

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 20 Part 1 of 5

Date: _____

“Fairview Farewell”

Part 1 of 5: Mellon’s Surprise

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

Principal Mellon had never seen Fairview look so sad. It was the day of the annual Eighth Grade Farewell Assembly and Principal Mellon stood at the podium on the auditorium’s stage, overlooking a sea of sullen faces. Most of Fairview seemed to be in the audience. In the front few rows were Cooper, Malina, Rodgers, Megan Zimmerman, Tony, Eric Fincher, and the rest of the graduating eighth graders and Teachers sat behind them, including Mr. Nitman, who looked especially gloomy, and Mrs. Comstock, who was newly returned from her trip to Peru. Principal Mellon spotted a few people he knew from outside of school, like Nancy, the owner of Nancy’s Cafe, and the safari hat-wearing gardener, Kyle. Superintendent Chase sat in a metal chair behind the podium. An unknown short man with a hat, sunglasses, and a mustache leaned against the back wall. The auditorium was silent except for the crinkle of paper as people fanned themselves with their programs.

News of the disappointing discovery in the haunted forest had spread throughout town like a stomach virus. Ryan McKay had found Washington’s Lost Treasure and left nothing behind but a shoebox, a note, and one measly gold coin. The story of Thomas Smith’s forgotten diary had seemed to unite Fairview, but now that the treasure was gone the town felt deflated.

Finally, principal Mellon couldn’t take it any longer. Standing at the podium, he pulled something from his jacket and held it high above his head. It was a folded piece of paper encapsulated in a thin string. The note was dated Thursday, April 16, 1778.

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

What do you think Mellon’s note says? Why do you think so?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 20

Part 2 of 5

“Fairview Farewell”

Part 2 of 5: Thursday, April 16, 1778

Directions

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

Thursday, April 16, 1778

Dear Father,

It is hard to believe that nearly two years have passed since I left Long Island. I hope you and the farm still flourish, despite the British presence, and I am sorry for my lack of correspondence. I am well. Since my mission for General Washington, I have been settled on the bank of a river along the New Jersey coast.

My settlement has grown into something of a small town, which we call Fairview. After burying general Washington's gold, I soon met several local farmers sympathetic to the colonial cause. We planted crops and I built a small cabin and lookout station on the hill overlooking the river. As the months passed, word of the British occupation of Philadelphia and General Washington's difficulties at Valley Forge spread throughout New Jersey. Frightened townspeople began flocking to my safe settlement. Fearful that the British would soon triumph, these people brought with them to Fairview their most cherished belongings.

Our town now has so many residents that we have constructed a small schoolhouse. My neighbors and I intend to bury the treasures they have brought with them — jewelry, gold, silver, and more — under the foundation of our schoolhouse for safekeeping.

I tell you this, Father, so you will not lose the treasures if the British take Fairview. I hope we will be reunited one day soon. Until then, stay safe.

Your son,
Thomas

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

According to Thomas's letter, how did the young town of Fairview start to grow?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 20

Part 3 of 5

“Fairview Farewell”

Part 3 of 5: Below Our Feet

Directions

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

The entire auditorium huddled around the letter. At the front of the stage, Mr. Nitman and Cooper were rereading furiously. From somewhere in the crowd, Coopers mom piped up.

“I remember my grandmother telling me stories about that one-room schoolhouse,” she said.

“My grandfather was a student there,” added Mrs. Rose.

“In fact,” said Kyle, making his way forward from the back of the group. “They tore down the original schoolhouse in the 1930s to build Fairview Junior High School.” He produced a folded map from his back pocket and spread it across the stage and it was the blueprint for the original Fairview Middle School. The crowd tightened around Kyle.

“Look,” said Ms. Martinez, pointing to a square in the center of the map. “The schoolhouse’s foundation is marked.”

“That means we’re right on top of the site wear Thomas built the original school,” said superintendent Chase. “The foundation and the treasures beneath are somewhere below our feet.”

“We have to find it,” said Malina. “But who will lead the expedition? Does anyone know their way around the bowels of the school?”

At that moment, the unknown man with the hat, sunglasses, and mustache pushed through the crowd to the front of the stage. He removed his disguise. It was Orn.

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 suggest everyone in the auditorium is interested in Thomas’s letter and Kyle’s map?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 20

Part 4 of 5

Date: _____

“Fairview Farewell”

Part 4 of 5: Forgotten Messages

Directions

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

Moments later, Orn was leading the entire Farewell Assembly through a hidden hallway behind the auditorium. At the end of the hall, they came to a dusty wooden door. Orn turned to face the crowd, flashed his mischievous grin, and motioned for everyone to follow him.

Slowly and carefully, everyone descended a long, narrow flight of stone steps which emptied into a massive, square, subterranean clearing. It was cold and dark and smelled like mildew and stone. Mr. Nitman and Principal Mellon shined their flashlights around the enormous space. The clearing we're empty but its walls were covered in tiny markings. The group slowly dispersed, intrigued by the strange graffiti.

“This was a bomb shelter,” said Mrs. Comstock. Built during the Cold War. They would bring students down here for nuclear attack drills.”

“My parents told me about those drills,” said ms. Trotter. She was examining one of the walls with Tony and Nancy.

“Mine too,” said Principal Mellon. He was looking closely at a carving that read SM '55. “I think my dad carved this.”

While the rest of the party admired the messages left behind by a previous generation of Fairview students, Orn lead Cooper and Mr. Nitman to another stone staircase at the far end of the bomb shelter. Orn winked and handed them a shovel. Side by side, Cooper and Mr. Nitman climbed to the top of the steps wear they found themselves in a deserted boiler room. In the center of the floor was a large square made of stone. Mr. Nitman and Cooper exchanged glances of knowing respect, then started to dig.

Key

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

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

Where does Orn lead the group?

Why is this place especially interesting for Principal Mellon?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 20

Part 5 of 5

“Fairview Farewell”

Part 5 of 5: Legacy

2.5 months later

After school on Cooper’s first day at Fairview High School, him came back to Fairview Middle. He walked through the front doors and into the school’s brand new entrance hall. Glass display cases stood throughout the hall, each showcasing a different era in the history of Fairview Middle School.

Closest to the main entrance was part of the stone foundation of Fairview’s original one-room schoolhouse, excavated by a team of professionals following its discovery and In a showcase next to the foundation were a few pieces of colonial-era china, jewelry, and silver, just some of the priceless treasure found on the day of the Farewell Assembly. Thomas Smith’s diary and letter from the 1770s and two gold coins from Washington’s Lost Treasure were on display nearby.

As Cooper made his way toward the front office, he admired the other displays, which told the history of Fairview middle through the years. There was a section of the bomb shelter wall, filled with student graffiti from the 1950s and 60s. There was the entire Spice Cabinet, still stuffed with notes from the 80s and 90s. There was a drawer from the forgotten home economics classroom, complete with a burn from the Corn Muffin Incident of 1997. There was a bench from the Backstop, covered in markings accumulated over the decades. There was even a case filled with games students liked to play in different eras — a *Duck Hunt* cartridge, a Game Boy, a copy of *Daybreak*, and even a Squirm Worm.

“You’re leaving quit a legacy here at Fairview Middle,” said Mr. Nitman, appearing next to Cooper.

Cooper smiled and turned to face his old teacher.

“We’re leaving,” he corrected.

Directions

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Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

What did the town of Fairview do with the treasure?

Read Cooper’s last line.
What does he mean?