

Comprehending Literature

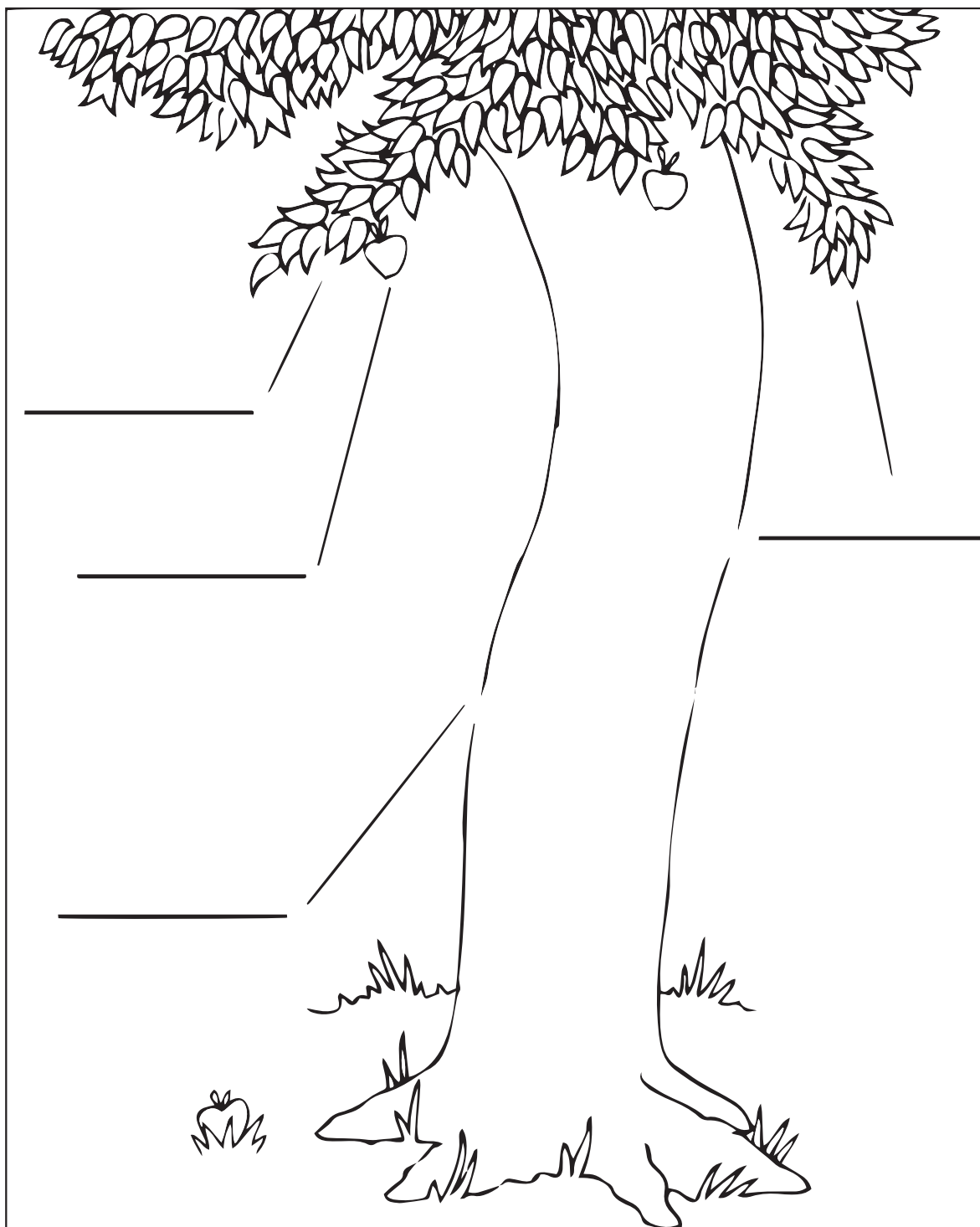
Learning how to comprehend literature is an important skill for young readers. Encourage reading comprehension for novels, short stories, and more with this set of worksheets.

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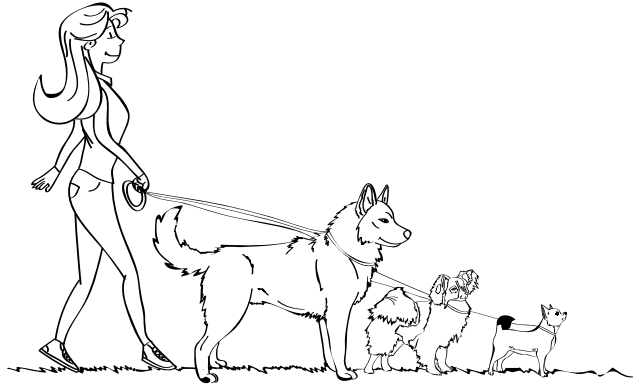
THE GIVING TREE

Directions: After reading *The Giving Tree*, see if you can remember all of the parts of the tree that the boy enjoyed. Label these parts on the spaces provided. Then, color the tree.



The Five "W's"

Read the following paragraph to answer the questions below.



Jody is a young woman who absolutely adores dogs. She owns a papillon named Louie, a chihuahua named Isabella, and a Siberian husky named Koda. Every weekend she takes her dogs to the dog park where they love to run, play catch, and meet other dogs.

When Jody took her pets to the park last Saturday, she almost lost poor little Louie. She was playing catch with Koda when she lost sight of Louie. In a panic, she started shouting his name and asked other dog owners if they saw her little Papillion. After 30 minutes of searching and with the help of one dog owner, she finally found him at the entrance of the dog park near a small store that sells Louie's favorite treats. Jody was delighted when she found Louie and bought all three of her dogs their favorite treats.

1. WHO is the woman in the story? _____

2. WHAT three activities do the dogs love to do? _____

3. WHEN does this story take place? _____

4. WHERE does this story take place? _____

5. WHY is Jody in a panic? _____

Loki and the Builder

Asgard, the home of the gods, was a magical place, full of riches and beauty. However, it was unprotected: it just sat there, glittering in the clouds, enticing all who passed by.

As time went on, the gods became concerned for the safety of their families and their homes. One day, a stranger came by on horseback. He approached Odin, the father of all gods, and offered to build a great wall to keep Asgard protected.

“That’s a fantastic idea!” said Odin. “It’s just what we need. Name your price, and we shall pay it.”

Now, these were gods, and the man knew that gods were capable of conjuring up any prize he could dream of. He thought and thought about what he might want in exchange. Then, he had it.

“All I ask is for the sun, the moon, and the beautiful goddess Freyja to be my wife.”

Odin and the gods were shocked. They could easily arrange to give this man the sun and the moon, but they were disgusted that he would ask for their friend and fellow god Freyja as his reward. They were just about to turn him away when Loki, Asgard’s most famous trickster, stepped forward.

“An excellent idea!” he said excitedly. “If you can finish the wall in six months, you’ve got a deal.” He shook the man’s hand.

The gods looked at Loki in horror. “What did you do?” they said.

“Don’t worry about it,” he said with a twinkle in his eye. “There’s no way he can build an entire wall around Asgard in six months. Freyja will be fine, and we’ll have half a wall done for free.”

The stranger returned the next day and began to build. He worked almost nonstop, day and night, in all kinds of weather. Five and a half months later, it became clear that the man, against all odds, was on track to finish the wall.



“What do we do?” cried the gods. “We can’t let him marry Freyja against her will! What were you thinking, Loki?”

Realizing his plan had backfired, he thought and thought. Then, he had an idea.

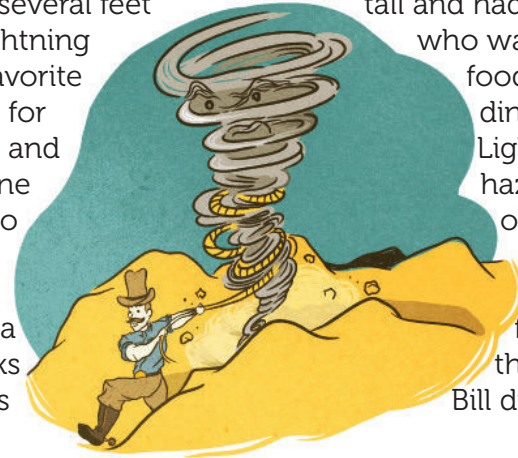
Loki could change form, so that night, he transformed himself into a lovely mare* to distract the stranger’s horse. As he had planned, the builder’s horse was so entranced by Loki’s new form that he ran right up to it. Quickly, Loki ran towards the woods. The horse followed, until Loki was able to run far enough ahead of it to hide, and the horse became lost. When he could no longer see the horse trailing behind him, he changed back into his usual self and made his way back toward the builder’s house.

As he was passing by, the builder came home. “Loki, what are you doing here? And where is my horse?”



Pecos Bill

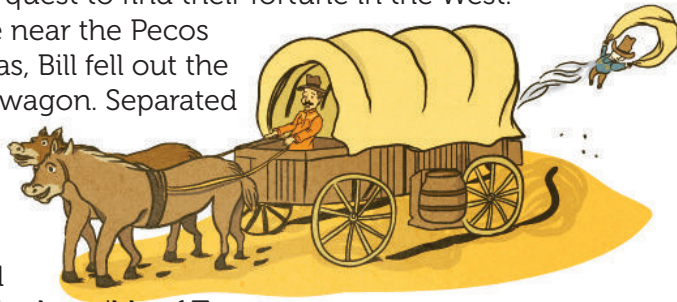
When he grew older, he became an extraordinary man! He was several feet tall and had a horse named Lightning who was just as fantastic. Lightning's favorite food was dynamite, which he ate for dinner every night! Together, Bill and Lightning tamed the Wild West. One hazy afternoon, he saw a tornado on the horizon. He grabbed his trusty lasso and wrangled it into submission – but it put up a fight first! The Grand Canyon marks the path the tornado took as Pecos Bill dragged it behind him.



Tall tales don't always tell the truth! See if you can separate fact from fiction: read the tall tale of Pecos Bill below, then list parts of the story that could be true and the parts that probably aren't in the chart on the right.

True	Make-Believe
<p>Old Bill had a woman named Slue Foot Sue, who was just as tall as him and ten times as pretty. He was determined to marry her, and one night, while trying to impress her, he shot out the stars, leaving only one for her to marvel at – the Lone Star of Texas.</p>	

It's said that when Pecos Bill was just a baby, he was traveling with family across the country in a covered wagon, the way many people did on their quest to find their fortune in the West. Somewhere near the Pecos River in Texas, Bill fell out the back of the wagon. Separated from his parents, he spent his childhood being raised by coyotes in the wilds of Texas.



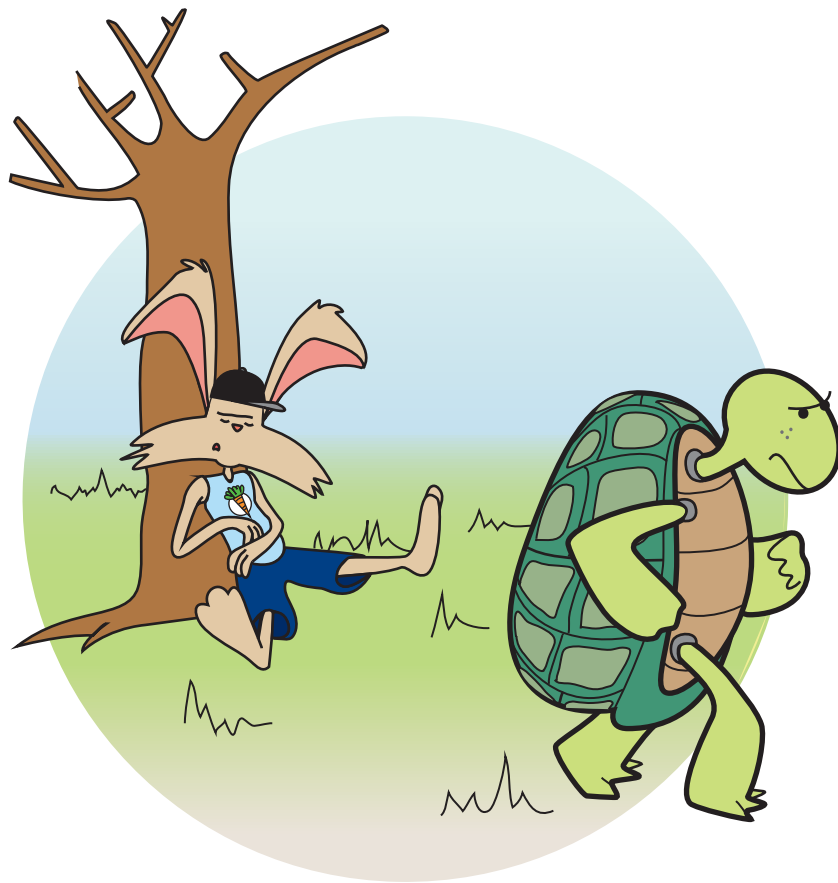
The Tortoise and the Hare

Read the beginning of this classic fable, and then make a prediction about what you think will happen next!



Once upon a time there was a tortoise and a hare who were having a bit of an argument about who was faster. The only way to settle this was to have a race. The tortoise and hare both agreed on a route and started off the race. The hare shot ahead and ran swiftly for some time.

Who do you think will win the race? Why?



Seeing that he was far ahead of the tortoise, the hare thought he'd sit under a tree and get a break in before he finished the race. As he sat under the tree, the hare soon fell asleep. Then, slowly but surely, the tortoise plodded on past and finished the race in first place! The hare was left snoozing under the tree, unaware that he had just lost to the tortoise.

What was the moral of the story?

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Understanding the Character

Great readers can focus on the story elements in a text to have a deeper understanding of the story. The characters, setting, problem, and solution, are story **elements**. They make the story interesting!

Characters: The people or creatures in a story, movie, or play.

Setting: The time and place in which something happens.

Problem: A question or situation that is difficult to deal with.

Solution: The way to solve a problem.

Directions: Read the story. Then, answer questions about the characters in the story.

Today was the day, and I couldn't ignore the butterflies in my stomach. I had waited and studied for this day for months, after all, and I felt on edge. I was on my way to the most-watched game show on television: "Will You Win?" It's a staple at our house. We watch it every day right after I get off the bus.

On the show, the host asks questions about random facts. The contestants need to answer before the other person to win a point. If they answer incorrectly, the contestant needs to dance or act out a famous scene from a movie of their choice. Then, the audience votes to give the contestant another chance. The boo from the audience is legendary on this show. It is especially entertaining when someone famous is the cause of the booing. It's not a complicated show, but you have to be smart and quick with your answer. I can't believe they finally chose me to be a contestant! I can't believe I have a chance to win the prize money!

As my mother drove me to the airport, I focused on the "Will You Win?" show. Facts raced through my head and I skimmed all the pocket factbooks I'd brought with me. The speed limit decreased and the car slowed as we approached the airport. My mother parked in the long-term parking garage. We headed towards the terminal. My pace slowed. I thought, "Can I do this?"

"Alexis, are you ready?" Mom asked.

The airport loomed before us. This is my chance to win money for our after-school program. This is what I worked so hard for. "I can do this," I told myself. I stood taller and said, "Ready or not, here I come!" Then, I smiled for the first time that day.

Directions: Answer the questions about using information from the story.

1. Who is the main character in the story?

2. What is the setting in the story?

3. How does the character feel in the story?

4. How has Alexis prepared for the game show?

5. What do the words "on edge" tell you about Alexis?

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Order of Events

The **sequence of events**, or the order of the story, is the order in which events happen in the story. One event typically leads to another. Paying attention to the sequence of events in the story can help readers understand challenges and victories characters encounter in a story.

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The hot air whipped in my face as I got out of the taxi in front of Studio B. The sun was shining and I regretted wearing the sweater I had packed. The flight across the country to Los Angeles had been long and nerve-wracking, and I could not study a minute longer about American presidents or the names of states. The game show, "Will You Win?", was in 2 hours, and I felt ready. At least, I hoped I was ready.

"Alexis, don't forget your pocket factbook. Did you finish studying the water cycle on the plane?" Mom asked.

I groaned. "No, I forgot that one on the bus yesterday. But, I feel ready. I can do this!" I tried to talk myself into it. The funding for our after-school program hung in the balance. "I'll read a bit more when I get to the green room," I assured her.

We walked into Studio B. I'd never been to a studio before and couldn't help staring at everything in the room. I didn't even notice my pocket factbook fall to the ground until a friendly face stood in front of me, holding it out to me.

"Hi! I'm Angie. Are you here for the game show?" she asked

"Uh, yeah. Yes." I stammered.

"Great! Come check out their library of facts! I'm sure the books will prepare us even more for the contest," she said as she pivoted quickly on her heels and walked down the hall.

I nodded at her gratefully. "Do you think they have any information on the water cycle?" I asked as I hurried behind her.

1. How did Alexis get to Los Angeles?

2. Where did the taxi take Alexis and his mother?

3. How much longer until the game show starts?

4. Put these events in the order they occurred in the story. Number the events 1-8.

_____ Alexis met Angie.

_____ The heat made Alexis regret wearing his sweater.

_____ Mom asked Alexis if he'd studied on the plane.

_____ Alexis groaned.

_____ Alexis walked towards the library.

_____ The pocket factbook falls to the floor.

_____ Alexis and his mother arrived in Los Angeles.

_____ The taxi pulled in front of Studio B.

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Remember Details

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Alexis and Angie stood with all the other contestants of the "Who Will Win?" game show. They thought about what was at stake. They thought about the prize money and about all the people that would be watching them on the television. There was excitement in the air, but a nervous energy as well. They still had to deal with the pesky dance or acting challenge if they answered a question incorrectly.

In the "Who Will Win?" game show, the host asks questions about random facts. The contestants need to answer before the other person to win a point. If they answer incorrectly, the contestant needs to dance or act out a famous scene from a movie of their choice. Then, the audience votes to give the contestant another chance. All the contestants dread hearing a boo from the audience.

The first round began and Angie faced off with another contestant, Harvey. The crowd cheered as Angie answered question after question correctly. Harvey didn't even get a chance to answer any questions before Angie got 3 correct answers and eliminated him. He practically ran off the set with a relieved look on his face.

Alexis anxiously stepped up to the contestant table during the third round. Angie had dominated the competition in round one and two. Now it was his turn to face off with her. Everyone in the room could see his smile when the host announced the last category would be about the water cycle. Alexis grabbed the buzzer. He was ready to answer the first question.

1. Who won the first round of the competition?

2. What was the topic of the third round?

3. In what round did the contestants answer all the questions correctly?

4. What do contestants need to do when they answer a question incorrectly?

5. How many total rounds did they have to play?

6. How did Harvey feel when he was eliminated?

Name _____

Date _____

Sugar and Spice



**Read the story below.
Then, answer the questions on the next page.**

It was Saturday, and Mindy was getting ready for her birthday party. In just three hours, all of her friends would arrive with presents and excitement. Every year, Mindy and her mom made a cinnamon cake fresh on the day of her birthday party, and Mindy thought this year would be no different. Excited, she waited for her mom in the kitchen.

Mindy's mother came into the kitchen and took her apron from a hook on the wall. Instead of putting it on, though, she lifted it over Mindy's head. Surprised, Mindy stood as her mom tied the strings of the apron behind her.

"Mindy, I think you're old enough to mix the batter yourself this year. I'm sure you can do it. Remember what we say?"

"Yes... Baking is just a little sugar and a little spice."

"That's right," said Mindy's mom. "Now, go ahead and start. I'm going to go blow up the balloons." With that, she preheated the oven and left Mindy alone in the kitchen.

Maybe her mom was right; maybe there wasn't much to it. Carefully, Mindy measured out the ingredients and poured them into a big bowl. Carefully, she mixed the batter until it was perfectly smooth. Carefully, she poured the batter into the cake pan. Then, she called to her mom.

"It's ready to go into the oven," Mindy said. Her mom put on oven mitts and popped the pan into the oven. Mindy had actually done it!

When the cake came out, though, something seemed wrong. Mindy tried to poke it with a toothpick, just as her mother always did. The toothpick wouldn't go through. The cake was almost as hard as a rock!

"I did exactly what I was supposed to," Mindy moaned. "I was so careful! I didn't put the eggs in until last, and I measured the baking soda exactly."

"Baking soda? Oh, dear. That's the problem. You were supposed to use baking powder." Mindy began to cry. "I'm sorry, mom. I tried so hard."

Mindy's mom gave her a big hug. "I'm the one who's sorry. I expected too much, and I was hard on you. I guess you could say I used too little sugar and too much spice!"

Mindy laughed, and her mom laughed, too.

"Now, let's try again," said Mindy's mom. "This time, we'll do it together!"

Name _____

Date _____

Sugar and Spice

Comprehension Questions

1. Why do you think Mindy was nervous about mixing the batter by herself?

2. Why do you think Mindy's mom thought Mindy could do it herself?

3. What did Mindy's mom mean when she said she used "too little sugar and too much spice"?

4. How would you feel if you had to do a big project alone, like Mindy did?

The Princess Mouse

A Finnish Folk Tale

A folk tale is a traditional story told by a particular culture or people. Most cultures have them, and some tales can be traced back hundreds of years! Read the folk tale, then answer the questions on the next page.

Once upon a time, there was a farmer who had two sons. When they were old enough to marry, he told them, "You must each cut down a tree. Walk in the direction it points, and you will meet your beloved."

The older brother knew whom he wanted to marry, so made sure his tree fell in the direction of her cottage. Mikko, the younger brother, did not have this skill. His tree pointed into the forest.

Mikko walked through the forest until he found a cottage. He went inside, but the cottage was empty. "I'll never find my beloved," he lamented. "Don't be so sure," said a small voice. Mikko looked around and saw a mouse.

"You are only a mouse! How can you be my beloved?" Mikko asked.

"Once you get to know me, you might like me," the mouse replied.

Mikko stayed and talked with the mouse. She was kind and smart, and Mikko liked her very much.

When Mikko got home, the farmer had more to tell his sons. "Your brides must weave a cloth for me. If it is good, you may be married," he said.

Mikko went back to tell the mouse this news. "You cannot weave, you are only a mouse," Mikko said sadly.

"All will be well," said the mouse. Mikko sat down and soon fell asleep. The mouse called over all her mouse and rat friends. Together, they wove a cloth, which they then folded into a nutshell. When Mikko woke, the mouse gave him the shell, and he carried it home to his father.

When his father opened the shell, everyone watched in amazement as he pulled out yard after yard of fabric. "Your beloved is a great weaver!" exclaimed his father.

The next day, Mikko returned to visit the mouse. "Is today the day we marry?" she asked.

"Yes it is, little mouse," said Mikko. "Though, I am worried. What will my family think when I bring home a mouse to be my bride?"

"All will be well," said the mouse. She whistled, and a tiny carriage made of a nutshell pulled up to the cottage! It was pulled by rats instead of horses, and driven by a mouse with another mouse footman



behind. Mikko's bride climbed into her carriage and he followed.

As the little carriage pulled up to Mikko's house, everyone stared. Mikko had brought a mouse for his bride!

"This won't do," said Mikko's brother, and he kicked the carriage into the river!

"What have you done?" cried Mikko. "You killed my beloved! You may think she was only a mouse, but I loved her!"

Mikko began to cry, but then his father gasped in amazement. "Look!" he said, pointing to the river. Out climbed two men, four horses, and one wet but beautiful princess.

"A witch put a spell on me and turned me into a mouse," said the princess. "She said the spell could only be broken by one brother who loved me and another who hated me. I did not think it would ever happen, but now it has!"

So the two brothers were married, and both were happy. When Mikko returned to his bride's cottage, he found it had turned into a beautiful castle! There they lived, happily ever after.

Now, use what you read to answer the questions below.

1. What are some of the differences between Mikko and his older brother?

2. Which of the things that happen in the story might actually happen? Which could not happen, and why?

3. Have you ever had a friend you were worried no one else would like? What did you do?

The Butterfly That Stamped

by Rudyard Kipling

There once was a wise king named Suleiman-bin-Daoud. He could understand what the birds said and what the fish said and what the animals said. Suleiman was also very powerful. He wore a magic ring and when he turned the ring, Jinns, or genies, would appear and do whatever Suleiman asked.

Suleiman lived in a beautiful palace surrounded by beautiful gardens. But all was not peaceful in Suleiman's home. You see, he had 1,000 wives. It's not that he wanted so many wives. No, Suleiman truly loved his wise and beautiful queen, Balkis. But in those days, wise and powerful kings were suppose to have many wives.

Suleiman's problem was that his wives, except for Balkis, argued all the time. They argued with him and they argued with each other.

Suleiman could have turned his powerful ring and asked the Jinns to make his arguing wives disappear, but he thought that would be showing off. Besides being wise and powerful, Suleiman was also very humble. When his wives argued too much, Suleiman would leave his beautiful palace and walk in the garden.

One day, when his wives were arguing very loudly, Suleiman went for his walk in the garden. As he walked by a large tree, Suleiman was surprised to hear two butterflies quarreling.

"Don't talk like that to me," said one butterfly to the other. "Don't you know that if I stamped with my foot the palace and garden would vanish in a clap of thunder?"

Suleiman thought this was the funniest thing he had ever heard! A butterfly could not make his beautiful palace and garden disappear. He called out to the butterfly. "Come here, little friend," he said. The butterfly was scared, for he had not known that Suleiman had been listening. The butterfly flew over, shaking his little wings, and landed on Suleiman's finger.

"Tell me why you are telling such lies to your wife," Suleiman asked.

"She has been arguing with me all day. I want some peace and quiet!" replied Butterfly Husband.

Suleiman understood, for he wanted the same thing. He laughed again and told Butterfly Husband to return to his wife. He could hardly wait to see what would happen to the couple next.

All this time Queen Balkis had been hiding on the other side of the large tree. She had followed Suleiman to the garden to comfort him. She had heard what had been said and smiled. Balkis had a plan for helping Suleiman with his arguing wives. While he talked to Butterfly Husband, she called to Butterfly Wife.

"Do you believe what your husband told you?" Balkis asked, when Butterfly Wife landed on Balkis' finger.

"You know husbands, dear Queen," Butterfly Wife replied. "They get angry and say things that they don't mean. He'll forget this by tomorrow."

Wise Balkis nodded, for she also knew how husbands were. "You are right, but the next time he brags, ask him to stamp. We'll see what happens. He may be ashamed."

With that, Butterfly Wife returned

to her husband.

When the butterfly couple were back together, they quickly started arguing again. Butterfly Husband angrily reminded his wife what would happen if he stamped his foot.

"I don't believe you!" cried Butterfly Wife. "I would like to see you do it. I dare you. Stamp! Stamp, I say!"

This was not what Butterfly Husband expected. Quickly, he flew back to Suleiman, who was laughing until tears rolled down his face.

"What shall I do?" asked Butterfly Husband. "You



Suleiman wiped away his tears of laughter. "No she won't," he said.

With that, he turned his powerful ring. In an instant, four Jinns came out of the ground. "When this butterfly stamps his foot you will make my palace and gardens disappear in a clap of thunder," Suleiman told the Jinns. "When the butterfly stamps again you will bring them back gently."

Suleiman turned to Butterfly Husband. "Go back and stamp your foot all you want."

Balkis saw the Jinns arrive and knew her plan was working. She smiled to herself.

Butterfly Husband returned to his wife, who was still screaming "Stamp!" As he landed on a leaf, he stamped his tiny foot.

In a flash of lightning and a clap of thunder, the beautiful palace and garden vanished! Everything was black and quiet.

"Oh! Oh!" screamed Butterfly Wife. "I'm sorry! I won't

argue with you anymore. Please, bring back the gardens."

Butterfly Husband was almost as frightened as his wife. He quickly stamped his foot again. The beautiful palace and gardens came down from the sky and landed without a bump. All was back the way it was.

Suddenly, there was the sound of screams, as Suleiman's many wives ran from the palace. Balkis met them at the steps to the garden.

"What has happened?" they cried.

"Nothing has happened," said Balkis. "A butterfly complained to Suleiman about his wife who argues with him. Suleiman taught her a lesson about speaking quietly and kindly."

The wives looked at each other in dismay. They turned and walked as quiet as mice back to the beautiful palace.

Suleiman and Balkis walked together to the palace where they all lived happily and peacefully ever after.

Vocabulary Matching

Place the letter in the blank for the correct meaning of the word.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| _____ genie | A. arguing |
| _____ humble | B. disappear |
| _____ quarreling | C. boast; speak highly of yourself |
| _____ stamped | D. a magical creature who grants wishes |
| _____ vanish | E. short period of time, a moment |
| _____ brags | F. modest, not vain |
| _____ instant | G. strongly strike to the ground |

Who Did It?

Circle the correct answer.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Who said "Stamp!"
over and over? | Who turned the ring? | Who told the many
wives what happened? |
| A. Suleiman | A. Suleiman | A. Suleiman |
| B. Balkis | B. Balkis | B. Balkis |
| C. Butterfly Husband | C. Butterfly Husband | C. Butterfly Husband |
| D. Butterfly Wife | D. Butterfly Wife | D. Butterfly Wife |

Secret code

Answer the question by using the secret code. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

Who made Suleiman laugh?

2 21 20 20 5 18 6 12 25

8 21 19 2 1 14 4

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1 = A | 10 = J | 19 = S |
| 2 = B | 11 = K | 20 = T |
| 3 = C | 12 = L | 21 = U |
| 4 = D | 13 = M | 22 = V |
| 5 = E | 14 = N | 23 = W |
| 6 = F | 15 = O | 24 = X |
| 7 = G | 16 = P | 25 = Y |
| 8 = H | 17 = Q | 26 = Z |
| 9 = I | 18 = R | |





The Cat that Walked by Himself

by Rudyard Kipling

Once there was a time when all creatures were wild. Cows, horses, sheep and dogs were wild. They walked through the Wild Wood as wild as could be. Of all the wild creatures, the wildest of these was the Cat, for he liked to walk alone through the Wild Wood.

Man was also wild at this time, as wild as the animals. Then he met the Woman, and she told him she didn't like his wild ways. She found a nice, dry cave and made it comfortable with a warm fire and a clean floor. Man and Woman settled into their new home.

On their first night in their new home, Man slept and Woman sat by the fire. She placed a roast bone in the fire and made her first magic.

In the Wild Wood, the animals saw the strange light and wondered what it meant. The Dog smelled the wonderful roast bone. He decided he would find out what was happening. He asked the Cat to come with him. The Cat refused, because the Cat always walked alone. After the Dog left, the Cat followed him, because the Cat also wanted to know what was happening.

When the Dog reached the cave, he asked the Woman what smelled so wonderful. She tossed him the bone and he gnawed and gnawed. It was the best thing he ever eaten. "Give me another!" he begged.

The Woman promised she would feed the Dog a bone every night if he would help the Man hunt and guard the cave. The Dog agreed, and he settled into the cave.

And so it went, night after night. The Woman made magic to draw the Wild Ones to the cave. She made dried grass for the Horse and the Cow. The Horse promised to help the Man hunt. The Cow promised to give fresh milk every day. Each time, the Cat followed them to the cave alone and heard what happened.

One night the Cat saw the light in the cave and smelled the wonderful aroma of warm milk. He walked to the cave by himself, as was his nature. When he arrived, he asked the Woman what was happening.

The Woman told the Cat to go back to the Wild Wood. "You are the Cat who likes to walk alone," said the Woman. "Go back to the Wood and walk by yourself."

The Cat wanted to taste the warm milk, so he pretended to be sorry. "Oh, wise and beautiful Woman," he pleaded. "Does this mean I can never come into the cave, lay by the warm fire and drink the warm milk?"

"For that compliment," replied the Woman, "I will make a bargain with you. If I ever say a kind word to you, you may come into the cave. If I say kind words twice, you may lay by the fire. If I say kind words three times, I will give you warm milk three times a day forever and ever."

With that the Cat returned to the Wild Wood by himself, waving his wild tail as he went.

After a time, a Baby arrived in the cave. The Cat went to the cave one morning while the Man was hunting and the Woman was cooking. The Baby began to cry and the Woman placed the Baby outside the cave to play. She gave him some pebbles to play with and returned to the cave. Still the Baby cried.

The Cat sat next to the Baby and stroked his cheek with his paw. The Baby laughed at the tickle of the soft fur.

Inside, Woman heard the Baby laugh, she smiled. "The one who has made the Baby laugh has done me a service and I thank him kindly."

With that, the Cat walked into the cave. When the Woman gasped, the Cat said "I made the Baby laugh. You gave me your kind thanks, and by our agreement, I may sit inside the cave."



The Baby was sad that the Cat had left him and began to cry again. "I will sing the Baby to sleep," said the Cat. He lay next to the Baby and purred, long and low, until the Baby was fast asleep.

The Woman smiled at the two little creatures. "You did that well, clever Cat."

Suddenly the Cat was sitting by the warm fire. "That's the second kind thing you have said to me. Now I may sit by the fire forever and ever."

The whole cave became quiet, so quiet that a little Mouse ran silently across the floor.

"Eeee!" cried the Woman, for she was afraid of the Mouse. The Cat pounced on the Mouse and ate it up.

"You are clever, Wild One," said the Woman. "None of the others are fast enough to catch the Mouse."

"That's the third time you have said kind words to me," the Cat said. "You will give me warm milk three times a day. But I am still the Cat that walks by himself!"

With that, the Woman smiled and gave the Cat warm milk forever and ever.



Sequence of Events

Put the events in order by placing a 1 in the blank before the first thing that happened, a 2 after the second and so on.

_____ The Woman made a bargain with the Cat.

_____ The Dog gnawed the bone.

_____ The Woman found a cave.

_____ The Cat ate the Mouse.

_____ The Woman gave the Cat warm milk.

_____ The Cat tickled the Baby.

Vocabulary

Circle the answer that means the same as the word.

gnawed

- A. licked
- B. laughed
- C. chewed
- D. barked

aroma

- A. taste
- B. sight
- C. smell
- D. feel

compliment

- A. rude words
- B. words of praise
- C. idea
- D. excuse

bargain

- A. agreement
- B. dinner
- C. argument
- D. fire

pounced

- A. danced
- B. saw
- C. jumped quickly
- D. screamed loudly

WORD SEARCH

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. Words can go up, down, backwards, and diagonally.

W C A K I E D N S C E N G F D
 R A O R S K I E O P A K N S E
 Y V L R O A R M W T S N A S S
 E E O K G M P G U O N W W A I
 F H G R E L A R L Q L Q E R M
 Z L A W I D E M V K T L D G O
 H B I M P O U N C E D S O S R
 H S E E A P C I G A M L A F P
 E N L U F R E D N O W W I O S
 T M O U S E L Z S K X W O C R

AROMA
 BARGAIN
 CAVE
 COMPLIMENT
 COW
 FOLLOWED
 GNAWED
 GRASS
 HORSE

MAGIC
 MOUSE
 NATURE
 POUNCED
 PROMISED
 ROAST
 WALKED
 WISE
 WONDERFUL

Answer Sheets

Comprehending Literature

Wh Questions

Reading for Comprehension: Jason and the Game Show

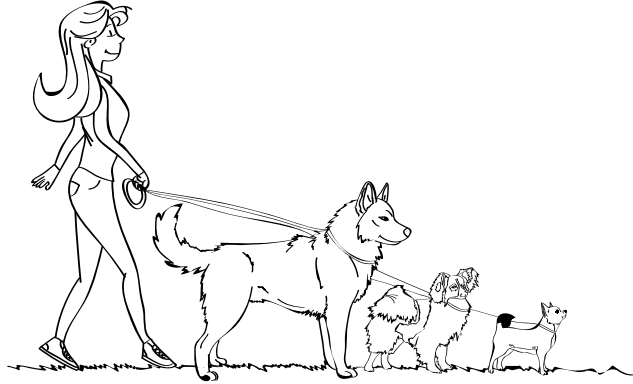
Sugar and Spice

The Butterfly That Stamped

The Cat That Walked by Himself

The Five "W's"

Read the following paragraph to answer the questions below.



Jody is a young woman who absolutely adores dogs. She owns a papillion named Louie, a chihuahua named Isabella, and a Siberian husky named Koda. Every weekend she takes her dogs to the dog park where they love to run, play catch, and meet other dogs.

When Jody took her pets to the park last Saturday, she almost lost poor little Louie. She was playing catch with Koda when she lost sight of Louie. In a panic, she started shouting his name and asked other dog owners if they saw her little Papillion. After 30 minutes of searching and with the help of one dog owner, she finally found him at the entrance of the dog park near a small store that sells Louie's favorite treats. Jody was delighted when she found Louie and bought all three of her dogs their favorite treats.

1. WHO is the woman in the story? Jody

2. WHAT three activities do the dogs love to do? Run, play catch, and meet other dogs.

3. WHEN does this story take place? Last Saturday.

4. WHERE does this story take place? At the dog park.

5. WHY is Jody in a panic? She loses her dog, Louie the Papillion.

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Answers

Understanding the Character

Great readers can focus on the story elements in a text to have a deeper understanding of the story. The characters, setting, problem, and solution, are story **elements**. They make the story interesting!

Characters: The people or creatures in a story, movie, or play.

Setting: The time and place in which something happens.

Problem: A question or situation that is difficult to deal with.

Solution: The way to solve a problem.

Directions: Read the story. Then, answer questions about the characters in the story.

Today was the day, and I couldn't ignore the butterflies in my stomach. I had waited and studied for this day for months, after all, and I felt on edge. I was on my way to the most-watched game show on television: "Will You Win?" It's a staple at our house. We watch it every day right after I get off the bus.

On the show, the host asks questions about random facts. The contestants need to answer before the other person to win a point. If they answer incorrectly, the contestant needs to dance or act out a famous scene from a movie of their choice. Then, the audience votes to give the contestant another chance. The boo from the audience is legendary on this show. It is especially entertaining when someone famous is the cause of the booing. It's not a complicated show, but you have to be smart and quick with your answer. I can't believe they finally chose me to be a contestant! I can't believe I have a chance to win the prize money!

As my mother drove me to the airport, I focused on the "Will You Win?" show. Facts raced through my head and I skimmed all the pocket factbooks I'd brought with me. The speed limit decreased and the car slowed as we approached the airport. My mother parked in the long-term parking garage. We headed towards the terminal. My pace slowed. I thought, "Can I do this?"

"Alexis, are you ready?" Mom asked.

The airport loomed before us. This is my chance to win money for our after-school program. This is what I worked so hard for. "I can do this," I told myself. I stood taller and said, "Ready or not, here I come!" Then, I smiled for the first time that day.

Directions: Answer the questions about using information from the story. **Answers may vary.**

1. Who is the main character in the story?

The main character is Alexis.

2. What is the setting in the story?

The story is set in the car on the way to the airport.

3. How does the character feel in the story?

The character is nervous and focused on studying for the game show.

4. How has Alexis prepared for the game show?

He has studied a lot of facts and watched the show often.

5. What do the words "on edge" tell you about Alexis?

The words "on edge" tell me Alexis is very nervous and anxious about the show.

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Answers

Order of Events

The **sequence of events**, or the order of the story, is the order in which events happen in the story. One event typically leads to another. Paying attention to the sequence of events in the story can help readers understand challenges and victories characters encounter in a story.

Directions: *Read the story. Then answer the questions.*

The hot air whipped in my face as I got out of the taxi in front of Studio B. The sun was shining and I regretted wearing the sweater I had packed. The flight across the country to Los Angeles had been long and nerve-wracking, and I could not study a minute longer about American presidents or the names of states. The game show, "Will You Win?", was in 2 hours, and I felt ready. At least, I hoped I was ready.

"Alexis, don't forget your pocket factbook. Did you finish studying the water cycle on the plane?" Mom asked.

I groaned. "No, I forgot that one on the bus yesterday. But, I feel ready. I can do this!" I tried to talk myself into it. The funding for our after-school program hung in the balance. "I'll read a bit more when I get to the green room," I assured her.

We walked into Studio B. I'd never been to a studio before and couldn't help staring at everything in the room. I didn't even notice my pocket factbook fall to the ground until a friendly face stood in front of me, holding it out to me.

"Hi! I'm Angie. Are you here for the game show?" she asked

"Uh, yeah. Yes." I stammered.

"Great! Come check out their library of facts! I'm sure the books will prepare us even more for the contest," she said as she pivoted quickly on her heels and walked down the hall.

I nodded at her gratefully. "Do you think they have any information on the water cycle?" I asked as I hurried behind her.

1. How did Alexis get to Los Angeles?

Answers may vary.

He flew on an airplane with his mother.

2. Where did the taxi take Alexis and his mother?

The taxi brought them to Studio B.

3. How much longer until the game show starts?

The game show starts in 2 hours.

4. Put these events in the order they occurred in the story. Number the events 1-8.

7 Alexis met Angie.

3 The heat made Alexis regret wearing his sweater.

4 Mom asked Alexis if he'd studied on the plane.

5 Alexis groaned.

8 Alexis walked towards the library.

6 The pocket factbook falls to the floor.

1 Alexis and his mother arrived in Los Angeles.

2 The taxi pulled in front of Studio B.

Reading Comprehension: Game Show Story

Answers

Remember Details

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Alexis and Angie stood with all the other contestants of the "Who Will Win?" game show. They thought about what was at stake. They thought about the prize money and about all the people that would be watching them on the television. There was excitement in the air, but a nervous energy as well. They still had to deal with the pesky dance or acting challenge if they answered a question incorrectly.

In the "Who Will Win?" game show, the host asks questions about random facts. The contestants need to answer before the other person to win a point. If they answer incorrectly, the contestant needs to dance or act out a famous scene from a movie of their choice. Then, the audience votes to give the contestant another chance. All the contestants dread hearing a boo from the audience.

The first round began and Angie faced off with another contestant, Harvey. The crowd cheered as Angie answered question after question correctly. Harvey didn't even get a chance to answer any questions before Angie got 3 correct answers and eliminated him. He practically ran off the set with a relieved look on his face.

Alexis anxiously stepped up to the contestant table during the third round. Angie had dominated the competition in round one and two. Now it was his turn to face off with her. Everyone in the room could see his smile when the host announced the last category would be about the water cycle. Alexis grabbed the buzzer. He was ready to answer the first question.

1. Who won the first round of the competition?

Answers may vary.

Angie won the first round.

2. What was the topic of the third round?

The topic of the third round was the water cycle.

3. In what round did the contestants answer all the questions correctly?

In the first round, the contestants answered all the questions correctly.

4. What do contestants need to do when they answer a question incorrectly?

They need to dance or act out a famous movie if they answer incorrectly.

5. How many total rounds did they have to play?

They played three rounds in the game show.

6. How did Harvey feel when he was eliminated?

He felt relieved when he was eliminated in the first round.

Name _____

Date _____

Answers Sugar and Spice



Read the story below.
Then, answer the questions on the next page.

It was Saturday, and Mindy was getting ready for her birthday party. In just three hours, all of her friends would arrive with presents and excitement. Every year, Mindy and her mom made a cinnamon cake fresh on the day of her birthday party, and Mindy thought this year would be no different. Excited, she waited for her mom in the kitchen.

Mindy's mother came into the kitchen and took her apron from a hook on the wall. Instead of putting it on, though, she lifted it over Mindy's head. Surprised, Mindy stood as her mom tied the strings of the apron behind her.

"Mindy, I think you're old enough to mix the batter yourself this year. I'm sure you can do it. Remember what we say?"

"Yes... Baking is just a little sugar and a little spice."

"That's right," said Mindy's mom. "Now, go ahead and start. I'm going to go blow up the balloons." With that, she preheated the oven and left Mindy alone in the kitchen.

Maybe her mom was right; maybe there wasn't much to it. Carefully, Mindy measured out the ingredients and poured them into a big bowl. Carefully, she mixed the batter until it was perfectly smooth. Carefully, she poured the batter into the cake pan. Then, she called to her mom.

"It's ready to go into the oven," Mindy said. Her mom put on oven mitts and popped the pan into the oven. Mindy had actually done it!

When the cake came out, though, something seemed wrong. Mindy tried to poke it with a toothpick, just as her mother always did. The toothpick wouldn't go through. The cake was almost as hard as a rock!

"I did exactly what I was supposed to," Mindy moaned. "I was so careful! I didn't put the eggs in until last, and I measured the baking soda exactly."

"Baking soda? Oh, dear. That's the problem. You were supposed to use baking powder." Mindy began to cry. "I'm sorry, mom. I tried so hard."

Mindy's mom gave her a big hug. "I'm the one who's sorry. I expected too much, and I was hard on you. I guess you could say I used too little sugar and too much spice!"

Mindy laughed, and her mom laughed, too.

"Now, let's try again," said Mindy's mom. "This time, we'll do it together!"

Name _____

Date _____

Sugar and Spice

Comprehension Questions

1. Why do you think Mindy was nervous about mixing the batter by herself?

Mindy was nervous because she had never baked a cake by herself before.

2. Why do you think Mindy's mom thought Mindy could do it herself?

Mindy's mother thought she was old enough to bake a cake by herself.

3. What did Mindy's mom mean when she said she used "too little sugar and too much spice"?

Mindy's mom meant that she had given Mindy too much responsibility.

4. How would you feel if you had to do a big project alone, like Mindy did?

Answers will vary.

Suleiman wiped away his tears of laughter. "No she won't," he said.

With that, he turned his powerful ring. In an instant, four Jinns came out of the ground. "When this butterfly stamps his foot you will make my palace and gardens disappear in a clap of thunder," Sulieman told the Jinns. "When the butterfly stamps again you will bring them back gently."

Suleiman turned to Butterfly Husband. "Go back and stamp your foot all you want."

Balkis saw the Jinns arrive and knew her plan was working. She smiled to herself.

Butterfly Husband returned to his wife, who was still screaming "Stamp!" As he landed on a leaf, he stamped his tiny foot.

In a flash of lightning and a clap of thunder, the beautiful palace and garden vanished! Everything was black and quiet.

"Oh! Oh!" screamed Butterfly Wife. "I'm sorry! I won't

argue with you anymore. Please, bring back the gardens."

Butterfly Husband was almost as frightened as his wife. He quickly stamped his foot again. The beautiful palace and gardens came down from the sky and landed without a bump. All was back the way it was.

Suddenly, there was the sound of screams, as Suleiman's many wives ran from the palace. Balkis met them at the steps to the garden.

"What has happened?" they cried.

"Nothing has happened," said Balkis. "A butterfly complained to Suleiman about his wife who argues with him. Suleiman taught her a lesson about speaking quietly and kindly.

The wives looked at each other in dismay. They turned and walked as quiet as mice back to the beautiful palace.

Suleiman and Balkis walked together to the palace where they all lived happily and peacefully ever after.

Vocabulary Matching

Place the letter in the blank for the correct meaning of the word.

<u>D</u>	genie	A. arguing
<u>F</u>	humble	B. disappear
<u>A</u>	quarreling	C. boast; speak highly of yourself
<u>G</u>	stamped	D. a magical creature who grants wishes
<u>B</u>	vanish	E. short period of time, a moment
<u>C</u>	brags	F. modest, not vain
<u>E</u>	instant	G. strongly strike to the ground

Who Did It?

Circle the correct answer.

Who said "Stamp!" over and over?

- A. Suleiman
- B. Balkis
- C. Butterfly Husband
- D. Butterfly Wife

Who turned the ring?

- A. Suleiman
- B. Balkis
- C. Butterfly Husband
- D. Butterfly Wife

Who told the many wives what happened?

- A. Suleiman
- B. Balkis
- C. Butterfly Husband
- D. Butterfly Wife

Secret code

Answer the question by using the secret code. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

Who made Suleiman laugh?

<u>B</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Y</u>
2	21	20	20	5	18	6	12	25
<u>H</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>		
8	21	19	2	1	14	4		

1 = A	10 = J	19 = S
2 = B	11 = K	20 = T
3 = C	12 = L	21 = U
4 = D	13 = M	22 = V
5 = E	14 = N	23 = W
6 = F	15 = O	24 = X
7 = G	16 = P	25 = Y
8 = H	17 = Q	26 = Z

The Baby was sad that the Cat had left him and began to cry again. "I will sing the Baby to sleep," said the Cat. He lay next to the Baby and purred, long and low, until the Baby was fast asleep.

The Woman smiled at the two little creatures. "You did that well, clever Cat."

Suddenly the Cat was sitting by the warm fire. "That's the second kind thing you have said to me. Now I may sit by the fire forever and ever."

The whole cave became quiet, so quiet that a little Mouse ran silently across the floor.

"Eeee!" cried the Woman, for she was afraid of the Mouse. The Cat pounced on the Mouse and ate it up.

"You are clever, Wild One," said the Woman. "None of the others are fast enough to catch the Mouse."

"That's the third time you have said kind words to me," the Cat said. "You will give me warm milk three times a day. But I am still the Cat that walks by himself!"

With that, the Woman smiled and gave the Cat warm milk forever and ever.



Sequence of Events

Put the events in order by placing a 1 in the blank before the first thing that happened, a 2 after the second and so on.

- 3 The Woman made a bargain with the Cat.
- 2 The Dog gnawed the bone.
- 1 The Woman found a cave.
- 5 The Cat ate the Mouse.
- 6 The Woman gave the Cat warm milk.
- 4 The Cat tickled the Baby.

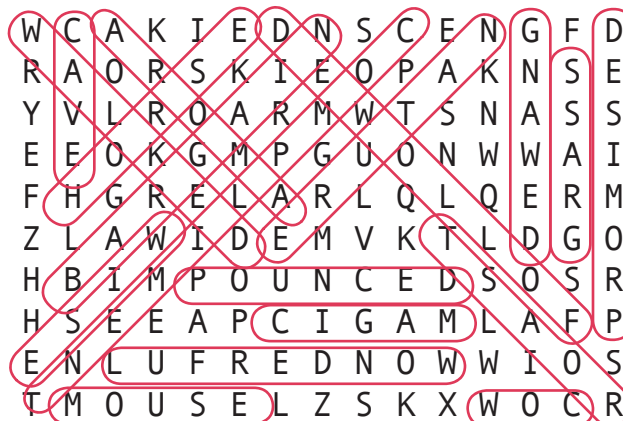
Vocabulary

Circle the answer that means the same as the word.

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| gnawed | aroma | compliment |
| A. licked | A. taste | A. rude words |
| B. laughed | B. sight | B. words of praise |
| C. chewed | C. smell | C. idea |
| D. barked | D. feel | D. excuse |
-
- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| bargain | pounced |
| A. agreement | A. danced |
| B. dinner | B. saw |
| C. arguement | C. jumped quickly |
| D. fire | D. screamed loudly |

WORD SEARCH

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. Words can go up, down, backwards, and diagonally.



- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| AROMA | MAGIC |
| BARGAIN | MOUSE |
| CAVE | NATURE |
| COMPLIMENT | POUNCED |
| COW | PROMISED |
| FOLLOWED | ROAST |
| GNAWED | WALKED |
| GRASS | WISE |
| HORSE | WONDERFUL |