

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Classroom Cereal

## Story 9

## Part 1 of 5

### “Project Principal”

#### Part 1 of 5: Cooper’s Trip

“Sir, may i please go to the water fountain?”

From the chalkboard, Mr. Nitman paused and turned slowly to face Cooper, meeting his student’s angelic grin with a salty scowl. After a long, uncomfortable silence, Mr. Nitman grudgingly extended a water fountain passes toward Cooper, who snatched it up and skipped to the door.

Cooper strolled down the second floor hallway, dragging his fingers along the tiled walls. He peered into classrooms, hoping to catch the eyes of certain students and avoid the gaze of suspecting teachers. When he came to the water fountain at the end of the hall, he pretended to stretch as he looked back toward Mr. Nitman’s room. The coast clear, Cooper darted up the adjacent staircase to the third floor.

Like a spy, Cooper crept to the secret door marked with the plastic anti-bullying poster. He dropped to a knee, pretending to tie his shoe, wile slowly turning his head in search of anyone who might be monitoring his mission. Satisfied that he’s was alone, he whipped open the door and bolted inside the hidden classroom.

Back in the hallway, another stealthy boy emerged from his hiding place. Grinning mischievously he scribbled Cooper’s actions in his yellow notebook.

**Two titles.** Part 1 of Story 9 is called “Cooper’s Trip.”  
What could be another title for Part 1?

**First title:** “Cooper’s Trip”

**Second title:** “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

#### 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

How does Mr. Nitman feel about Cooper’s trip to the water fountain?

What details from the text make you say so?

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Story 9

Part 2 of 5

## “Project Principal”

### Part 2 of 5: In the Hidden Classroom

Inside the abandoned home economics classroom, Cooper spotted his friend Irvin at one of the counters. Irvin stretched a tape measure across a piece of plywood on the counter. He was whereing a carpenter’s tool belt. Cooper walked over.

“How’s it going?” he asked.

“This will be the judge’s stand. Benches are next,” Irvin said, marking the wood with a pencil. “Mr. Mellon is over there with Megan Zimmerman and Matt. Hey! Wat are you working on again?” Irvin yelled across the room.

“Social media strategy!” Matt called back.

As Cooper approached the social media team, he could overhear principal Mellon.

“So, you’re telling me Snapchat is Instagram. Only...*faster*...?” Mellon asked.

“Ugh!” Megan shrieked. “Okay, I’m going to explain this *again*. Listen...”

Shaking his head Cooper walked back toward Irvin to help him with the judge’s stand.

“Cooper!” Mellon ran over to him. “What do you think? How are we doing?”

“Kid are working on what they love,” Cooper said. “You’re working with them. You’re getting to know them. And we still have over a month. I think Superintendent Chase is going to love the Fairview Middle School Student Cook Off.”

#### 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
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#### Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

#### Question

Why have Cooper and Principal Mellon started to organize the Fairview Middle School Student Cook Off? (Think back to Story 8!)

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Classroom Cereal

## Story 9

## Part 3 of 5

### “Project Principal”

#### Part 3 of 5: Prep Work

After school, the old home economics room hummed with activity. Cooper, Malina, and Rodgers had secretly spread word of the Fairview Middle School Student Cook Off throughout the school. Sixth graders worked with eighth graders on the social media team (lead by Megan Zimmerman). Track team and theatre club members helped Irvin build benches and tables (Cooper had retired after getting a splinter). Aspiring chefs like Rodgers and Tony fired up the classroom’s ancient stoves (Principal Mellon stood by with a fire extinguisher). Ms. Trotter who worked in the cafeteria, had supplied practice ingredients. Even Eric Fincher helped supervise, taking detailed notes in his yellow notebook.

Leaning over a table near the Spice Cabinet in the back of the room Cooper and Malina designed a gigantic banner. They could hear Principal Mellon.

“Tony, we both know that is way too much garlic...”

“i’m surprised Eric Fincher joined,” Malina said to Cooper, watching Fincher stride from group to group, his notebook clenched behind his back. “This project isn’t exactly...up to code.”

“Mr. Rodgers, you must *respect* the toaster oven,” said Mellon.

Cooper and Malina eyed Fincher suspicious. Suddenly, Fincher glanced at his watch and bolted for the classroom door, as if he was late for a appointment.

**Add a line.** Write another line Principal Mellon might have said while supervising Rodgers and Tony in the kitchen.

“  
  
  
  
”

#### 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
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#### Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

#### Question

Do you think Malina and Cooper are right to be suspicious of Eric Fincher?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Classroom Cereal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Story 9

Part 4 of 5

## “Project Principal”

### Part 4 of 5: Code Red

#### Directions

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

Cooper and Rodgers yanked open a dusty window, letting fresh air into the forgotten home economics classroom for the first time in decade. The warm May Breeze sailed inside, further energizing the lively workshop. A lawn mower hummed across the field below, and soon the room was filled with the smell of fresh-cut grass, brought inside by the breeze.

“What if we name a dessert after Superintendent Chase?” asked Mellon. He was sitting with Malina, who was designing the menu. “Something like, ‘Superintendent Cake.’ ”

“Crow’s Nest to Iron Chef. Crow’s Nest to Iron Chef,” came a scratchy voice from Mellon’s walkie-talkie. It was Mrs. Rose in the front office, speaking in code. “We got a Code Red. I repeat, Code Red. Silly String is on his way to the Snake Pit. Silly String on his way. Over.”

“Hide!” Mellon yelled.

Everyone scrambled. Tony and Rodgers flung pots and pans inside cabinets. Cooper rolled up the banner. Irvin and Malina hefted the almost-finished judge’s stand to the back of the room. They flipped the tables on they’re sides and hid behind them, like they were taking cover in a warzone.

The room was silent. To his horror, Cooper noticed one of Irvin’s nails in the middle of the floor. He crept from his hiding place and reached for it. SLAM! The classroom door wipped open. Mr. Nitman stood in the doorway, a grinning Eric Fincher at his side.

#### Key

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

#### Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

#### Question

How does the mood change from the beginning of Part 4 to the end?

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# Classroom Cereal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Story 9

Part 5 of 5

## “Project Principal”

### Part 5 of 5: Mellon’s Defense

#### Directions

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

“Sir, we can—” Cooper began, but Nitman cut him off.

“Students have been cutting class to hang out in a restricted part of the building,” he snarled. He looked down at the nail by Cooper’s hand, than at the old kitchen stations, messy from use. *“To play with dangerous tools* in a restricted part of the building. Mr. Fincher, please alert the superintendent.”

Please do,” Principal Mellon said, emerging from the shadows. “Please tell her about the members of that dangerous club. Please tell her about the talented and passionate students, who are working in harmony, building a projects that will unite their entire school community.”

Mr. Nitman stared at Dan Mellon, his former student. He walked slowly toward the kitchen stations, running his fingers along the countertops, as Cooper and Rodgers had done on their first visit to the abandoned classroom.

“I’d nearly forgotten about this room,” Nitman said softly.

“Come on, Mr. Nitman,” Mellon said. “You remember what school was like wen kids had the freedom to create. The Fairview Middle School Student Cook Off is a great project.”

Nitman poked a soupy bowl of ingredients that Rodgers had been mixing. After what felt like an eternity, he spoke.

“Yes, i support this cook off.” He eyed the bowl in disgust. “But under no circumstances will I eat anything born in this kitchen.”

#### Key

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

#### Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

#### Questions

Throughout Story 9, has Principal Mellon shown himself to be a better principal?

Why do you say so?