

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



# Classroom Cereal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Story 22 Part 1 of 5

### “The Legend of the Lone Candle”

#### Part 1 of 5: Trick or Teach

On the final Friday of October, Fairview Middle School was celebrating a new tradition called “Trick or Teach.” Teachers stood at their Halloween-themed doors, handing out school supplies as students dashed from classroom to classroom. “Monster Mash” played over the loudspeaker. Everyone was dressed up, including Jamie and Charles.

“What are you suppose to be?” asked Jamie, who looked like some sort of zombie doctor.

“ ‘Gordon Greenburo, *Action Nine News*, Fairview,’ ” said Charles. He was swallowed up by a suit and tie that looked like it had belonged to a much older cousin. He wore a wig that was a ski slope of slick brown hair plus a taped-on and equally slick mustache. He had a paper mache microphone with a red 9 painted carefully on the side, which he whipped to his lips when he spoke.

“The guy from the news?” laughed Jamie.

“ ‘*Action Nine News*, Fairview,’ ” Charles repeated, whipping the mic to his mouth.

Jamie was bent over in stitches.

“Charles, Charles, Charles,” she said, placing a hand on the droopy shoulder of his jacket. “We’re in middle school now. We’re supposed to be something *actually* scary for Halloween. Take me for example. I’m a deranged podiatrist.”

A group of clown-masked eighth graders walked by. When they saw Charles’s costume they laughed too. Charles’s face flushed. He whipped his microphone at the deranged podiatrist.

#### Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

#### Key

- Spelling error
- Add punctuation
- Capitalize letter
- Remove word
- Wrong word
- Move word
- Make letter lower case

#### Checklist

1.
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3.
4.
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#### Question

How is Charles’s Halloween costume different from Jamie’s?

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Story 22

Part 2 of 5

## “The Legend of the Lone Candle”

### Part 2 of 5: Challenge

“You think you’re so tough,” said Charles, “but you were petrified when we almost went into the forest last month.”

“False,” Jamie stated.

“When Ms. Williams was about to tell us why the forest is haunted, you yelled, I have to go to the bathroom!” then ran down the hall.”

“I had to go!”

“Fine. If you’re not scared, why don’t we go see Ms. Williams right now and ask her to us tell the story?”

A minute later, they were trodding down the hallway, dodging amped-up zombies and princesses and penguins on their way to Ms. Williams’s room. When they arrived, they noticed hers was the only class in the hallway with no kids at the door. They stuck their heads inside and saw Ms. Williams leaning into the a big glass tank. There was a snake inside, and Ms. Williams seemed to be trying to tape a googly eye on top of its head.

“Ms. Williams?” Charles said. Ms. Williams whirled around and Ms. Williams took in their costumes.

“ ‘Gordon Greenburo, *Action Nine News*, Fairview,’ ” she said. “Nice. Sorry. This is Bob. Mr. Nitman left him to me. I thought he might help me attract some visitors if I gave him a costume.”

“Ms. Williams,” Charles continued, ignoring this bizarre promotion strategy. “Jamie was hoping you could tell us the story of the haunted forest.”

“The Legend of the Lone Candle?” Ms. Williams said, pulling two chairs next to the tank. “Take a seat.”

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#### Questions

What are your first impressions of Ms. Williams?

What details in the text shape your opinion?

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Story 22

Part 3 of 5

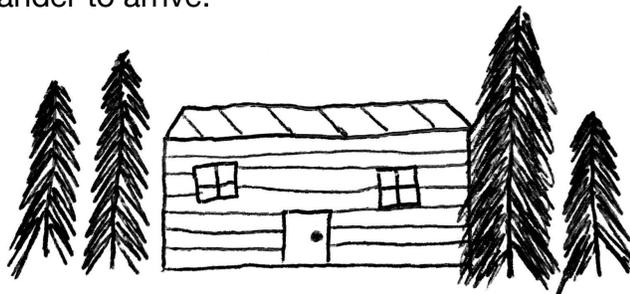
## “The Legend of the Lone Candle”

### Part 3 of 5: Thomas’s Cabin

“The town of Fairview was founded in 1777 by Thomas Smith. He came across the land after George Washington sent him on a mission to hide a chest of gold during the Revolutionary War. Thomas buried the gold and Thomas planted trees around it. Those trees grew into the forest behind the school. Thomas’s camp grew into a small settlement and then a town. When the Revolution ended, Thomas wrote letters to Washington to let him know he had the gold in Fairview. But Washington never wrote back.

“Years went by and Thomas started to withdraw from the community. He build a cabin among his trees, deep inside the young forest. He added a small porch on the back of the cabin, which had a view of the Fairview River and the Atlantic Ocean beyond. Thomas stopped going, into the town. He spent his days at his cabin, just sitting on the porch and watching the water.

“Some of the other Fairview elders grew concerned about Thomas. They would go into the woods to check on him, always seeing thomas gently rocking on a chair on the porch, a single candle always burning on a table beside him. One day, news arrived in Fairview that George Washington had died. Townspeople tryed to tell Thomas, but when they called to him, Thomas wouldn’t respond. He just sat in the dark with his candle beside him, watching the water, waiting for his commander to arrive.”



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4.
5.

#### Question

Who was Thomas Smith?

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



# Classroom Cereal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Story 22

Part 4 of 5

## “The Legend of the Lone Candle”

### Part 4 of 5: The Lone Candle

“As Thomas grew old, he grew paranoid too. He swore the children of Fairview were sneaking through the forest at night, searching for General Washington’s buried treasure. Townspeople said that on a dark, quiet night, you could hear the snap of twigs as Thomas lurched through the forest, patrolling the ground around General Washingtons gold. You could see his lone candle flickering amidst the trees, bobbing in the night as he searched for children.

“Naturally, going near the forest became a sort of game for the students of the Fairview schoolhouse. Dares to get close to the trees became as routine as the morning school bell. One day in the year 1839, a girl named Sarah and a boy named Ezekiel, Zeke for short, accepted one of those dares. They entered the forest just before their teacher called the students inside after their afternoon recess. By the time school was over, Sarah and Zeke still hadn’t come out. They were still missing at sundown. That night, a mob of townspeople carried torches into the forest, looking for Sarah, Zeke, or Thomas Smith. They finally found sarah and Zeke asleep on the floor of Thomas’s cabin. The children awoke confused. All they remembered was being attacked, by an animal or something else, soon after entering the forest. Thomas was nowhere to be found and the cabin was empty, accept for one thing. Thomas’s lone candle still sat on the porch, flickering steadily in the night, as if it had been there all along.”



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#### Question

Why did Thomas Smith patrol the forest at night?

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



# Classroom Cereal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Story 22

Part 5 of 5

## “The Legend of the Lone Candle”

### Part 5 of 5: Legend

#### Directions

1. Read the story
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“Legend has it that Thomas Smith still roams the forest. On a still, dark night, you can hear the snap of twigs as he lurches through the trees. You can see his lone candle flickering as he searches for others like Sarah and Zeke.

“What do you think, bob?” Ms. Williams said, turning to face the snake tank. “Pretty creepy, huh?”

Jamie stared dead ahead. Charles twisted his microphone around in his hands like he were trying to keep it warm.

“Well, thanks for stopping by, guys,” Ms. Williams said as she stood up. “Enjoy the rest of Trick or Teach!”

Back in the hall, Jamie meandered toward the stairwell, where a big circular Window looked out over the fields and the forest. She went deaf to the noise of the hallway as she gazed at the orange and yellow trees.

“Boo!” Charles appeared behind her and Charles grabbed her shoulders. Jamie jumped halfway to the ceiling.

“Not cool,” she muttered as she stomped down the stairs. Charles’s chuckling was cut short when he turned to see the group of clown-masked eighth graders coming his way. When they arrived, one of them extended an arm for a fist bump.

“Gordon Greenburo, *Action Nine News*, Fairview,” the eighth grader said. “Nice.”

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#### Question

Who seems more spooked by the end of the story — Jamie or Charles?