

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 14

Part 1 of 5

“Ultimate Holiday Baking Championship”

Part 1 of 5: The Joke

Directions

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

“Don’t do it,” Cooper said.

“I’m doing it,” Rodgers replied.

It was the last day of school before holiday break and Cooper, Rodgers, and their friend Tony were sitting at a table in the back of Mrs. Comstock’s room. Mrs. Comstock was their american history teacher and, for an older person, she was obsessed with technology. Her favorite classroom technology was named Andrew. Andrew was a pyramidshaped electronic assistant that sat on a desk in the center of the classroom. Mrs. Comstock would say things like “Andrew, tell the class to quiet down!” Andrew would glow neon green and say, in his proper British accent, “Very good. Class, kindly reduse your volume!”

“Don’t do it,” Cooper repeated. “Tony, tell him not to do it.”

The rest of the class was merrily decorating Christmas cards as Mrs. Comstock sat at her desk and Andrew played Christmas songs. Tony, though, had his head burried in his arm across his desk.








“I’m doing it,” Rodgers said. He wore an evil smirk and his eyes darted from Mrs. Comstock to Andrew and back to Mrs. Comstock. He opened his mouth and filled his lungs with air. Just as he was about to call out, Tony lifted his head.

“Andrew wish Mr. Nitman a merry Christmas,” Tony said. The music stopped. The class went silent.

“Very good,” Andrew responded. “Calling Mr. Nitman.”

The class erupted in laughter. Tony put his head back down. Rodgers looked furious.

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 Rodgers feel at the end of Part 1?

Why does he feel this way?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 14

Part 2 of 5

“Ultimate Holiday Baking Championship”

Part 2 of 5: Tony’s Note

Directions

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

The bell rang and the class, still in an uproar over Tony’s prank, flooded into the hallway. A few kids were trying to pat him on the back, but Tony plowed through the crowd, his head down and his backpack flung over his shoulder.

“Tony!!! Our you kidding me???” yelled Rodgers, his face red with angry. He weaved through the crowded hallway, trying to catch up to the speeding Tony. “You stole my joke!!!” he called. “I want answers!!!”

Rodgers arrived at Tonies locker, followed closely by Cooper, who was trying to catch his breath from simultaneously laughing and chasing. Tony was violently shoving the contents of his backpack into his locker. Rodgers was livid.

“What,” Rodgers said, “is your problem?”

Tony slammed his shut locker and shoved past Rodgers and Cooper. With the slamming locker door, a few stray papers flew into the air.

“Thief!!!!” Rodgers yelled.








Cooper bent down to pick up the stray papers. One of they was a note.

Tony,

Your Christmas Eve dinner is in the fridge. Put it in the oven for 10 minutes. I’ll be at Gary’s. Have a good Christmas!

Mom

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

Why is Tony in such a bad mood?

Does he have reason to be?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 14

Part 3 of 5

Date: _____

“Ultimate Holiday Baking Championship”

Part 3 of 5: At Tony’s House

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

Cooper insisted they go to Tony’s house to talk to him. Despite the note, Rodgers didn’t feel sorry for Tony. He was still fury and he complained the whole way. When they arrived, Cooper and Rodgers saw Tony through the kitchen window. He was by himself, putting a tray of cookies in the oven. Tony loved to cook. In fact, he and Rodgers had both competed in the Fairview Middle School Student Cook Off last June. Rodgers had won, but the competition was close.

“We can’t let are friend be alone on Christmas,” Cooper said. He marched up to the front door and knocked.

“Oh good, you’re here,” Cooper said, faking surprise, when Tony opened the door. “We were trying to tell you at school. We’re going to have a Cook Off rematch. In the old home economics classroom. Tomorrow night. We’re calling it...um...ultimate...holiday...baking... championship. Ultimate Holiday Baking Championship. You versus Rodgers. What do you say?”

“tomorrow night is Christmas Eve,” Tony replied.

“It will be a Christmas cookie competition. Can you make it?”

“Um, yeah...”

“Sweet! Rodgers says he cant wait to beat you again.”

“Why did you do that?” Rodgers demanded when Cooper returned to the sidewalk. “I’m not going to some maximum baking holiday whatever tomorrow night. My mom makes icelandic frozen yogurt on Christmas Eve and I’m not missing it for that joke-stealing jerk.”

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

What would you do if you were Rodgers?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 14

Part 4 of 5

“Ultimate Holiday Baking Championship”

Part 4 of 5: Christmas Eve

Directions

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

When the sun started to go down the next evening, Cooper knocked on Tony’s front door once more. Tony answered immediately. His coat was already zipped and his backpack, filled with his baking supplies, was slung over his shoulder.

“Let’s do this,” Tony said merrily. “Where’s Rodgers.”

“Meeting us there,” Cooper replied. He let Tony lead the way to the sidewalk and slyly took out his phone to text Rodgers.

On are way. Do the right thing.

A gentle snow started to fall not long after the boys left Tony’s house. By the time they reached the fields behind Fairview Middle School, their boots crunched the snow-dusted grass. The trees of the haunted woods were dusted too, and Cooper couldn’t decide if the light snow made them look peacefully beautiful or especially creepy.

They entered the school through the always-unlocked door behind the cafeteria that Cooper had discovered as a sixth grader. Minutes later, they were inside the abandoned home economics classroom on the third floor. The classroom was made up of miniature kitchen stations used for home economics classes that hadn’t been taught at Fairview Middle for decades. Right away, Tony began to prepare his cooking station. He carefully arranged his supplies on the counter and preheated the ancient oven. He hummed a Christmas song as he found his measuring cups and began pouring flour and sugary.

As Tony worked, Cooper nervously watched the door, waiting to see Rodgers come through it. He kept his hand wrapped around his phone, hoping to feel the buzz of a text. He prepared himself to break the news to Tony. Rodgers wasn’t coming and Ultimate Holiday Baking Championship wasn’t happening.

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 is Tony feeling now? How do you know?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 14

Part 5 of 5

“Ultimate Holiday Baking Championship”

Part 5 of 5: Feliz Navidad

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

“Tony, here’s the deal,” Cooper said as he tentatively approached Tony’s cooking station. “I don’t think Rodg—”

The classroom door swung open and a familiar figure stood in the doorway. It was Rodgers. He was holding something pyramid-shaped under his arm.

“Sorry I’m late,” he said. “I stopped in Mrs. Comstock’s room to pick up a present.” He placed, Andrew on the counter next to Tony’s cooking station and began unpacking his own backpack of cooking supplies. “Andrew, play Christmas music.”

Andrew glowed neon green. “Very good,” he said in his proper british accent. “Playing ‘Feliz Navidad’ by Jose Feliciano.”

The song’s guitars and trumpets filled the room. Laughing, joking, and singing the whole time, Rodgers and Tony made their Christmas cookies as Cooper officiated the competition. When the cookies were finished, Tony blindfolded Cooper and had him try one from each batch. The blind taste test declared Rodgers the winner, but Cooper and Rodgers knew that weren’t the point of Ultimate Holiday Baking Championship. The point was to give their friend a merry Christmas Eve when he otherwise would have had a loneliness one.

“Goodnight, Andrew!” Tony said as they bundled up for the snowy walk home.

“Goodnight,” said Andrew, “and happy Christmas!”

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Questions

What was the point of Ultimate Holiday Baking Championship?

How does Rodgers change throughout the story?