David and Alexis can't wait to return to Grandma's next week to cook some more.

## Poppy the Gamer

Illustrate the story here:



Poppy enjoys playing video games. She is so talented that she plays in events against other gamers and wins quite a bit. The only problem is that her video game console is old. She needs a replacement. Her mom disagrees. Mom thinks the old console works just fine. “You don’t understand,” explained Poppy, “it is so old that it will disqualify me from playing in some events. I am at a huge disadvantage with this console.” Mom understood, but the truth was that a new console was just too expensive. Poppy was so disappointed.

A few weeks later, Mom had a surprise for Poppy. “What is this?” Poppy asked, looking at a big bag. “Open it and find out,” said Mom with a smirk. It was the new console! And a brand-new game. “It was on sale,” Mom explained. “At the discounted price, we could afford it. Plus, I told the clerk that you compete, so he threw in this new game for free.”

Poppy was elated. She gave mom a huge hug and rushed up to her room with the bag. She disconnected her old console and connected the new one. It was amazing! The graphics were so much better, and the new game was more of a challenge. Poppy now had everything she needed to compete with the best players around.

## Words Matter

Illustrate the story here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration related to the story.

It is important to remember that words matter. The words we say can impact how we feel and how we make other people feel.

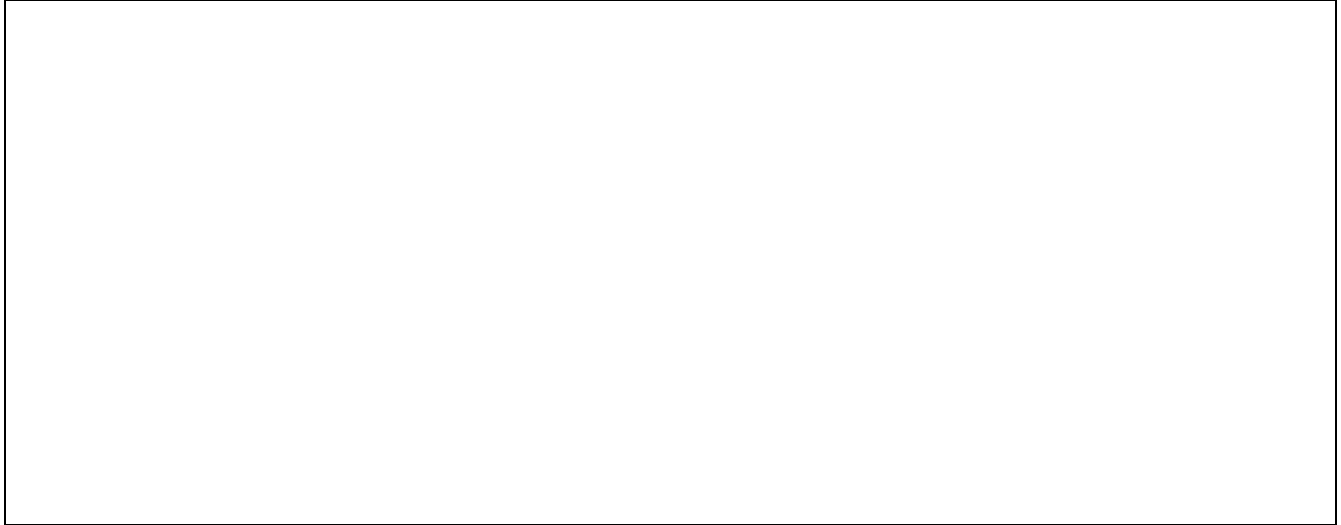
Kind words are powerful. We are more likely to get what we need when we ask nicely. We can also use kind words to express our feelings and share what we are thankful for. Think of a time someone gave you a compliment. It probably made you feel cheerful.

Unkind words are powerful too. They can be deeply painful and disrespectful. Has anyone ever said something unkind to you? It probably made you feel dreadful.

Nobody is flawless, we all make mistakes. If we say something hurtful, we can stop, reflect, and retry. Hopefully, we can all think deeply about the words we say to make everyone's day a bit more delightful.

## The Busy Day

Illustrate the story here:

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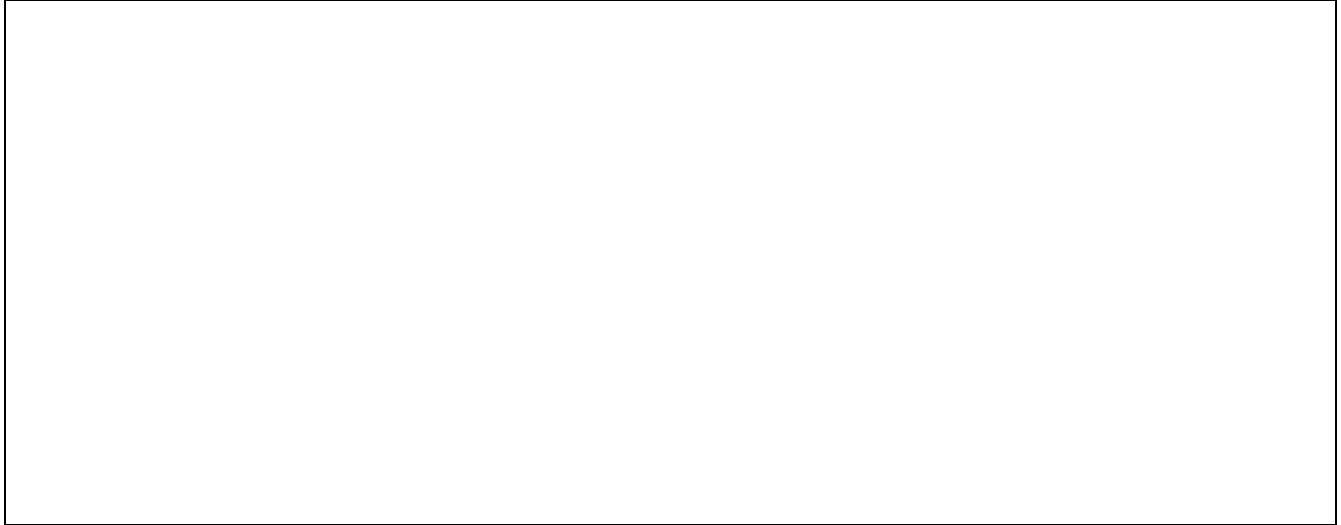
When Edwin got home from work, he dropped his bag on the floor and plopped on the couch. What a busy day I had," he sighed. "I am exhausted." Edwin's roommate walked in. "What made your day so busy?" he asked. Edwin explained.

"It started this morning when I dropped off some letters at the post office. The line was so long that I ended up running late for work. Then, at work, I had so many meetings. It felt like they were never going to end. I planned to come home for lunch, but I was so busy I skipped that trip. I grabbed a sandwich and a drink from the diner on the corner. As I was jogging back to the office, I tripped and dropped my drink. But I was too busy to go back and get a new one. When my day was finally over, I hopped in my car and drove home."

"What are you planning to do this evening?" Edwin's roommate asked. "Nothing!" Edwin responded, "I will be sitting right here on this couch, resting."

## The Hottest Day

Illustrate the story here:



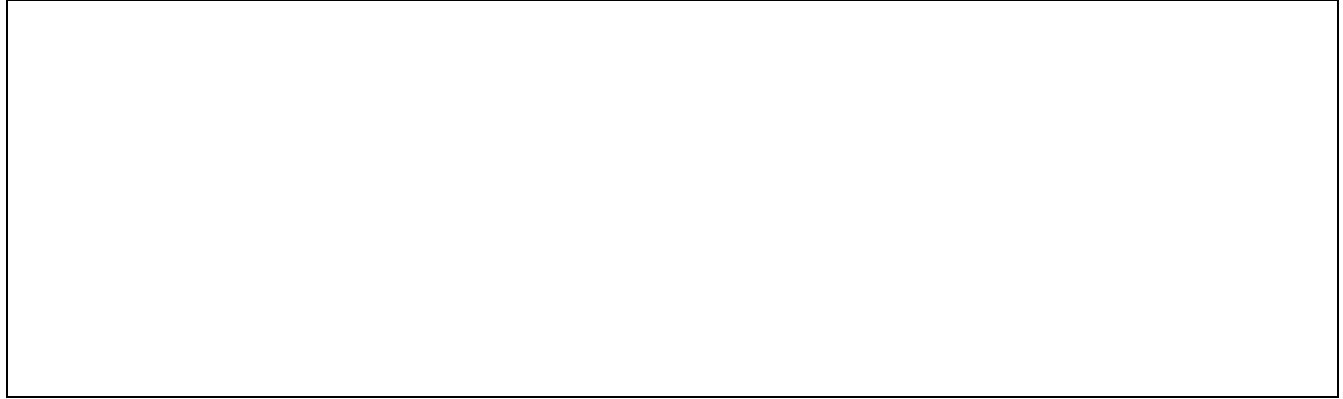
One August day, Tyler went outside to play tag with his friends. The sun was high in the sky. It felt like the hottest day of the year. As Tyler was running around, his face got redder and redder and he felt hotter and hotter. “It’s too hot outside to play tag,” Tyler called to his friends, “let’s go swimming instead.”

Tyler and his friends hopped on their bikes and rode to the pool. At the pool, they had a contest to see who could make the biggest splash in the water. Tyler made a pretty big splash, but his friends made bigger ones.

The friends had lots of fun at the pool. The saddest part of the day was when they had to stop playing and go back home.

## The Baker

Illustrate the story here:



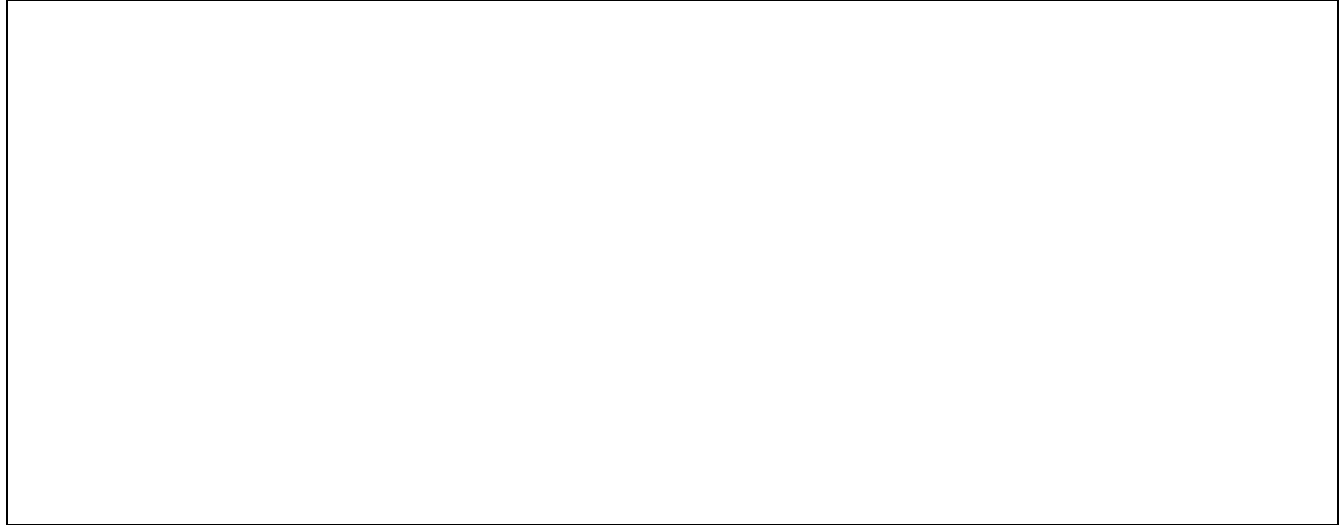
Rashawn is a world class baker. He has been baking since he was a little boy. Every day you can find him dancing around the kitchen while making yummy treats. He also loves trading tips with other bakers about how to make their dishes even better.

One day, Rashawn's friend, Payton, came over to visit. Payton was hoping to taste some of Rashawn's newest treats. "You're right on time!" Rashawn called. "I was just taking a fresh pie out of the oven." He cut two slices of pie and handed the larger slice to Payton. "I am sure you're going to love it," Rashawn said smiling.

"Yuck!" Payton yelled as she tasted the pie. "What do you mean, yuck?" asked Rashawn, his smile fading. "You don't like it?" "Just joking!" Payton said with a grin. "This is the best pie I have ever tasted!" "Oh good," Rashawn sighed as he sliced the rest of the pie up. "But next time, it would be nicer to say you liked it from the start."

## Puppies

Illustrate the story here:



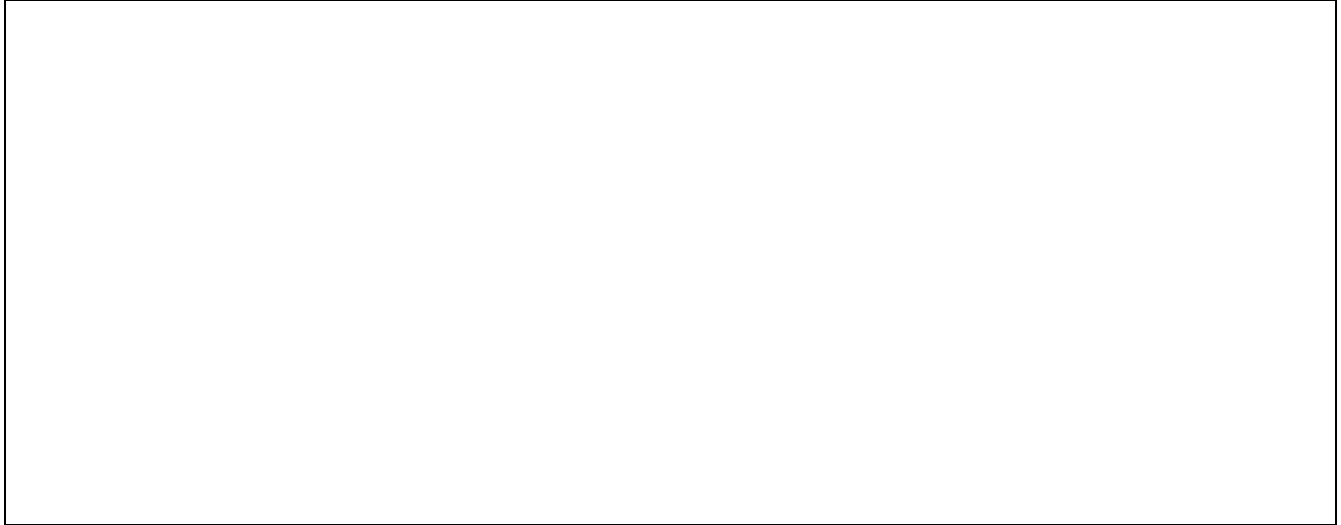
Violet loves helping animals. Her favorite animals to look after are puppies. Violet thinks puppies are the best because they are so cute and cuddly. The way they run around and play always makes her laugh. But looking after puppies isn't always easy.

Puppies need a lot of help. The tiniest puppies need to be fed constantly. It seems like their little bellies are never full. When a puppy cries, Violet tries her best to find out what they need. When the puppies need a bath, Violet scrubs them clean then dries them off. When the puppies are sleepy, Violet lays them on the fluffiest blankets for a nap.

When the puppies need to go potty, Violet hurries to get them outside before they make a mess. Most of the time, the puppies just want their tummies rubbed, which Violet is perfectly happy to do for them.

## A Pet Lizard

Illustrate the story here:



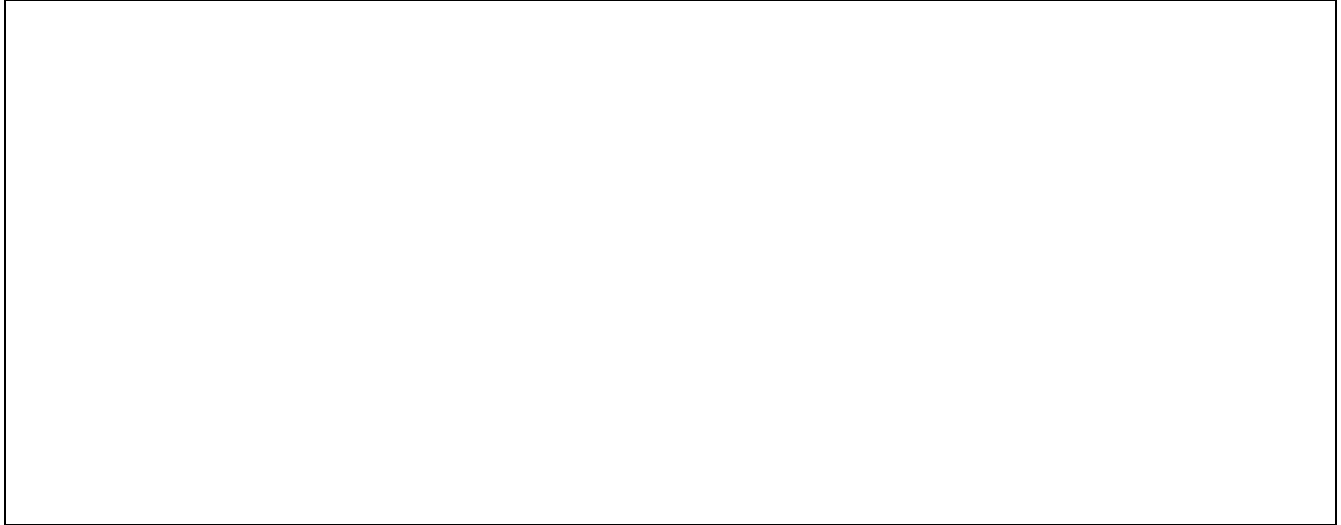
Have you ever considered getting a pet lizard? They may seem like an unusual choice, but they can be lovely pets. Lizards are reptiles. They can be big or small and many different colors.

You can create a nice habitat for your lizard to live in. Start with a big cage so your lizard has room to roam. You will also need some food for your lizard. Lizards eat bugs and worms and plants. Some even like to eat flowers. Perhaps they like the flavor of the nectar inside the flowers.

Unlike dogs and cats, lizards do not need collars and do not need to be taken on walks. Just remember, if they ever get sick, take them to a doctor who can help them get better. So, what do you think? Would you want to have a pet lizard?

## A New Pair of Pants

Illustrate the story here:



Clare went shopping for a new pair of pants. After going to five stores, she could not find the pair she wanted. Then, at the sixth store, she found them. The pair she picked flared out at the bottom. They were light as air and so comfortable.

When she put them on, she stared at herself in the mirror. Clare felt so fantastic in these pants that she twirled around and tossed her hair. She wanted to purchase two pairs so she would have a spare pair to wear.

She brought the pants to the checkout counter. "Those are nice pairs of pants," said the clerk, "if you take good care of them, they will last forever." "Thank you," answered Clare with a big smile, "I sure will."

## The Yearly Strawberry Festival

Illustrate the story here:

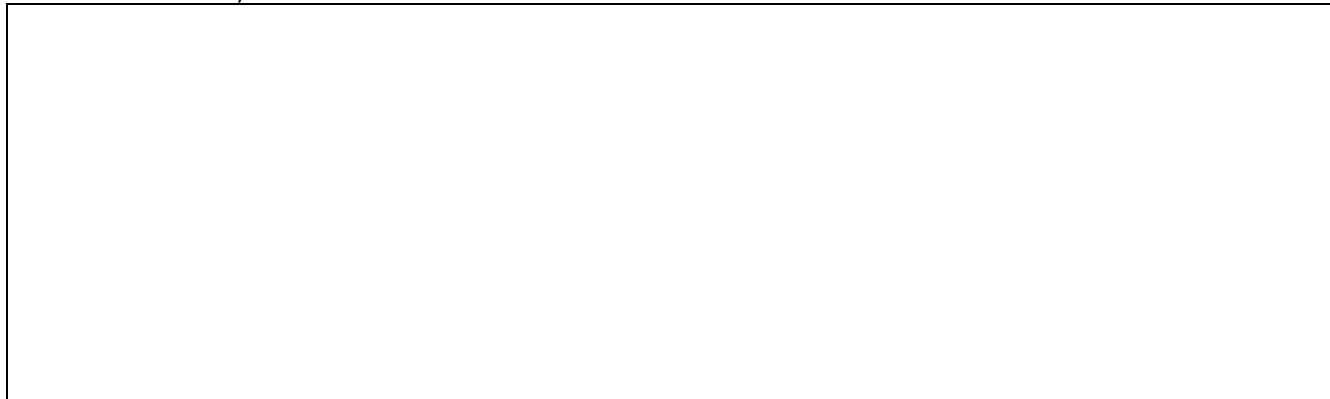


Did you hear? The Strawberry Festival is nearly here! Toward the beginning of each year, our town hosts this event to honor the strawberry farmers. It is always a blast to attend. You can eat all the yummiest strawberry treats including ice cream, cake, cookies, and milkshakes. There are also rides and games. The most interesting game is hosted by the man with the long beard. He will guess your birthday. Somehow, he is always right, but nobody knows how he does it. There is also a person who does amazing card tricks. If you give them a card, they will make it disappear!

What if the weather is bad, you ask? Never fear! Even on a dreary day, there is fun to be had under the big tent. Music, dancing, and crafts are sure to delight. There are also clowns and comics to give you a good laugh. Remember, the Strawberry Festival is only in town once a year. Get your tickets now so you do not miss out on the fun!

## Greyson's Neighborhood

Illustrate the story here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of the story.

Greyson lives in a beige house on the corner of Eighth Street and Great Lake Road. He has lived there for eighteen years. Greyson loves his neighborhood because he has great neighbors. Any time he passes someone on his street they always wave and say hey.

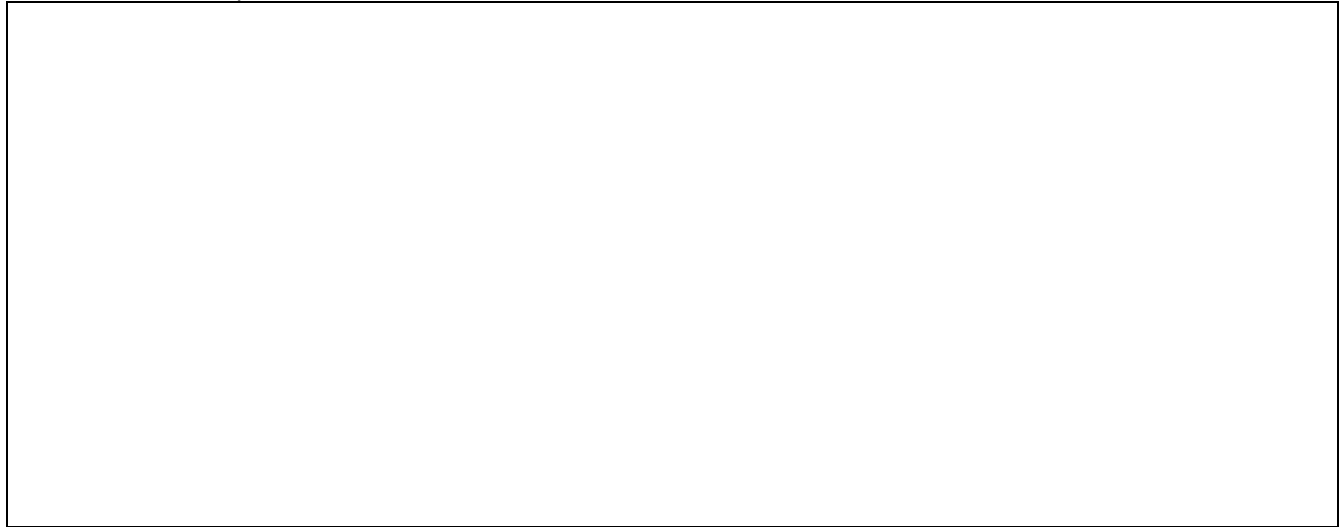
Greyson's next-door neighbor is Stewart. Stewart loves to cook and has a huge grill in his backyard. Every Friday, Stewart hosts a dinner party for Greyson and some other neighbors. Last Friday, Stewart grilled steak and corn. It was quite tasty!

Greyson's neighbors across the street are Cosmo and Wanda. They have three dogs, four cats, and one fish. That's eight pets! Sometimes, Greyson walks the dogs for Cosmo and Wanda if they need a break. When Greyson walks the dogs, they always go straight to the park to play fetch.

Greyson loves his beige house, his nice neighborhood, and his friendly neighbors. He thinks he just might stay there for another eighteen years.

## It's No Fun to Argue

Illustrate the story here:



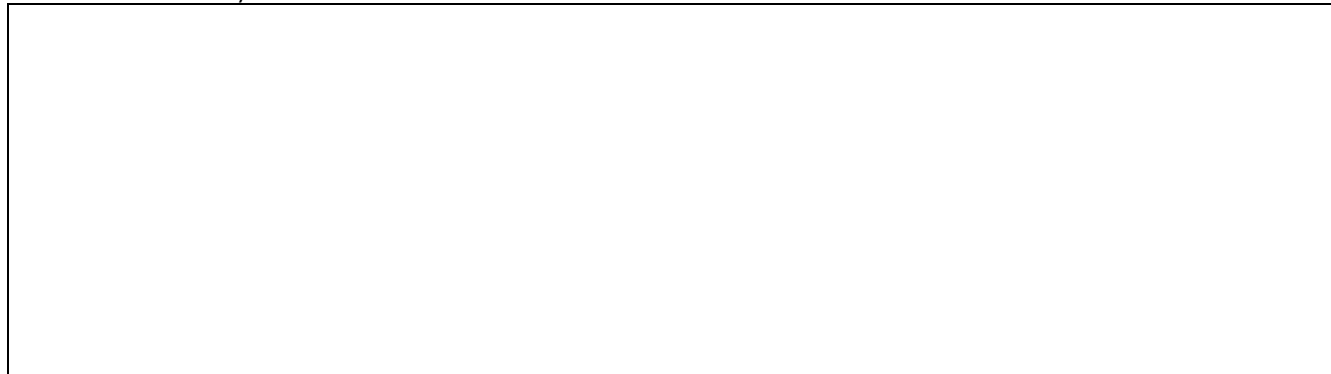
Corey lives down the street from his nephew, Louis. They love to spend time together. Corey calls Louis the best nephew on earth and Louis calls Corey the best uncle on earth.

Last Saturday, Corey took Louis to the park to play. Louis played a new game with a group of his friends. The game was going well, but then a few of the kids started to argue about the rules. The game could not continue while the kids were arguing. This made the rest of the group angry.

After a few minutes, Corey came to the rescue. He said, “if you all continue to argue, you will not have any time left to play.” This made everyone stop and think. The kids agreed that they wanted to spend their time playing instead of arguing. “See,” Louis yelled, “this is why Corey is the best uncle on earth!”

## The Dough Guy

Illustrate the story here:



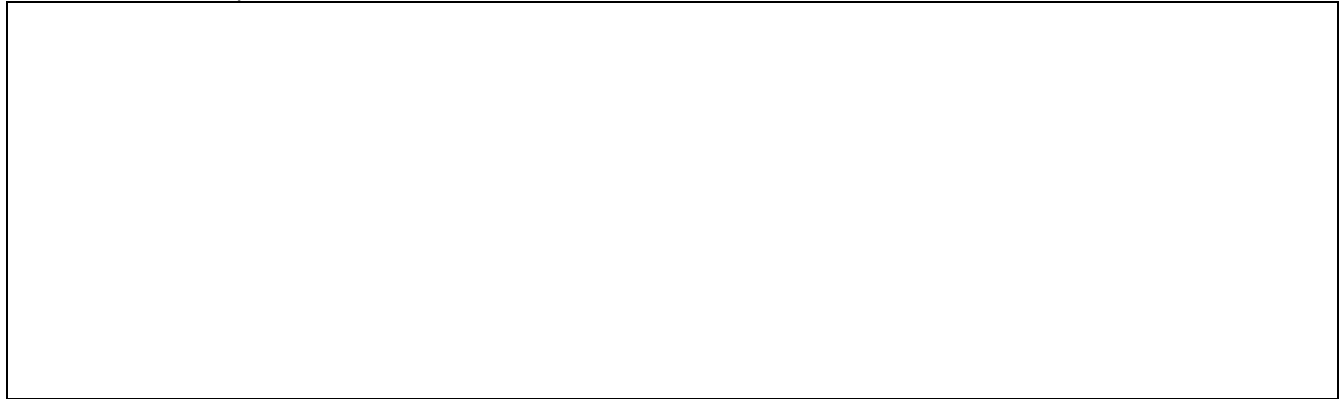
Stanley was preparing dinner one night when he thought to himself, "I would love to learn how to make fresh bread." He looked down at the loaf of crusty bread he bought from the store. "I bet I can make better bread than this."

The next morning, Stanley went to the store. He wanted to buy all the ingredients to make fresh bread. He needed flour and yeast to make the dough. He picked those up and brought his basket to the counter. "Are you making bread?" asked the guy behind the counter. "Well, I'm going to try," replied Stanley, although he still wasn't quite sure what he was doing.

"You ought to buy a few more supplies," said the guy. "Wait here." A few minutes later, the guy returned with salt, oil and a few different seasonings. "This is what you need," he said, "I also wrote down some tips to make your dough rise perfectly." "Wow!" replied Stanley, "that is so kind, thank you." "No problem," said the guy, "I love making bread. Everyone calls me Dough Guy. If your bread turns out well, would you bring back a slice for me to try?" "I'll bring you a whole loaf!" chuckled Stanley. "Thanks, Dough Guy!"

## A Trip to the City

Illustrate the story here:



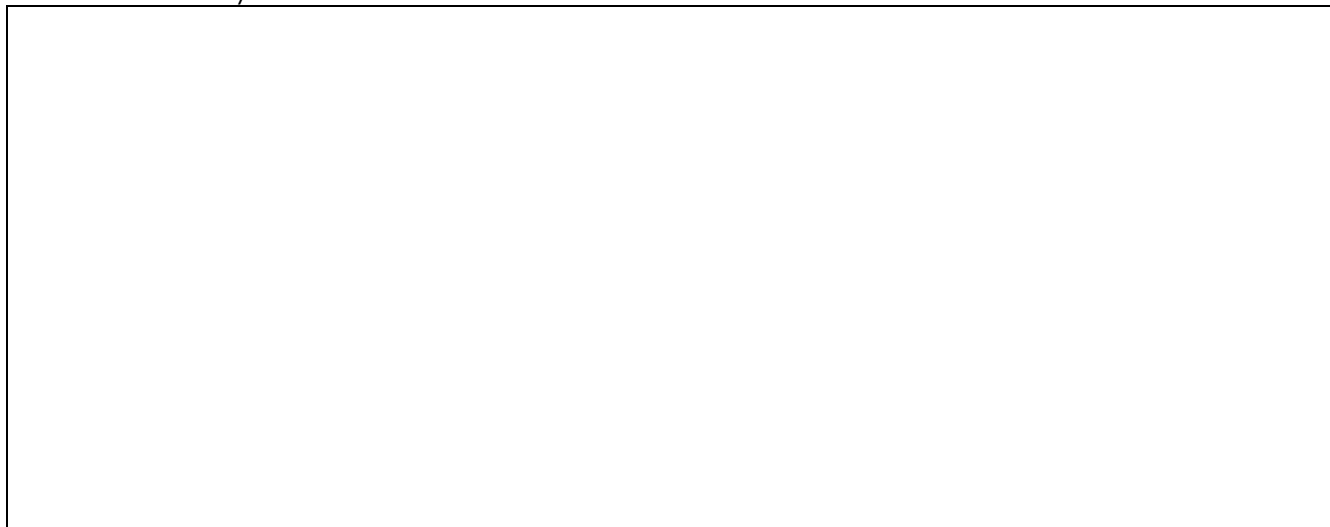
Reginald took a train trip to New York City to visit his Uncle Quincy. When he arrived, Uncle Quincy was there to greet him at the station. “Welcome!” called Uncle Quincy with glee, “I am so excited to have you as my guest for the week. I can’t wait to be your city guide.” “I’m excited too!” replied Reginald, “I have been imagining this trip for a long time.”

Their first excursion was to a fancy ice cream parlor. Reginald got a giant scoop of cinnamon ice cream. “This is incredible,” exclaimed Reginald between bites. Next, the pair walked back to Uncle Quincy’s apartment. When they got there, they saw a letter taped to the door. It was marked urgent. “I wonder what that could be,” said Uncle Quincy with a sly smile, “open it up and see if there is a message inside.”

Reginald opened the letter and two tickets fell into his hands. “Surprise! I managed to get us tickets to a concert at Madison Square Garden. It was sold out, but my friend is a ticket agent. She got us the last two general admission seats.” “Wow,” gasped Reginald, “I never would have guessed I’d get to see a real concert. Thank you, Uncle Quincy. This is the best trip ever!”

## The School Chorus

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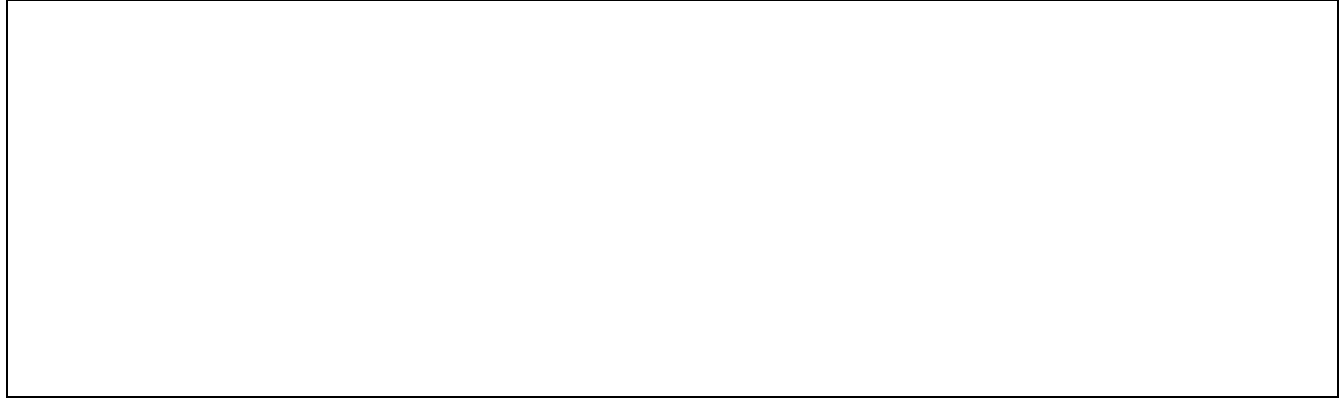


Chris is in the school chorus. The chorus is a group of students who sing together. Chris goes to chorus practice every day after school. At chorus practice, the students learn how to sing new songs. First, everyone listens to their teacher sing the song. Next, they hum the song. Then, they whistle the tune. Finally, they all sing together.

After many weeks of practice, the chorus learned eight new songs. They were now ready to sing with the orchestra. The orchestra is a group of students who play instruments together. The chorus and the orchestra met in the auditorium to perform. The music they made was beautiful. It echoed through the halls and brought joy to all who could hear it.

## The Audition

Illustrate the story here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of the story.

Today is a big day for Ricardo. The theater club is holding auditions for the school play. Acting is Ricardo's passion. He is auditioning for the lead role. This year's play is about a mission to outer space. It is packed with action and ends with a real explosion!

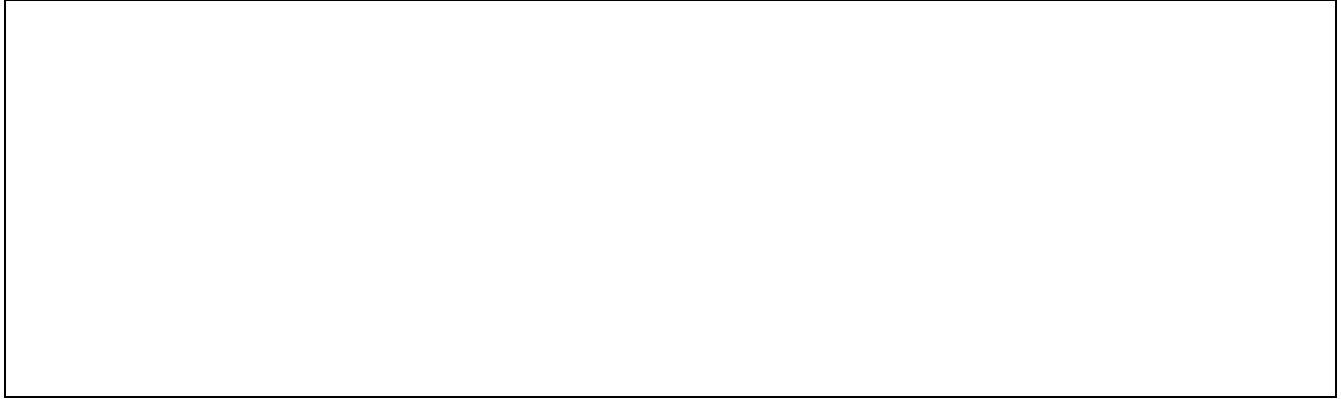
Ricardo walked into the theater club meeting. He excitedly handed his permission slip to the director and found a seat. He listened as the director explained how the audition would work. "Remember to be creative and use your imaginations. Any questions before we begin?"

No questions. Everyone was ready to begin. The students took turns auditioning for the director. There was a lot of competition, but Ricardo did a great job! Once the auditions were finished, the director announced the parts.

"This was a tough decision," she said. "You each made a great impression. The lead role goes to...Ricardo!" Ricardo leaped out of his seat with joy. His friends clapped for him. He could not wait to run home and start memorizing his lines.

## We're Going on an Adventure

Illustrate the story here:



Every Sunday, Lucy spends the afternoon with her babysitter, Kaylen. Lucy loves Kaylen because Kaylen always takes Lucy on fun and exciting adventures. Today, Kaylen was holding a magnifying glass in one hand and a notebook in the other.

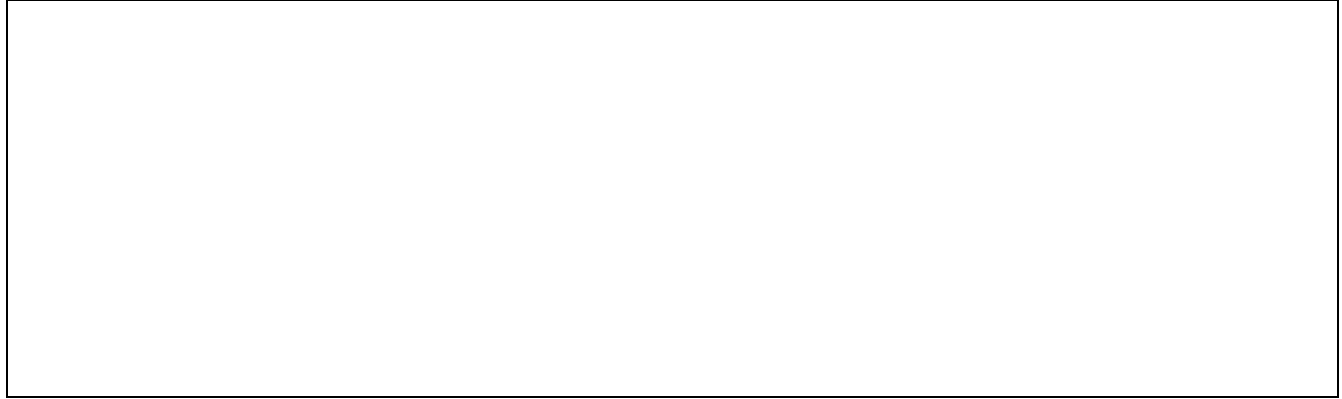
“Are you ready to go on an adventure?” Kaylen asked Lucy. “Yes!” Lucy cried. “On today’s adventure, we are going to become nature explorers,” explained Kaylen, “our mission is to discover new creatures.” Kaylen led Lucy into the backyard and helped her use the magnifying glass to look closely at the plants in the garden.

Lucy found a worm digging in the dirt and a ladybug resting on a leaf. She saw a butterfly land on a flower and a lizard scurry under a rock. She captured a frog. She even discovered a mother bird making a nest in a tree.

Kaylen helped Lucy draw pictures in her notebook of all the creatures she observed. “This was one of our best adventures yet,” Lucy beamed.

## Chris Joins a Club

Illustrate the story here:



Chris wants to join a club. She wants to learn a new skill and make new friends. The only problem is that Chris has no idea what club to join! Luckily, there is a showcase after school where Chris can learn about all the clubs.

The club showcase is in the gym. There are rows and rows of tables with members of all the different clubs. First, Chris visits the table for Art Club. The Art Club members are sculptors, painters, and cartoonists. Chris thought the art they created was nice, but she does not want to be an artist.

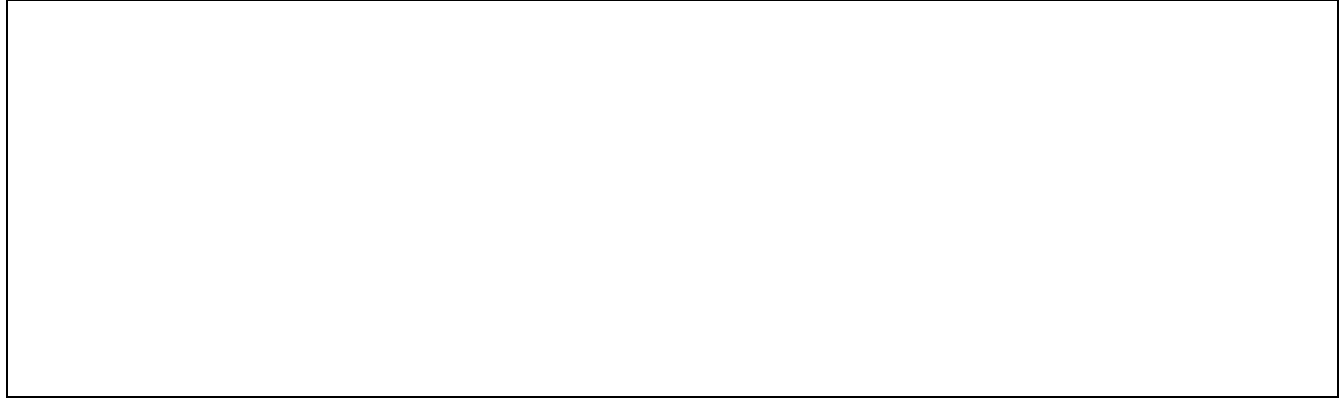
Next, Chris visits the table for Sports Club. In Sports Club, you work with athletic trainers. You can learn to be a basketball player or even a baseball catcher. Chris thought of herself as more of a sports watcher than a sports player. This is not the club for her.

Finally, Chris stops at the table for Garden Club. In Garden Club, you learn how to grow and care for plants from real botanists. A botanist is someone who studies plants. You even work with real farmers to learn how to grow your own food.

Chris has always wanted to learn to garden. This is the perfect club for her. She may even become a botanist or a farmer one day.

## Stella the Chemist

Illustrate the story here:



Today at school, Miss Chang's students talked about the jobs they wanted to have when they grow up. Kenya, Wendy, and Gavin wanted to be artists. Hugo and Seema wanted to be farmers. Taylor wanted to be a dentist. Each student seemed excited, except for Stella.

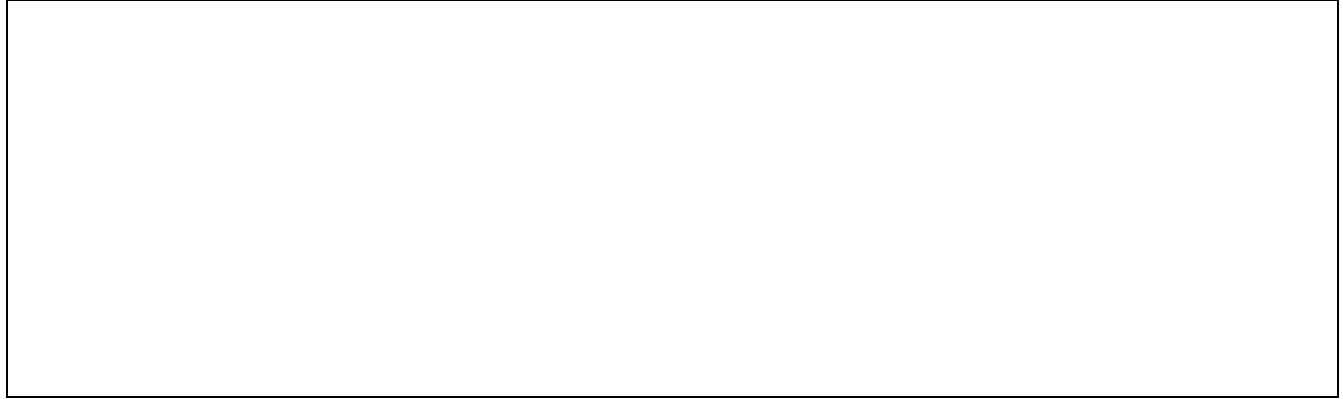
Ever since she could remember, Stella has always wanted to be a doctor so she could help people. However, Stella is quite squeamish. If she sees needles or blood, her face turns a palish color, and she does not feel well.

"Have you ever thought about being a chemist instead?" Miss Chang asked Stella. "What does a chemist do?" Stella asked. Miss Chang explained that chemists conduct experiments, learn, and solve problems.

"Stella, you are bookish, so you love to read and learn. You are a hard worker, who is not foolish. You like to use your imagination and discover new things. All these features will make you a great chemist." Even though this was a newish idea, Stella was already getting excited. "Being a chemist seems like the best decision for me!" exclaimed Stella.

## The Haunted House

Illustrate the story here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw an illustration of the story.

There is a spooky two-story house at the end of Eighth Street. Nobody knows who lives there, and nobody ever goes in or comes out. Most of the kids in the neighborhood think this house is haunted.

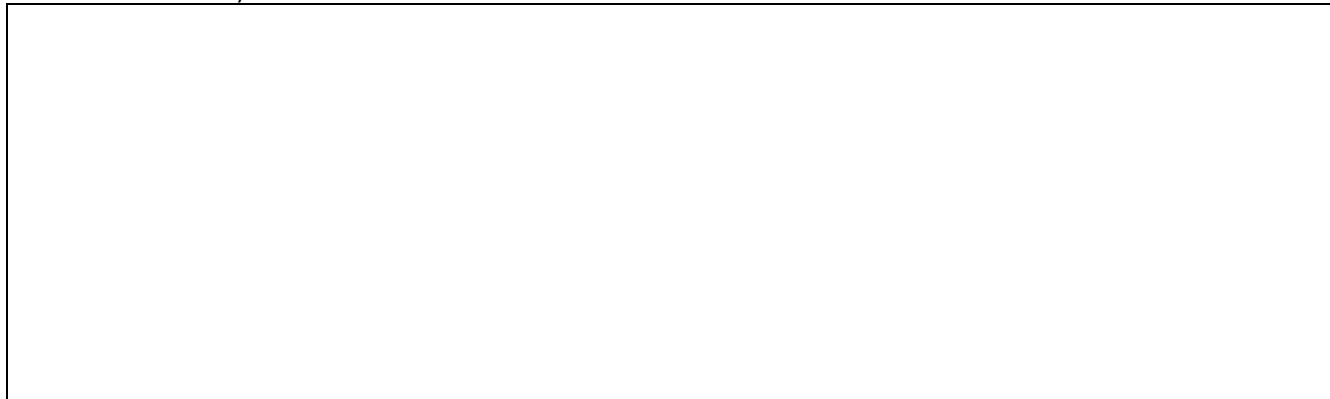
Sammy, a fifth grader with curly brown hair, always wondered what would happen if she knocked on the door of that spooky old house. One stormy night, Sammy and her younger brother walked over to the spooky house and crept up to the front porch. The dusty wood floor creaked under their feet.

Sammy raised her shaky arm and knocked on the door. All of a sudden, the siblings heard a loud noise. They were too scared to wait to find out what it was. They made a speedy exit across the muddy yard and ran all the way home.

By the time they got home, they were messy and sweaty and ready for a bath. Sammy and her brother knew they would never go back to the spooky old house again, particularly on such a dark and stormy night. They may never find out if the house was truly haunted.

## Spreading Kindness

Illustrate the story here:

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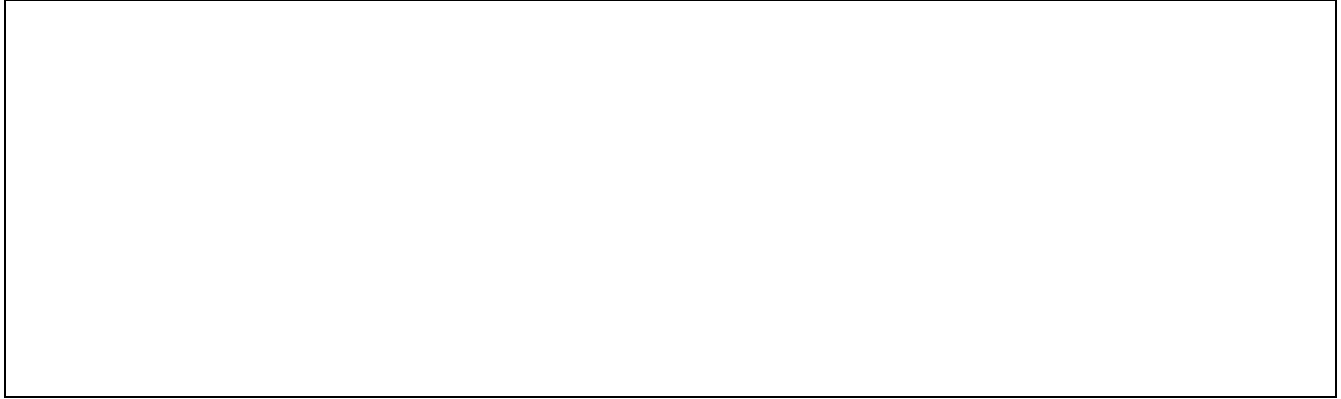
We all have good days and bad days. Good days are filled with brightness and happiness. On good days it is easy to be nice to our friends and everything seems fun. On good days annoying things don't really bother us, and we feel a sense of calmness in our bodies.

Bad days, on the other hand, are not so great. On bad days we may be filled with sadness or loneliness. Bad days can feel dark and scary. On bad days, it can be hard to be nice. On bad days lots of things might bother us, and we might not be in the mood for silliness.

When we are having a good day, we have the energy we need to spread kindness to the people around us. We can lend a smile or a helping hand and share our brightness with others. In return, when we are having a bad day, we can lean on those kindness spreaders for the extra help we need. Because if everyone shares a little extra kindness on their good days, we can all help each other get through our bad days.

## Grandma's Retirement Party

Illustrate the story here:



Mom knocked on Trey's bedroom door early one Saturday morning. "Time to get up," she exclaimed, "we have a lot to do to get ready for Grandma's retirement party!" Trey yawned and stretched and made his way downstairs. He could feel the excitement in the air.

All of his aunts and uncles were already here. He watched in amazement as everyone worked together cooking, cleaning, and setting up games and music for entertainment. "What is a retirement party?" Trey asked his older sister.

"It's a celebration that Grandma has finished her employment," she replied, "Grandma is now finished with her job as a doctor." When Grandma got there, Trey ran out the door and across the pavement to give her a hug. "Grandma! Now that you are done being a doctor, what will you do all day?"

Grandma chuckled. "Well, I am going to take lots of exciting trips, read my books, and spend more time with you and your sister." "Wow! That sounds like fun. When does my retirement start?" asked Trey.

## The Indestructible Dog Toy

Illustrate the story here:



Cesar's dog, Cooper, loves to play with toys. Chew toys are his favorite. The only problem is that Cooper treats his toys like they are disposable. You see, Cooper has super strong teeth and he likes to chew and tug on his toys until they are destroyed.

Cooper's toys tend to last about a week. Once he pulled a toy apart in less than an hour! One day, Cesar brought home a gift for Cooper. "I think I finally found an indestructible dog toy," he proclaimed. His family examined the toy. It was a set of three rubber rings linked together.

"These rings are extremely flexible and impossible to break," Cesar explained. "They are washable so we can keep them clean. They even glow in the dark so they are visible at night!" Was it possible? Was this finally the perfect toy for Cooper? Cooper loved his new rings and chewed on them every day.

Three months later, the rings had a few visible chew marks, but they were still useable. It was remarkable. This was the longest Cooper had ever kept a toy without tearing it apart. Cesar and his family were all thrilled that they finally found an indestructible toy for their goofy, lovable pup.

## The Triplets Go to School

Illustrate the story here:



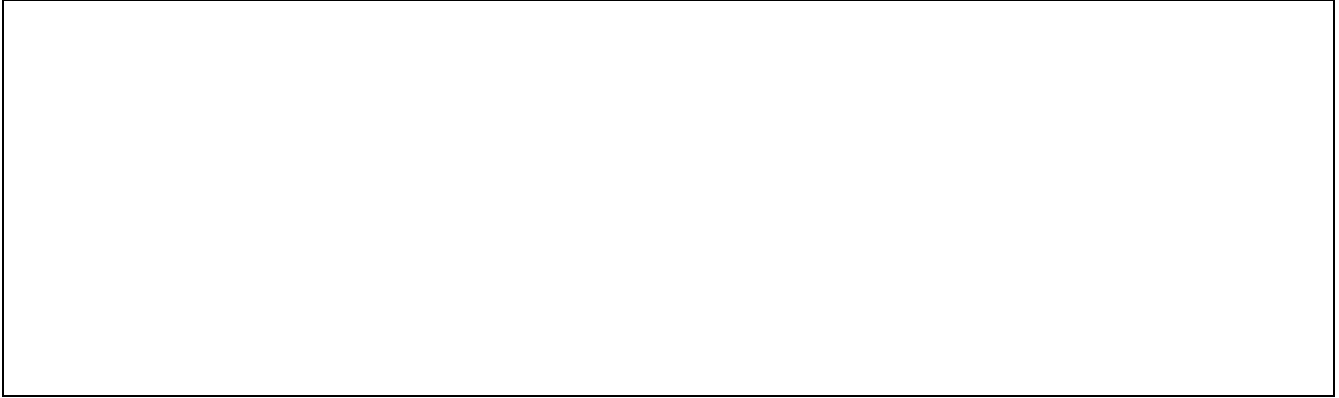
Macy, Stacy, and Tracy are triplets. They do everything together. Each morning they wake up and put on matching uniforms. Then, they get on their bicycles and ride to school. At school, they take all the same classes.

Their first class is French. The triplets are bilingual because they already speak English and Spanish. Once they learn French, they will be trilingual! Their next class is math. In math class, they learn all about different kinds of triangles. Then, in music class they practice a new song. They always sing in unison at the biweekly show.

After lunch, they go to reading class. This is the triplets' favorite class. Their teacher is reading the last book in a new trilogy to them. They can not wait to learn how this story ends. At the end of the day, the triplets get back on their bicycles and ride home together. They are an unbreakable trio.

## The Carnival

Illustrate the story here:



The carnival is in town! Get your tickets, grab a friend, and head on down to the fair grounds. With so many options for excitement and entertainment, everyone is bound to have a great day at the carnival.

If you are seeking adventure, head over to the midway. This is where you will find the rides. Slide down the bumpy super slide, walk through the spooky haunted house, or buckle up for a ride on the speedy roller coaster.

If you get hungry, wander over to the food trucks. Here you will find every treat imaginable. A giant corndog, a funnel cake, and an ice-cold lemonade are the perfect carnival combination.

If you get too hot and sweaty outside, step into the expo hall. Here you will meet farmers who can teach you about animals like chickens, pigs, and goats. You may even get to hold a baby chick! Also, there may be a cartoonist who will draw your caricature and a band playing music.

At the end of the day, everyone gathers to watch the firework display in the night sky. This part is never a disappointment. Spending the day at the carnival is always enjoyable.