

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 13

Part 1 of 5

Date: _____

“The Harvest Dance”

Part 1 of 5: Megan’s Request

Directions

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

Cooper, Rodgers, and Malina watched Ms. Trotter, the cafeteria manager, carry a bale of hay past their lunch table. It was the first Friday of November and Ms. Trotter was setting up for that night’s Harvest Dance, a yearly tradition for Fairview Middle School’s eighth graders. By nightfall, the cafeteria would be transformed into a barn, complete with a dance floor made of hay and live ponies to eat it. The trio was eating lunch when, out of nowhere, Megan Zimmerman appeared.

“Rodgers,” she said. “I need your help.”

Rodgers nearly choked on the his pizza. He had gotten to know Megan a little bit at the end of seventh grade, but he was still shocked to see the popularest girl in school at his lunch table asking for his help.

“Do you remember Orn?” Megan asked.

“The Orn from Iceland who got kicked out of school last year for trying to start a rebellion during a standardized test?” Rodgers replied.

“That’s him,” Megan, a hint of pride in her voice said. “He’s my boyfriend and I want to sneak him into the Harvest Dance tonight. Since you were his translator last year, I’m hoping you can help.”

Rodgers looked at Ms. Trotter, who was still lugging hay

“Mr. Mellon is letting horses into the cafeteria,” Rodgers said. “He wouldn’t mind one more person, right?”

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 is Orn? Cite three facts about him from the text.

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 13

Part 2 of 5

Date: _____

“The Harvest Dance”

Part 2 of 5: The Scarecrow

Directions

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

Strings of golden lights crisscrossed the ceiling, illuminating the cafeteria. The floor below was covered with hay. Circular tables with plaid tablecloths replaced the usual lunch tables. Three ponies roam among the tables and dancers, stopping occasionally to chew the hay at their feet. Principal Mellon, dressed in overalls and a straw hat, watched proudly from the stage. Country music filled the air. The Harvest Dance was in full swing.

Rodgers were drinking a cup of apple cider at the back of the cafeteria when he saw Megan Zimmerman rush toward him. Megan was wearing a long pumpkin-colored dress and her hair was dotted with tiny red and brown bows. Rodgers wondered why she was walking funny, but he understood when he noticed her high heels.

“Ready?” Megan said, ripping Rodgers from his seat, spilling his cider. She pulled him to a door next to the stage. Through the door was a long hallway that lead to the cafeteria’s loding dock. As fast as her heels would allow, Megan rushed down the hall and popped open the door. On the other side stood Orn, who was dressed like a scarecrow, makeup and all. Megan through her arms around him and pulled him inside. Orn released Megan and looked around. As soon as Orn started speaking, Rodger’s felt like a pumpkin was swelling up inside his stomach.

“Aó lokum get ég fengiÓ hefnd á þessum hálfviti, Mellon!” Orn said. *Finally, I can have my revenge on that idiot, Mellon!*

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

How does Megan feel about the dance? How do you know?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 13

Part 3 of 5

Date: _____

“The Harvest Dance”

Part 3 of 5: Orn’s Plan

Directions

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

Orn darted down the hallway and into the darkness. A minute later, Rodgers and Megan heard a crash of metal chairs followed by some rustling in a nearby closet. They ran to the noise, and when they opened the closet door, they found the little scarecrow on his stomach, rummaging through some old cardboard boxes.

“Cupcake, what are you doing?” Megan asked.

Orn then emerged from the boxes, holding a square piece of wood with a button on it high above his head. He stared triumphantly at Megan and Rodgers. When they returned his passionate stare with ones of confusion, Orn explained. He told them that many years ago, Fairview Middle School had a trapdoor installed on its stage when it was putting on a shakespearean play. Orn had found the trapdoor’s detonator.

“But why do you want to use the trapdoor?” Rodgers asked.

With that, Orn’s face slid into the Grinch-like smirk Rodgers recognized from when they first met. Orn explained that when Principal Mellon stood onstage to announce the Harvest Dance’s Pumpkin Prince and Pumpkin Princess, he would activate the trapdoor.

“What will Mellon fall into?” Rodgers, afraid of the answer asked.

“Bara nokkrir hlutir frá aóila. Eins og hey og hestur áburó,” Orn said with his devilish grin. *Just some things from the party. Like hay and pony manure.*

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 adjectives would you use to describe Orn in this scene?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 13

Part 4 of 5

Date: _____

“The Harvest Dance”

Part 4 of 5: Special Guest

Directions

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

Orn spent the next hour arranging his trap. Everyone else was having such a good time that no one seemed to notice the creepy little scarecrow continually carrying pony manure acrossed the cafeteria. Before long, Principal Mellon interrupted the party by tapping his microphone.

“Good evening, dancers,” he from the stage said, “and welcome to this year’s Fairview Middle School Harvest Dance. I have been to almost every Harvest Dance since 1985, and I don’t think the cafeteria has ever looked better. How about a round of applause for Ms. Trotter and the rest of the decorating crew?”

The crowd erupted with cheers for Ms. Trotter, Who was beaming with pride from the apple cider stand. From the back wall of the cafeteria, Orn glared at Mellon. He held the trapdoor’s remote control and his finger hovered above the button, ready to press it at any second.

“And now,” Mellon continued, “I’m excited to introduce tonight’s special guest. Here to announce this year’s Pumpkin Prince and Pumpkin Princess, all the way from the central office, let’s give a warm Fairview Middle School welcome to Superintendent Chase!”

Orn’s mouth twisted into his Grinch-like grin. Superintendent Chase strolled across the stage and take the microphone from Mellon. As soon as the superintendent stepped on the trapdoor, Orn pressed the button.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

Is Orn happy that Superintendent Chase replaces Principal Mellon on the trapdoor? How do you know?

Why do you think this is so?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 13

Part 5 of 5

“The Harvest Dance”

Part 5 of 5: The Pumpkin Princess

Orn looked menacingly at the stage, waiting for Superintendent Chase to drop into the pile of hay and pony manure below. But nothing happened. He pressed the button again. Still nothing. Orn pressed the button a third time, and when the trapdoor still didn't open, he pressed it harder and harder until he was pounding it with his fist.

“Thank you, Principal Mellon,” said Superintendent Chase, still standing firmly on top of the dormant trapdoor. “With out further ado, I have the great honor of announcing this year’s Pumpkin Prince and Pumpkin Princess.” Orn placed the button on the floor and was pressing on it with both hands.

“First, the Pumpkin Princess,” said Chase. Orn was stomping on the button with his foot.

“This year’s Fairview Middle School Harvest Dance Pumpkin Princess is Megan Zimmerman!”

At the sound of her name, Megan completely forgot about her boyfriend’s dastardly plan. Thrilled, she gathered her long pumpkin-colored dress in her hands and scampered up to the stage as fast as her high heels would allow. Orn stopped his stomping and looked, terrified, toward the stage.

Megan threw her arms around Superintendent Chase. Facing the crowd, she beamed with joy as Superintendent Chase placed the Pumpkin Princess tiara on her head. Megan was standing directly on top of the trapdoor.

At that moment, the trapdoor’s ancient wires, which had been installed for a Shakespearean production many years ago, picked up the signal from Orn’s button. Orn watched in horror as his girlfriend, the newly crowned Pumpkin Princess, plunged threw the stage and into the pile of hay and pony manure that he had created.

Directions

1. Read the story
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Key

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Checklist

1.
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Question

Did this story end the way you expected?