

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 12

Part 1 of 5

Date: _____

“The Coin”

Part 1 of 5: Discovery

The fields behind Fairview Middle School were peppered with golf balls. Residents of Fairview treated these fields like a driving range. You couldn't walk around the fields for more than a few seconds without finding a golf ball at your feet. One brisk Saturday morning, it was the job of Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers to pick up as many of those golf balls as possible. It was their punishment for having spent the night inside the school a few weeks earlier.

Rodgers pushed a wheelbarrow as Cooper and Malina walked ahead, bending down every few yards to pluck a golf ball from the grass. By noon the, wheelbarrow was nearly full.

“Hang on,” Cooper said just as the other to started turning back toward the school. “I think I see a few by the trees.”

At the far end of the fields began a deep forest. Cooper approached the trees as Malina and Rodgers followed wearily behind. Fairview Middle students were forbidden from going near the forest, and the elementary kids said it was haunted. From several yards back, Rodgers and Malina watched nervously as Cooper knelt down to pick up a golf ball at the forest's edge. When Cooper stayed down for a few extra seconds Malina yelled at him.

“Let's go!” she called.

“Wait,” Cooper replied. “Look.”

As Malina and Rodgers crept toward Cooper, they noticed he held an old, dirty coin between his thumb and middle finger. Almost the entire coin was covered with green moss. The parts that weren't covered, though, revealed a shiny, golden surface.

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

Have you ever found something cool like a gold coin? Where were you and what did you find?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 12

Part 2 of 5

Date: _____

“The Coin”

Part 2 of 5: Advice

Directions

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

Cooper didn't let the coin out of his sight for the rest of the weekend. He scoured the internet for information about it, like how much it might be worth, but he found nothing. Neither did Malina or Rodgers. On Monday morning, they decided to show the coin to Mrs. Rose.

“Sorry, dears,” the secretary said as she turned the coin over in her hand. “I've never seen such a thing. You say you found it by the trees out back? You might consider showing it to Mr. Mellon and Mr. Nitman. They've both lived in Fairview their entire lives. I bet they know as much about the contents of that forest as any one.”

Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers then walked into the cafeteria, where both Principal Mellon and Mr. Nitman were on lunch duty. Principal Mellon was playing with a Rubik's Cube by the vending machines in the back. Mr. Nitman was reading a science textbook by the stage at the front of the cafeteria. The trio immediately knew who would be the better source of information.

“Mr. Nitman,” Cooper said, walking up to his old teacher. “Were wondering if you could tell us about this coin we found.”

Mr. Nitman glanced over his book. When he saw the coin his eyes became as big as golf balls.

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Checklist

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2.
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What is Rubik's Cube?

Rubik's Cube is a 3-D puzzle invented by Hungarian professor Ernő Rubik. Plenty of people play with Rubik's Cubes today, but they were most popular in the 1980s, when Principal Mellon was a kid.

Question

Why do you think Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers asked Mr. Nitman for advice instead of Principal Mellon?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 12

Part 3 of 5

“The Coin”

Part 3 of 5: The Footprint

Mr. Nitman told Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers that he would do some research on the coin. After that, the trio didn't see him much for the rest of the week. This was mostly due to the fact that Mr. Nitman was no longer their teacher. But it was a little strange, they thought, that Mr. Nitman seemed to hurried in the other direction whenever he saw them in the hallway.

Eager for updates on the coin, Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers stopped by Mr. Nitman's room on friday afternoon. But the only living thing they found in the classroom was Bob, Mr. Nitman's class python. Scattered across the teacher's desk were five or six library books. Some of them appeared thrown open, as if some one had just been reading them in a hurry. Cooper noticed most of the books were about the Revolutionary War. One was open to a chapter called "Forgotten Treasures" and it had a page ripped of it out.

On their way home, the trio decided to walk by the trees where Cooper had found the coin. As they approached the spot, they noticed it had changed. The bushes on the edge of the forest were trampled down like someone had stomped through them. Just inside the trees, leaves, sticks, and brush were thrown aside two form a rough path. In the dirt beside the path was a footprint. Someone had recently come looking for something in the haunted woods.

Directions

1. Read the story
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Checklist

1.
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The Revolutionary War *Fast Facts*

Years

1775-1783

Major battles

Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Yorktown

Location

Eastern United States

Key people

George Washington, John Adams,
King George III, Lord Cornwallis

Purpose

The United States becoming independent of Great Britain

Questions

Who do you think went searching in the woods?
What clues helped you with your prediction?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 12

Part 4 of 5

Date: _____

“The Coin” Part 4 of 5: Campout

Directions

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

The group was convinced that Mr. Nitman had come to the Woods. They thought he would probably come back at night, to continue his treasure hunt while the rest of Fairview slept. Working up their courage, they decided to camp out by the forest and try to catch him.

That night, in the field’s crisp grass, Cooper pressed a pair of binoculars to his eyes. Rodgers and Malina was sprawled out on their stomachs on either side of him, about 100 yards from where Cooper had found the coin. Cooper handed the binoculars to Malina. He reached for a handful of pretzels from the open plastic bag in front of them. The cool night air made the pretzels feel sticky in his hands. Just as Cooper shoved a handful in his mouth, Malina dropped the binoculars.

“There!” she shouted in a forceful, whisper.

To shadowy figures appeared across the field. At once, the trio popped up and sprinted toward them. When they were only a few yards away they could see both figures were carrying shovels. Suddenly, one of the beings began shouting. “IT’S A GLORIOUS MORNING!!! IT’S A GLORIOUS MORNING!!!”

In front of Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers stood Eric Fincher, one of their uptight fellow eighth graders, and Michael C. Livingston, the bizarre, mysterious, *Daybreak*-playing new kid.

Key

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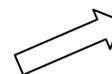
Checklist

1.
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Question

Which line from the text is a good example of *sensory language*?

Sensory language is language that helps you imagine what the characters are seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, or feeling.



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Date: _____

Story 12

Part 5 of 5

“The Coin”

Part 5 of 5: Explanation

Like he always did, Michael C. Livingston merrily gazed at Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers. Eric Fincher, though, looked as confused as anyone.

“What are you doing here, Fincher?” Cooper demanded.

“Mr. Nitman...he...he told us... meet him...shovels,” Fincher stuttered.

“Good evening, every one,” said a voice from behind them. Terrified, they all whipped around. It was Mr. Nitman.

“Cooper. Malina. Rodgers,” he said. “Will you be joining this late-night meeting of the Science Club?”

“What? the three of them said in unison.

“The Science Club,” Nitman repeated. “Cooper, that coin you showed me was covered with a very rare and interesting variety of moss. Tonight, Mr. Fincher, Mr. Livingston, and I are going to looked for some more of it. Would you care to join us? Of course, it will be tedious work, so we will not be offended if you choose to leave us by ourselves and return home.”

Mr. Nitman nodded and stared at Eric Fincher til Eric started nodding back. Then he turned toward Cooper, his mouth contorted into a forced smile.

“You’re looking for...moss?” Cooper asked.

“Precisely,” Mr. Nitman replied immediately.

The trio started walking back to their camp. After a few steps, Cooper turned around and saw Mr. Nitman taking something out of his pocket. It looked like a folded-up page from a library book.

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Questions

Does this story have a satisfying resolution (conclusion)? Why do you say so?