

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 19

Part 1 of 5

“The Hunt”

Part 1 of 5: Preparation

Directions

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

“Flashlights?” Malina asked.

“Check,” Rodgers replied, his head dipped in side a duffle bag.

“Shovels?”

“Check.”

“Pretzels?”

“Check.”

Key

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

Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers were at Cooper’s house on Friday afternoon, preparing. That night, they were planning to go into the haunted forest to search for Washington’s Lost Treasure. From an ancient diary in Principal Mellon’s office, the trio had learned that the founder of Fairview had buried the treasure and planted the forest’s trees to protect it. They knew their deceitful teacher, Mr. Nitman, was also after the gold. Malina and Rodgers were packing their bag while Cooper was trying to convince his mom to let him go on this clandestine campout.

A few hours later, they were walking across the fields behind Fairview Middle toward the haunted forest. Neither the gentle May breeze nor the sweet smell of honeysuckle does much to calm their nerves. They had been petrified of the forest since elementary school. Now they were about to spend the night exploring it, digging for a 250-year-old treasure.

At the forest’s edge, their heads to the left suddenly jerked at the sound of snapping twigs. They saw three shadows dart into the forest at the other end of the field. The shadows had shovels too.

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

What else do you think Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers probably packed in their duffle bag?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 19

Part 2 of 5

Date: _____

“The Hunt”

Part 2 of 5: The Porcupine and the Beehive

Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers took a deep collective breath and stepped through the trees into the forest. The enormous trees loomed overhead like watchtowers, blocking the night’s gentle breeze. The stale stench of damp dirt replaced the sweet smell of honeysuckle. The trio clicked on their flashlights and the beams cut like lightsabers through the blackness. They heard nothin but the sound of Mr. Nitman, Eric Fincher, and Michael C. Livingston crunching through the forest somewhere in the distance.

Rodgers was the first to take a step. As soon as he did, a small animal darted out from a bush on his right. All three of him screamed and instinctively jumped back. Cooper shined his flashlight on the porcupine just in time to see it scurry away. Then he pointed it at Rodgers’s leg, which had seven or eight quills sticking out of it and was already turning dark red.

Rodgers shot his own flashlight at his leg and immediately fainted. Tucking their flashlights and shovels in their armpits Malina and Cooper picked up their friend by his limbs. As Rodgers mumbled in agony, Cooper and Malina began to carry him out of the forest, but they stopped when they heard what Rodgers was mumbling.

“Treasure” Rodgers groaned. “Beehive. Go.”

Malina shined her flashlight into the woods. She spotted a large beehive hanging from a branch. Rodgers began nodding. In his stupor, he was somehow giving directions.

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.

Questions

What happened to Rodgers?
Did something similar happen to another character earlier in Season 2?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 19

Part 3 of 5

Date: _____

“The Hunt”

Part 3 of 5: Pretzel Power

Directions

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

“Okay, buddy. We’re at the beehive,” Cooper said as he eased Rodgers’s legs to the forest floor. In the split second that his hand brushed the dirt, Cooper felt something cold and hard on the backs of his fingers. He picked it up and shined the flashlight on it.

“A coin!” Cooper exclaimed. “Rodgers, how did you know this would be hear?”

“Pretzel,” Rodgers groaned.

Cooper and Malina exchanged confused looks. Then Malina from their bag got the pretzels and placed one near Rodgers’s mouth. Rodgers gobbled it like a lizard. They heard the sound of other people rummaging somewhere deep in the forest.

“Rodgers, where do we go next” Malina demanded.

“Holly bush,” Rodgers mumbled.

Cooper probed the trees with his flashlight until it illuminated a berry-filled holly bush about 20 yards away. Him and Malina lugged Rodgers to it, and when they arrived, they found two more gold coins. For the next hour, Malina would feed Rodgers a pretzel and he would mutter the next checkpoint. They carried Rodgers to all of them, all the while finding more gold coins, keeping an eye on Rodgers’s swelling leg, and hearing Nitman, Fincher, and Michael C. Livingston scurrying around them. Eventually, Rodgers told them to stop.

“Here,” he groaned.

Cooper and Malina looked up. She were in a small clearing in the heart of the haunted forest, surrounded by six towering pine, oak, and walnut trees that appeared to be at least a few hundred years old.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

Where do Cooper and Malina find themselves at the end of Part 3? Why is this place significant?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 19

Part 4 of 5

“The Hunt”

Part 4 of 5: The Shoebox

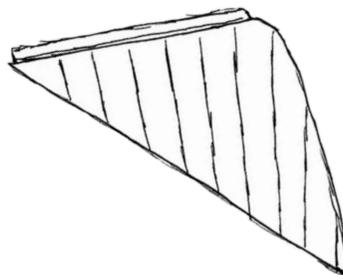
Malina and Cooper stared up in awe at the ancient trees.

“This is it” Malina said. “These are the saplings we red about in Thomas’s diary. They’ve been here since he arrived in 1776. This has got to be where he buried the treasure.”

Just then, three figures darted into the clearing. Out of breath and shovels in hand, Mr. Nitman, Eric Fincher, and Michael C. Livingston looked at Cooper and Malina, then up at the massive trees, then back at Cooper and Malina. A silent moment of understanding passed between them. Then all five treasure hunters started tearing at the ground with their shovels.

As Cooper dug, recklessly heaving scoops of dirt over his shoulder, he glared at his former teacher. Had it really only been last year that, as a little seventh grader, he had worked so hard to expose Mr. Nitman’s corrupt water fountain policy? How silly the water fountain issue seemed now, as he and Mr. Nitman raced to find a forgotten treasure of the Revolutionary War that would surely make the finder and wealthier than a king. Cooper stopped when he heard a crunch at the end of his shovel.

He bent down to find that his shovel had pierced the lid of an old Adidas shoebox. Inside the shoebox was a single gold coin and a piece of looseleaf folded into a paper Football. Cooper carefully peeled open the note. They was addressed to Mr. Nitman.



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

Who do you think left the shoebox?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 19

Part 5 of 5

“The Hunt”

Part 5 of 5: Dear Mr. Nitman

Directions

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

Cooper took out his flashlight and illuminated the note. as his eyes adjusted to the handwritten words, Malina, Fincher, Michael C. Livingston, and Mr. Nitman rushed to his side. When Mr. Nitman saw his name, he took the paper from Cooper and red the note aloud.

Dear Mr. Nitman,

If you are reading this, you are standing where Thomas Smith, the founder of Fairview, buried Washington’s Lost Treasure. Earlier this evening, I found the treasure and dragged it from the forest. It is mine.

I knew you’d be back to look for the gold. I am sorry to tell you, though, that I have beaten you to it. I am writing this note on June 14, 2002, the night of my graduation from Fairview High School. I have waited until now to dig up the treasure because, now that it is mine, I am free to leave Fairview by myself with all of it, wealthier beyond my wildest dreams.

I never really thanked you for saving I from the forest that night back in '97. As a token of my appreciation, here is a gold coin. Please tell my dad and my friends that I am okay. This will be my final night in Fairview. My gold and I will never return.

*Your former student,
Ryan McKay*

Mr. Nitman lowered the note. Even through the forest’s darkness, Cooper in the teacher’s eye could see a tear.

Key

- Spelling error
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Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

What do you predict will happen in Story 20, the Season 2 finale?