

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 17

Part 1 of 5

“Finding Mrs. Comstock”

Part 1 of 5: New Teacher

“He can’t be trusted,” Malina insisted.

She was standing buy Cooper’s locker with Cooper and Rodgers. Cooper was replacing everything in his backpack with his materials for Mrs. Comstock’s American history class, his last class of the day. Malina was bringing her friends up to speed on what she had learned from Ms. Martinez about the Corn Muffin Incident of 1997. According to the story, Ryan McKay discovered gold in the haunted forest twenty years ago and Mr. Nitman knew about it. Malina was sure their former teacher was after the rest of the gold for himself.

“Cooper, you found a gold coin just like Ryan mckay,” Malina continued, keeping up with Cooper and Rodgers as they walked briskly toward class. “Ms. Martinez said nobody has heard from Ryan in years. What if Mr. Nitman got rid of him so he would be the only one to know about the gold? What if him goes after you to?”

“Mr. Nitman might be after the gold,” Cooper replied, “but he wouldn’t kill anybody.” He turned into Mrs. Comstock’s classroom, but as soon as he set foot inside, he dropped his backpack in shock. Mr. Nitman was standed at the head of the class.

“Welcome,” Nitman said cheerfully. “Mrs. Comstock is away. I’ll be taking over this class.”

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.

Question

Make a prediction.
What happened to Mrs. Comstock?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 17

Part 2 of 5

“Finding Mrs. Comstock”

Part 2 of 5: On Vacation

Directions

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

With out taking their eyes off Mr. Nitman, Cooper and Rodgers settled into their seats. Mr. Nitman began lecturing on the British invasion of Long Island in 1776, but Cooper couldn't focus. He was confused and concerned by Nitman's presence, especially given Malina's recent warnings. Eventually, he raised his hand.

“Mrs. Comstock is on vacation, Cooper,” Mr. Nitman said immediately. “I'll be taking her place until she returns.”

“No, um, my throat hurts,” Cooper replied. “Can I go to the nurse?”

Insted of going to the nurse, though, Cooper went to Principal Mellon's office.

“Mrs. Comstock is on vacation,” Principal Mellon said a few minutes later. “Paraguay, or is it Peru? Anyway, she have a lot of sick days saved up.”

“But why is Mr. Nitman taking over for her? Doesn't he have his own classes.”

“He volunteered,” Mellon said, fiddling with his Rubik's Cube.

Still suspicious, Cooper stared at the twisting Rubik's Cube in Principal Mellon's hands. Suddenly, he remembered something. A few months ago, he, Malina, and Rodgers went looking for Mr. Nitman after Cooper had shown he the gold coin. On Nitman's desk were several books about the Revolutionary War. But Mr. Nitman didn't teach the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Comstock did. At least, she used to.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Where else has the Revolutionary War shown up in Classroom Cereal Season 2?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 17

Part 3 of 5

“Finding Mrs. Comstock”

Part 3 of 5: Forgotten Treasures

Directions

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

When the bell rang, Cooper met Malina and Rodgers outside Mrs. Comstock’s room.

“I think you’re right,” Cooper said to Malina. “Nitman is after some kind of treasure, and I’m pretty sure it has to do with the Revolutionary War. Do you remember those books we seen in his room a few months ago?”

Minutes later, when the hallways were nearly empty, the trio carefully approached Mr. Nitman’s classroom.

“I’ll be the lookout,” Rodgers said. “You two find the book.”

Cooper and Malina got to work, plucking books from the shelf behind Mr. Nitman’s desk. Cooper remembered seeing one particular Revolutionary War book during their last undercover visit to Mr. Nitman’s classroom. It was open to a chapter called “Forgotten Treasures” and it had a page ripped from it. Him and Malina were ferociously searching for that book.

“I see him!” Rodgers announced.

“We’ve got to find it!” Cooper called back. “That chapter will tell us what Nitman is up to. He had the ripped out page with him on the night we caught him buy the haunted forest.”

Malina stopped pulling books. “What if we talk to the two people who were with him that night?” she said.

“He’s at the top of the hallway!” Rodgers called.

They abandoned the bookshelf and darted out of the classroom. Their minds were now set on interviewing two accomplices — Eric Fincher and Michael C. livingston.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Think of earlier Classroom Cereal stories. What do you remember about Eric Fincher or Michael C. Livingston?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 17

Part 4 of 5

Date: _____

“Finding Mrs. Comstock”

Part 4 of 5: Fincher’s House

Directions

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

“Hi, Mrs. Fincher. Is Eric home?”

Eric Fincher, the most straightlaced eighth grader in the history of Fairview Middle School, lived a few doors down from Cooper. After remembering that Eric and Michael C. Livingston, the bizarre new kid, were with Mr. Nitman on the night they found he near the haunted forest, the trio ran to Eric’s house in search of answers.

“Hello, Cooper!” Mrs. Fincher replied cheerfully. “Yes! He’s playing video games with Michael. Come in!”

Mrs. Fincher lead Cooper Malina, and Rodgers down the hall to Eric’s bedroom, where they found him and Michael C. Livingston sitting squarely in front of a TV screen. They’re were playing *Daybreak*.

“We went to the forest to search for a rare variety of moss,” Fincher said immediately, seemingly reading their minds. “It was a meeting of the Science Club.”

For the next half hour, Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers bombarded Fincher and Michael C. Livingston with questions. Where is Mrs. Comstock? Why is Mr. nitman taking over her classes? Why were you *really* in the haunted forest that night? But Fincher was resolute with his story. He insisted the late night trip to the forest was for the Science Club, and he had no idea where Mrs. Comstock was or why Mr. Nitman might be so interested in the Revolutionary War. Tired and frustrated, the trio eventually left Fincher’s house, no closer to understanding the mysterious motives of Mr. Nitman.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

Do you trust Fincher and Michael C. Livingston? Why or why not?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 17

Part 5 of 5

“Finding Mrs. Comstock”

Part 5 of 5: Search History

Directions

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

After leaving Fincher’s house, the trio headed back to school and snuck in through the always unlocked door behind the cafeteria. Minutes later, they were sitting on top of desks in Mrs. Comstock’s classroom, discussing their suspicions. Mr. Nitman, They agreed, was searching for some kind of Revolutionary War-era treasure in the haunted forest. But they had little information and even less proof. In an act of mockery, Cooper stood up and started doing his best Mr. Nitman impression.

“You see, class, the British took control of New York in the late summer of 1776,” he impersonated. Malina and Rodgers laughed.

“Back so soon, Mr. Nitman?” came a proper British voice from the teacher’s desk. It was Andrew, Mrs. Comstock’s electronic assistant. “Would you care to by Mrs. Comstock another plane ticket to Peru?”

“Andrew!” Rodgers yelled, but Cooper immediately covered his friend’s mouth.

“No thank you, Andrew,” Cooper said in his Mr. Nitman voice. “But would you mind reading my recent Google search history?”

“Very good,” Andrew replied. “Washington’s Lost Treasure, books on Washingtons Lost Treasure, Washington’s Lost Treasure location, articles on Washington’s Lost Treasure, Washington’s Lost Treasure Fairview, Washington’s Lost Treasure rumors...”

As Andrew continued to recite, Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers beamed at eachother. Thanks to Andrew, not only did they learn Mr. Nitman had sent Mrs. Comstock to Peru, buying her plane ticket. They learned his goal was finding something called Washington’s Lost Treasure.

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 the trio learn from Andrew?

What do you think will happen in Story 18?