

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 26

Part 1 of 5

“The Man and Ms. Martinez”

Part 1 of 5: The Portrait

Directions

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

“This is weird,” said Jamie, who was perched on a wooden stool in the corner of the art room. A wig of short black hair sat awkwardly on her head, and she was holding up a pencil with one hand and a calculator with the other. She was facing Charles, who had a paint brush.

“Stay still,” he said, dabbing a canvas. “Almost done.”

It was Valentine’s Day and they were in art class, one of their last classes of the day. A few days earlier, Charles has received permission to work on a special project — a portrait of a seventh grade math teacher he’d been admiring from afar. Jamie was serving as the artist’s Ms. Martinez model.

“This is weird,” she repeated.

“Finito!” shouted Charles. He dropped the paint brush and kissed his fingers like he’d just put the finishing touches on a professional-grade pizza.

Jamie hopped off the stool. Upon seeing the other side of the canvas, she gasped in horror. What looked back at her was the cartoonish spectre of a human with a pyramid of hair black and enormous, vacant eyeballs. Its disproportionate, spaghetti-like arms held up a pencil and a calculator.

“Well, I bet Ms. Martinez has never gotten a valentine like this before,” she said.

“Only a few more hours until I present it to her in person,” Said Charles, staring proudly at his creation.

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 are some good words to describe Charles’s portrait?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 26

Part 2 of 5

Date: _____

“The Man and Ms. Martinez”

Part 2 of 5: There Was Giggling

Directions

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

At the sound of the final bell, Jamie eased into the current of the hallway crowded. Charles was already there when she arrived at his locker.

“Have you been wearing that all day?” Jamie asked. In the little magnetic mirror on his locker door Charles was straightening a way-too-long tie.

“It’s from my Gordon Greenburo Halloween costume,” Charles replied. “What do you think?”

Jamie just smiled nervously. They waited until the halls had mostly cleared out, then Charles tucked the portrait under his arm, and they were on their way to Ms. Martinez’s room. When they were a few doors away, Charles stopped short.

“Hang on,” he said. “i should check my hair one more time.” He handed the portrait to Jamie and darted into a nearbi bathroom.

While Charles was touching up, Jamie wandered in front of Ms. Martinez’s door. She peeked inside and saw Ms. Martinez at her desk. A student’s desk was pulled close to hers, and on top of it sat a sharply dressed man about Ms. Martinez’s age. There was smiling. There was giggling.

Jamie looked down at the portrait and felt a twinge of pain for her friend. At that moment, the bathroom door popped open and Charles came striding out. Jamie froze. Unsure what to do, she looked at the portrait, then at Charles, than at the heartache awaiting him inside the classroom. Finally, she made a bold decision.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

What does Jamie discover inside Ms. Martinez’s classroom?

Why does this cause her a dilemma?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 26

Part 3 of 5

“The Man and Ms. Martinez”

Part 3 of 5: We Need Chocolate

Directions

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

“FROG!!!” Jamie screamed.

A few weeks earlier, Jamie and Charles had discovered a strange species of frog inside a locker. One of the frogs had licked Charles’ cheek. Ever since, he’d had a major frog phobia.

“There’s a Locker Frog inside Ms. Martinez’s room,” Jamie lied, running toward Charles. “Right by the door. We can’t go in their.”

A tiny shriek escaped Charles’s mouth. He stared at the door, then stood up straight, flattened his tie, and took the portrait from Jamie.

“No,” he said, stepping toward the classroom. “Love conquers fear.”

“Wait,” Jamie said, grabbing his arm. “We need chocolate. No valentine is complete without chocolate We should get some from the vending machine in the cafeteria.”

“It’s true,” Charles said, spinning around. As Charles was dashing down the stairs Jamie saw the man and Ms. Martinez emerge from the classroom, headed in the other direction. Jamie saw something fall out of the man’s pocket. Her crept down the hall and picked it up. It was a business card.

McKay Real Estate Development. Ryan McKay, Founder and President.

Ryan McKay. Jamie was sure she’d heard that name somewhere before.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

In Part 3, we find out the identity of “the man.”
What’s his name?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 26 Part 4 of 5

Date: _____

“The Man and Ms. Martinez”

Part 4 of 5: Mystery Man

Directions

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

Tapping the business card on her palm, Jamie followed Ryan and Ms. Martinez from a distance. On the first floor Ms. Martinez waved to Mrs. Rose, who was still seated at her desk in the office. Before they reached the front door, Ms. Martinez and Ryan stopped to admire the showcases in the entry hall. Ms. Martinez directed her date to the one with all of the notes from the 80s and 90s. More giggling.

Ryan McKay. Jamie was sure she recognized that name, but from where? The answer was swimming around in her brain like a fish slippery that kept squirming away from the net at the last second. Her concentration was broken by her walkie talkie in her pocket.

“Jamie, I’ve got the *M&Ms*,” Charles said. “I’m about to leave the Cafeteria.”

“NO!!!” Jamie yelled instinctively, looking at the closed cafeteria doors, only a few feet from where Ryan and Ms. Martinez were standing. “Stay there. I’ll bring Ms. Martinez to you.”

“Negative,” Charles replied. “I shall deliver these gifts to mi lady. Is she still in her room?”

“Yes, but so is the frog,” Jamie said. “Wait five minutes, then come back.”

Charles gave the 10-4, but Jamie didn’t hear it. She was too busy following Ryan and Ms. Martinez, who were no longer headed to the front door. They were walking toward the back of the school. Toward the haunted forrest.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Jamie can’t place him, but if you read Classroom Cereal Season 2, you might recognize the name Ryan McKay. Do you know who he is?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 26 Part 5 of 5

Date: _____

“The Man and Ms. Martinez”

Part 5 of 5: Thief

Directions

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

The man and Ms. Martinez made a trail of tracks in the snow on their way across the field. Jamie stood in the doorway, watching them trudge toward the edge of the haunted forest. Their gloved hands were intertwined.

Why were they going to the haunted forest. Jamie was closer than ever to remembering how she knew the name Ryan McKay. It was like the slipperie fish was inside the net for a millisecond but immediately swam right out. A bleep came from her pocket. This time it wasn't her walkie. It was a text message from her brother, Cooper.

Where are you? I'm waiting in front of the school.

Cooper! That was it! Cooper had told she about Ryan McKay. It was last year when he and his friends were looking for the treasure. Ryan McKay had found it first. He took it all for himself and left fairview, leaving nothing behind but a note in a shoebox. Now he was back.

“Jamie?” came a voice from behind her. It was Charles. He saw the bundled-up couple strolling hand-in-hand across the field. The bag of M&Ms plopped to the floor, followed by the portrait.

“It's okay, dude,” Jamie said, placing a hand on Charles's shoulder. “You're two good for her anyway. She's dating a thief.”

Key

- Spelling error
- Add punctuation
- Capitalize letter
- Remove word
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Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Who is Ryan McKay?