

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 15

Part 1 of 5

Date: _____

“People of Fairview”

Part 1 of 5: Thomas Jefferson

Directions

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

Thomas Jefferson stood at the front of Mrs. Comstock’s classroom. The class had just started its unit on the Revolutionary War, and Mrs. Comstock had invited a professional Thomas Jefferson impersonator to come in and spoke to the class. She wanted to “bring history to life” for her eighth graders, but so far her plan wasn’t working.

“As you all know,” Thomas Jefferson lectured, I authored the Declaration of Independence. But you may be surprised to learn that many of the ideas I articulated in the Declaration were inspired by thinkers of the Enlightenment like Adam Smith and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.”

Malina was bored. From the back row, she half-listened to Jefferson while secretly scrolling Instagram. She came across a post from an account she liked called “People of New York.” Each post was a portrait of an citizen of new York City with a short paragraph about that person’s life.

“You see,” Jefferson continued, “at the heart of the Declaration is the belief in the importance of each human life. A person’s lived experiences matter. People should live as individuals, not as mere subjects of a king!”

Jeffersons last line struck Malina. She looked at Thomas Jefferson and for the first time realized this was a normal guy who, for some reason, was a professional Thomas Jefferson impersonator in his free time. She glanced at “People of New York” and got a wonderful idea.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

Make a prediction.
What is Malina’s idea?

What clues from the story helped you make your prediction?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 15

Part 2 of 5

Date: _____

“People of Fairview”

Part 2 of 5: Mr. Jeremy

Directions

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

The bell rang, freeing the class. Instead of heading to the door with her classmates, Malina approached Thomas Jefferson.

“Excuse me, sir,” she said. But before she could continue, Mrs. Comstock interrupted.

“Isn’t he wonderful, Malina?” excitedly Mrs. Comstock asked. “Jeremy is my electrician. When I learned he is also a Thomas Jefferson impersonator, I couldn’t wait to ask him to come in and perform for my eighth graders! Well done, sir!”

“Mr. Jefferson, I mean Mr. Jeremy,” Malina continued. “I was thinking about what you said about a person’s lived experiences. You clearly have a pretty fascinating story. I mean, you’re an electrician *and* a professional Thomas Jefferson impersonator. Fairview must be filled with interesting people like you. Have you ever saw...”

“ ‘People of New York!’ ” Mrs. Comstock interjected, grabbing Malina’s phone and marveling at the screen. “I love this account! Are you proposing, Malina, a ‘People of Fairview’ project? I love it! It’s brilliant!”

Jeremy gently took the phone from Mrs. Comstock and sympathetically returned it to Malina. “I think it is a great idea too,” he said warmly. “I’ll tell you what. I have coffee with a few friends every week at Nancy’s Cafe on River Road. Meet us they’re on Saturday morning. I think you’ll find a few more interesting people for your project.”

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Which words suggest Mr. Jeremy is a kind and trustworthy guy?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 15

Part 3 of 5

“People of Fairview”

Part 3 of 5: Like a Snowglobe

The town of fairview is located on the Fairview River on the Jersey Shore. The river cuts inland from the Atlantic Ocean, and the settlers of Fairview built the town on the river. Fairviews major street is River Road, which runs east to west along the southern bank of the river. Fairview Middle School sits atop a hill north of the river.

On Saturday morning, Malina cut across the snowy field behind Fairview Middle on her way to Nancy’s Cafe on River Road. The winter wind made for a cold walk, but Malina don’t mind. The hill provided a beautiful view of the river to the south and the New Jersey woodlands to the west. On her walk down the hill toward River Road, Malina thought the town, with the blowing snow looked like a snowglobe.

When she arrived at Nancy’s Cafe, Malina kicked her boots on the steps before stepping into the warmth of the cozy coffee shop. As she shook the snow from her hat, she surveyed the cafe and seen Jeremy at a table toward the back. Seated to his left was a man wearing an African safari helmet. To his right was a woman with a purple scar running from her ear to her chin.

Directions

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

Key

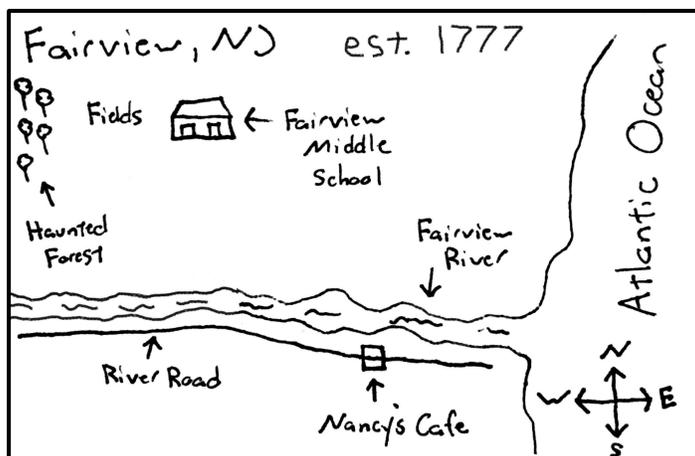
- Spelling error
- Add punctuation
- Capitalize letter
- Remove word
- Wrong word
- Move word
- Make letter lower case

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

Is visualizing the *setting* important for enjoying a story? Why do you say so?



The Classroom Cereal Fairview, NJ is completely fictional and is not related to the real-life Fairview, NJ. The real-life Fairview, NJ is probably pretty cool too.

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 15

Part 4 of 5

Date: _____

“People of Fairview”

Part 4 of 5: Nancy and Kyle

Directions

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

“You must be Malina!” the woman with the scar said, pulling Malina into a hug. Confused and slightly afraid, Malina kept her arms pinned to her side. “Jeremy has told us all about your wonderful project. Come, sit down. Don’t mind the scar. It always turns purple when it’s this cold outside.”

“Malina, these are my friends, Nancy and Kyle,” Jeremy said, sliding out a chair for Malina. “There thrilled to be interviewed for ‘People of Fairview.’ ”

For the next hour, Malina listened to Nancy and Kyle as they told their stories. Nancy was the owner of Nancys Cafe. She had grown up in romania at a time when that country’s people, especially women, were oppressed. After years of abuse, she came to the United States and founded her own coffee shop. Kyle had lived in Fairview all his life. He nurtured exotic plants in a greenhouse in his backyard. He allways wore his African safari hat. No one, not even Kyle himself, really knew why.

“Well, Ms. Malina,” Kyle said as he took the final sip of his coffee. “I believe Fairview Middle School is lucky to have such a curious young lady as your self.”

“Fairview Middle School?” came a raspy, unfamiliar voice from behind them. “I despise Fairview Middle School. That school nearly killed my son!”

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

Who would you most like to meet: Nancy, Kyle, or the person with the raspy, unfamiliar voice? Why?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 15

Part 5 of 5

Date: _____

“People of Fairview”

Part 5 of 5: Howard’s Story

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

Jeremy, Nancy, Kyle, and Malina all nearly jumped out of their seats. They turned to face the raspy, unfamiliar voice. They're, in the coffee shop's darkest corner, sat an old man none of them had ever saw before. He wore a plaid newsboy-style hat and a worn-in denim jacket. He stared, unblinking, at Malina as he slowly slurped his coffee.

“Fairview Middle School almost killed your son?” Malina asked bravely.

“Yes ma’am,” the old man replied. “Pleased to meet you. Name’s Howard.” Howard stood up and could shook hands with each of them.

“Howard, can you tell us what happened?” asked Malina.

“It was over twenty years ago,” Howard said, slurping his coffee once more. “They had some type of fire drill. Ryan, my son, wandered off into those woods behind the school. No one even noticed he was gone. Ended up gettin’ lost. Got poked by a porcupine. Infection nearly killed him before anybody bothered to go lookin’ for him”

“Ryan wandered off during a fire drill?” asked Jeremy.

“They had to evacuate the school because someone burned up some cornbread or somethin’,” said Howard.

If Malina had been drinking coffee, she may have choked on it. She had heard teachers mention the notorious Corn Muffin Incident of 1997, but she had know idea it nearly caused a student’s death. “People of Fairview” would have to be put on hold. Malina had a new story to investigate.

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

Do you prefer stories that end with cliffhangers or stories with clean resolutions? Why?