

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 11

Part 1 of 5

“Daybreak”

Part 1 of 5: Michael C. Livingston

Directions

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

Every night of the summer, Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers spent hours playing *Daybreak*. It was a online, multiplayer video game where players built forts throughout the night to protect themselves from a zombie invasion at dawn. But summer was almost over, and the soon-to-be eighth graders were getting bored. They wanted to play a *real* version of *Daybreak*.

They had tried a few times, once on a camping trip with Cooper’s parents and once in the woods behind the baseball field in Malina’s neighborhood. They tried staying up all night building their own forts in the wilderness. But these games quickly proved too difficult too cold, and (even though none of them would admit it) too scary.

But one part of the original *Daybreak* still interested them. Each night, Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers were joined in their gaming session by only one other player. His gamertag was simply “Michael C. Livingston.”

“Who is he?” they asked each other. “Do you think that’s his actual name?”

What make Michael C. Livingston even more mysterious was his style. For some reason, at the most important part of each game, Michael C. Livingston would yell “IT’S A GLORIOUS MORNING!!!” over and over again. His screaming attracted every zombie right to his fort, and he would always lose. These were the only words he ever spoke.

Now, with the first day of school only a few day away, Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers were dying to know if Michael C. Livingston was a student at Fairview middle.

Key

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

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Would you like to play a “real-life” version of a video game like *Daybreak*?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 11

Part 2 of 5

“Daybreak”

Part 2 of 5: “Aren’t They Like Zombies?”

“ITS A GLORIOUS MORNING!!!” Rodgers called as he approached Cooper and Malina at the bike rack on the first day of school.

“I wonder if he’s among us,” Cooper said. “Michael C. Livingston, that strange, strange creature.”

Once inside, they navigated around packs of sixth graders, who were gripping the straps of their bookbags and gliding in whichever direction an adult pointed. Cooper saw Principal Mellon in the main entrance.

“Mr. Mellon!” Cooper called. “Can you tell us if we have a new student? His name is Michael—”

“Sorry, guys,” Mellon interrupted as a swarm of sixth graders appeared in front of him, silently holding out their schedules. “Have to direct traffic.”

The three eighth graders then walked into the front office, where they found the ever-smiling secretary, Mrs. Rose. But even she overwhelmed seemed. She was trying to simultaneously calm worried parents on the phone and instruct confused sixth graders in front of her. To direct the sixth graders, she simply pointed ahead, toward the sixth grade hallway. Like robots, they marched wear she pointed, one behind the other.

“I’m so sorry, dears,” Mrs. Rose said to Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers as she hung up the phone. “It’s just that we have the Sixth Grade Saturday Breakfast this weekend. Parents want information. But really,” she said with a softer voice, smirking and moshoning toward the sixth grade hallway. “Aren’t they like zombies?”

Suddenly, Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers all got the same, mischievous idea.

Directions

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

Key

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- Capitalize letter
- Remove word
- Wrong word
- Move word
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Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers have the same idea. What do you think it is?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 11

Part 3 of 5

“Daybreak”

Part 3 of 5: FMS Daybreak

On Friday afternoon, Cooper Malina, and Rodgers met by Cooper’s locker.

“Here’s the plan,” Malina began. “We hide in the home economics room until it gets dark. Then the game begins. We each build a fort somewhere inside the school. When the sixth graders and their parents arrive tomorrow morning for the Sixth grade Saturday Breakfast, they’ll be the zombies. If our forts can stay undetected throughout the Breakfast, us win.”

At about 9 p.m., the three friends snuck out of the hidden home economics room and into the deserted third floor hallway.

“Okay,” Cooper said. “Let *FMS Daybreak* begin.”

Three hours later, Cooper was in the gym when he heard something suspicious. He was working on his fort of gymnastics mats (a dream he’d had for years) when he heard one of the double doors pop open. He walked slowly toward the door, expecting to find Rodgers or Malina spying on his progress. But in the hallway outside the gym, he found both of them looking just as spooked as he felt. Just then, they heard the familiar squeak of sneakers and turned to see someone run across the other end of the hall. It was midnight inside Fairview Middle School, and they were not alone.

BONUS ACTIVITY

Draw Cooper’s fort of gymnastics mats below.

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Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Who do you think is hiding in the school with Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 11

Part 4 of 5

“Daybreak”

Part 4 of 5: The Fourth Player

Directions

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

“Wait a second,” Rodgers whispered as he, Malina, and Cooper crept their way toward the other end of the hall. “The three of us are playing *Daybreak*. Aren’t we missing someone?”

“You don’t think it’s...” Malina said, clearly creeped out.

“It’s a glorious morning, Malina,” Cooper whispered back.

“But us don’t even know who it is, or if Michael C. Livingston is even his real name. It could be anybody,” Malina replied.

They turned a corner and looked down the empty hallway. Only one classroom had an open door. Sheepishly, they approached it, craned their necks in front of the doorway, and peered inside. The classroom’s desks had been stacked three high and arranged in a semicircle fort. At the front of the fort was a pale, thin boy, who was wearing a black cape and sitting as if he was meditating.

“Are you—” Cooper began bravely. But Michael C. Livingston immediately confirmed his identity by simply staring smiling, and nodding.

“Okay, ” said Malina, who was thinking quickly. “It’s, um, nice to meet you, Michael. Welcome to *FMS daybreak*. But you can’t yell ‘IT’S A GLORIOUS MORNING!!!’ this time. Then people will find our forts and know we’ve been here all night and we’ll all get in trouble.”

But Michael C. Livingston just continued to stare, smile, and nod, as if he had no plans to change what he’d do when the zombies arrived.

Key

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Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Why are Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers worried about Michael C. Livingston’s presence?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 11

Part 5 of 5

Date: _____

“Daybreak”

Part 5 of 5: “IT’S A GLORIOUS MORNING!!!”

“Mellon is going to find we and we’re going to get expelled,” Cooper said as they walked back to their forts. “And my mom is going to kill me. Because of Michael C. Livingston. I WILL DIE BECAUSE OF MICHAEL C. LIVINGSTON.”

“Michael C. Livingston is going to get caught,” Malina said. “I don’t know about you two, but my fort is pretty good. I think I can stay hidden until the sixth graders leave.”

The Sixth Grade Saturday breakfast began at 9 a.m. At exactly 9:02 a.m., just as sixth graders and their parents were coming through the front doors, a cry did rang through the halls.

“IT’S A GLORIOUS MORNING!!! IT’S A GLORIOUS MORNING!!!” Hidden in their forts, Malina, Cooper, and Rodgers buried their heads in their hands. A minute later, another cry echoed through the halls. It was Principal Mellon.

“COOPER!!! MALINA!!! RODGERS!!!”

The three friends sheepishly emerged from their forts. They met Mellon and Michael C. Livingston outside the gym.

“I’d like to properly introduce you three to Michael C. Livingston. He’s new to FMS this year,” Mellon said. Seeing their confused expretions, the principal explained further. “I’ve also been playing *Daybreak* all summer. I always see you for in games together. I knew Michael couldn’t be here alone. Now, I’ve got a Sixth Grade Saturday Breakfast to run. Would you three kindly show Michael around?”

With that, Mellon left Malina, Cooper, and Rodgers alone with Michael C. Livingston, who was still staring, smiling, and nodding at his new friends.

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Question

How did Principal Mellon know Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers were in the school?