

Name: _____

Date: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 1

Part 1 of 5

“Watergate”

Part 1 of 5: A Pledge For Justice

Cooper was sitting in his first lunch detention of the school year, but he shouldn't have been. He knew plenty of other kids asked to get a drink from the water fountain in the middle of class. Cooper, of course, was the only one who got lunch detention for it.

Sure, Cooper remembered parts of the endless list of rules Mr. Nitman rattled off during the first few days of seventh grade, only about a week ago. But how could anyone thought he was serious about the water fountain. They could only go to it during the first five minutes of class? How could anyone denied children water?

As he stared at his teacher, Cooper swore revenge. He would expose Mr. Nitman's corruption. He would prove his lunch detention was unfair. He would find a free classmate who had also asked to get a drink in the middle of class. His hunt for the truth would begin tomorrow in the cafeteria.

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

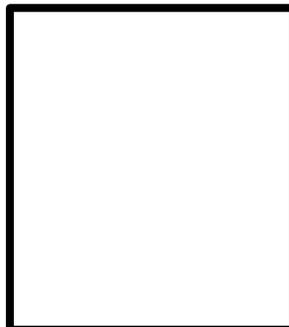
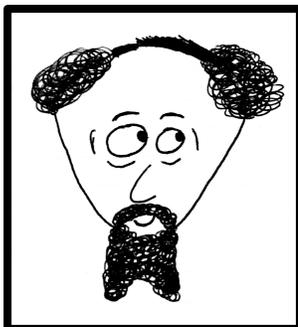
Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

BONUS ACTIVITY

This is Chuck, Classroom Cereal's mascot.

*Finished reading the story and finding the errors?
Draw your best version of Chuck. (Be careful not to mess up his beautiful beard.)*



Question

What do you think Cooper is going to do next?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 1

Part 2 of 5

“Watergate”

Part 2 of 5: The Hunt For Evidence

Directions

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

“You had lunch detention for asking to get a drink?” asked Malina, plunging her plastic fork into her macaroni and cheese.

“Correct,” Cooper responded. “And people ask to get a drink all the time. Did Mr. Nitman ever give you lunch detention.”

“I asked once and he said it would waste too much time. No lunch detention, though,” Malina said between mouth fulls.

“What about you, Rodgers?” Cooper asked the boy to his right, swerving himself on the cafeteria table’s bench.

“I go at the beginning of class, but I walk really slowly in the hallway,” Rodgers said proudly. “It bugs him, but he’s never given me lunch detention.”

Cooper was wright. He was the only one who had been given lunch detention because of the water fountain. Now he needed evidence.

“I heard he let a kid from his eighth period go in the middle of class,” offered Rodgers. Cooper nearly choked on his chocolate milk.

“Who?” Cooper yelled.

“I don’t no his name. He’s the kid who walks weirdly fast in the halls,” replied Rodgers.

That description was enough for Cooper. He knew his key to catching Mr. Nitman was Eric Fincher.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Why is Eric Fincher important to Cooper’s investigation?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 1

Part 3 of 5

“Watergate”

Part 3 of 5: Fincher Talks

Directions

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

In gym class later that day, Cooper offered to help Eric collect the cones. “I know about your little trip in Nitman’s class,” Cooper said.

“The field trip to the planetarium is October 23rd. Permission slips are due on the 16th,” Eric issued.

Not that trip, Fincher! Tell me about the water fountain.”

Eric shot Cooper a look, then he went back to the cones.

“Look, Eric. I no the rules are important to you,” Cooper said. “But I also know, in Mr. Nitman’s class, the rules aren’t the same for everyone. I had lunch detention yesterday just for asking to get a drink. Shouldn’t everyone followed the rules, even the people who make them? Shouldn’t school be fair.”

Eric stacked a few more cones. Finally, he turned to Cooper.

“I tried to wait until after class, but I was too parched. During our quiz last Friday, I called Mr. Nitman over and asked to go to the water fountain. He rote me a pass and told me to make it quick.”

“Eric, do you have proof of this water break?” Cooper asked seriously.

Fincher stacked one last cone before nodding. “I save all of my hall passes.”

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

What details from the story show Eric Fincher’s personality?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 1

Part 4 of 5

“Watergate”

Part 4 of 5: Cooper’s Speech

Directions

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

To his mother’s confusion, Cooper wore a shirt and tie too school the next day.

Exactly 25 minutes into Mr. Nitman’s 50-minute class, Cooper raised his hand. “Mr. Nitman, I am parched. May I please go to the water fou—”

Mr. Nitman cut him off. “You should knew the rule by now, Cooper. No.”

Cooper scooted back in his chair, stood up, and straightened his tie. Then he started his speech.

“Mr. Nitman, classmates. We began this journey together two weeks ago. At that time, Mr. Nitman, our leader, told us we must never go to the water fountain in the middle of class. He told us the water fountain was rong. He told us...” Cooper looked at Malina, “... the water fountain would waste too much time.”

Cooper continued. “Two days ago, I served a lunch detention for wanting to get a drink during class. I new this was unfair, so I started an investigation. Today, I have proof that Mr. Nitman have gave a kid permission to use the water fountain IN THE MIDDLE OF A QUIZ!”

As the gasps filled the air, Cooper slapped Eric Fincher’s hall pass down on the desk. Mr. Nitman stared in disbelief.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

How do you predict Mr. Nitman is going to respond to Cooper’s speech?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 1

Part 5 of 5

“Watergate”

Part 5 of 5: Mr. Nitman’s Decision

Directions

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

When Cooper’s class arrived the next day, Mr. Nitman sat at his desk with his hands folded. When everyone was seated, the Teacher began.

“Good morning. This is the first time I have spoken to you from this desk, where I have made many decisions about our class. I have always tried to make these decisions fairly. Today, I see the problem with giving only one student permission to get a drink in the middle of class. Rules are important to me. I wanna create a structured environment for my students. I believe rules and structure help students feel safe. But I must admit when the rules have been unfair. I must admit my own corruption. I must put the class first. There fore, I shall change the water fountain rule, effective at noon tomorrow. Students may use the water fountain any time during class?”

the class sat in shocked silence. Finally, Mr. Nitman stood up and walked to the door. When he reached it, he turned toward his students wearing a big, unfamiliar, toothy smile. Then, as if to show them it was okay, he exited the classroom and headed to the water fountain.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Do you agree with Mr. Nitman’s decision to change the water fountain rule?

Historical Note

Watergate was a political scandal in the 1970s. Richard Nixon, the president of the United States, had abused his power and then tried to cover it up. Reporters worked to find the truth, much like Cooper did. They call it Watergate because the investigations started after a break-in at the Watergate office complex in Washington D.C.

How do you picture the characters? Draw Cooper, Mr. Nitman, or Eric Fincher.

