

English

Grade 3

Halloween reading comprehension: the mystery on Maple Street

Read a not-too-spooky mystery, follow the clues and put the events in order.



I can use clues in a story to make an inference and retell events in order.



1



The Mystery on Maple Street



On Halloween night, Jada and her little brother Leo went to Mrs. Ortiz's fall party. Mrs. Ortiz lived in the oldest house on Maple Street. Its porch creaked, and its windows were dusty.

While the grown-ups carved pumpkins, Jada and Leo went into the kitchen to get more cups. Suddenly they heard a thump. Then something white fluttered in the dark hallway. Leo grabbed Jada's arm. "A ghost!" he whispered.

Jada switched on her flashlight. On the floor was a torn bag of flour. Tiny white paw prints led away from it. The white thing in the hallway was only a curtain blowing near an open window.

Jada followed the paw prints behind the stove. There sat a small black kitten, covered in flour, with a very guilty face. Mrs. Ortiz laughed. "So that's where Pepper was hiding!" Leo giggled, and the kitten sneezed a little white cloud.

2 Story order

Write 1 to 5 in the boxes.

- ☐ Jada finds paw prints in the flour.
- ☐ Jada and Leo go into the kitchen.
- ☐ They find the kitten behind the stove.
- ☐ The kids arrive at the party.
- ☐ They hear a thump and see something white.

3 Clues and inferences

Circle the best answer.

1. What made the thump?

- A** A ghost **B** The kitten knocking over the flour **C** Mrs. Ortiz

2. Which clue helped Jada solve the mystery?

- A** The dusty windows **B** The tiny paw prints **C** The carved pumpkins

3. How did Leo feel when he saw the white shape?

- A** scared **B** bored **C** angry

4

**Word meanings**

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

☐

creaked

☐

fluttered

☐

whispered

☐

guilty



● **A.** Said very quietly.

● **B.** Made a squeaky sound.

● **C.** Feeling like you did something wrong.

● **D.** Moved quickly and lightly in the air.

5

**True or false**

Circle True or False. Look back at the story.

1. Mrs. Ortiz lived in the newest house on Maple Street.

True

False

2. Jada and Leo went into the kitchen to get more cups.

True

False

3. The white thing in the hallway was a curtain.

True

False

4. The kitten was white under the flour.

True

False

5. The kitten's name was Pepper.

True

False

6. Jada used a flashlight.

True

False

6

**Noun or verb?**

Write each word from the story in the right column.

porch

carved

kitten

whispered

flour

giggled

window

sneezed

Noun**Verb**

7**Past tense**

Write the word in () in the past tense.

1. Leo _____ Jada's arm. (grab)
2. Jada _____ the paw prints. (follow)
3. Mrs. Ortiz _____. (laugh)
4. The kitten _____ behind the stove. (hide)
5. They _____ a thump. (hear)
6. The curtain _____ in the wind. (blow)

8**Think about the story**

Circle the best answer.

1. Which word best describes Jada?

A brave**B** lazy**C** mean

2. Why was the curtain moving?

A The kitten pulled it.**B** It was near an open window.**C** Leo touched it.

3. The word "Suddenly" tells you that something happened...

A slowly**B** the next day**C** fast, with no warning

4. Which is the best new title for the story?

A A Day at the Beach**B** The Flour Ghost**C** Leo's Birthday**9****Be the detective**

Was there really a ghost? Explain what really happened using two clues from the story.

How did it go?



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Answer key

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Jada followed the paw prints behind the stove. There sat a small black kitten, covered in flour, with a very guilty face. Mrs. Ortiz laughed. "So that's where Pepper was hiding!" Leo giggled, and the kitten sneezed a little white cloud.

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- 5 They find the kitten behind the stove.
- 1 The kids arrive at the party.
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3. How did Leo feel when he saw the white shape?

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**Word meanings**

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

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D fluttered



A whispered



C guilty



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B. Made a squeaky sound.

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**Noun or verb?**

Write each word from the story in the right column.

porch

carved

kitten

whispered

flour

giggled

window

sneezed

Noun

porch, kitten, flour, window

Verb

carved, whispered, giggled, sneezed

7

**Past tense**

Write the word in () in the past tense.

1. Leo grabbed Jada's arm. (grab)
2. Jada followed the paw prints. (follow)
3. Mrs. Ortiz laughed. (laugh)
4. The kitten hid behind the stove. (hide)
5. They heard a thump. (hear)
6. The curtain blew in the wind. (blow)

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**Think about the story**

Circle the best answer.

1. Which word best describes Jada?

☒ A brave☐ B lazy☐ C mean

2. Why was the curtain moving?

☐ A The kitten pulled it.☒ B It was near an open window.☐ C Leo touched it.

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4. Which is the best new title for the story?

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**Be the detective**

Was there really a ghost? Explain what really happened using two clues from the story.

No. The white shape was a curtain blowing near an open window, and the thump was the kitten Pepper knocking over the flour. The tiny white paw prints led to the kitten covered in flour.

How did it go?



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