



Teacher Guide

Sample Items

English Language Arts (ELA)

Grades 3–5

ELA Grade 3

Directions

We are going to read an informational text and a chart about a famous festival in China.

The Chinese Lantern Festival



[istock.com/gagarych](https://www.istock.com/gagarych)

Many places have their own holidays. The Lantern Festival is a holiday in China. It is held during the first full moon. It is the last day of the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Flying Lanterns

People tell each other “Happy Lantern Festival!” Families go outside to look at the full moon. People send paper lanterns with candles into the sky. They wish for happiness. They wish for luck. They watch the lanterns **drift** in the sky. The lanterns are pretty. Some are shaped like balls, towers, or animals.

Family Fun

The Lantern Festival has many different events. One is to guess riddles. A riddle is a puzzle or question. People write questions on pieces of paper. Other people try to get the answers. They can win prizes if they guess right.



Paul Gisby Photography / Alamy Stock Photo

The Lion Dance is another event. Dancers dress up as lions. They dance in the streets. The Lion Dance is for happiness and safety.

The Lantern Festival is old. It began 2,000 years ago! It is an important holiday for families. People might still wish each other “Happy Lantern Festival” 2,000 years from now!

We are going to read a chart about the Chinese Lantern Festival.

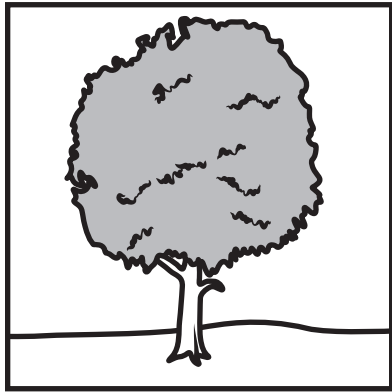
Lantern Festival Dates

Year	First Full Moon
2017	February 11
2018	March 2
2019	February 19
2020	February 8

Item 1

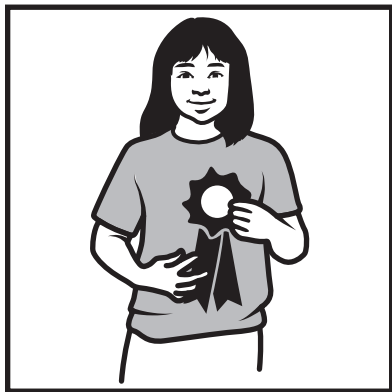
What is the main idea in this passage?

☐



The Sun helps trees to grow big and tall.

☐



People can guess a riddle and win a prize.

☐



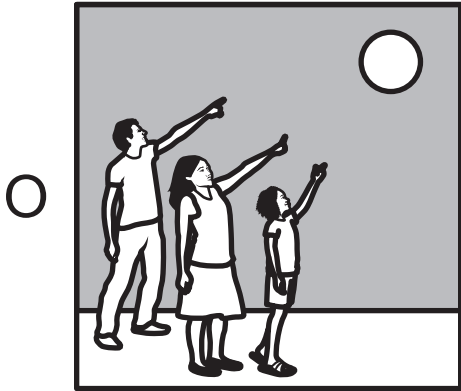
The Lantern Festival is important to families.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 2

The main idea in this passage is the Lantern Festival is important to families.

Which sentence helps the reader understand the main idea?

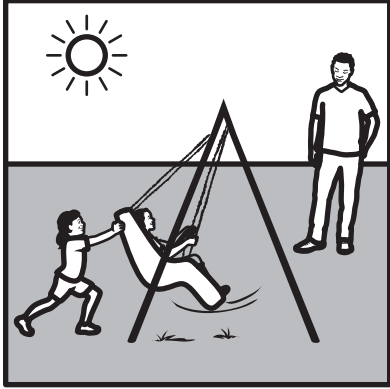


Families go outside to look at the full moon.



Many places have their own holidays.

O



Families spend time together outside on sunny days.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 3

We are going to look at and read the chart again.

The main idea is an important idea in the chart.

**Lantern
Festival Dates**

Year	First Full Moon
2017	February 11
2018	March 2
2019	February 19
2020	February 8

What is the main idea of this chart?

☐



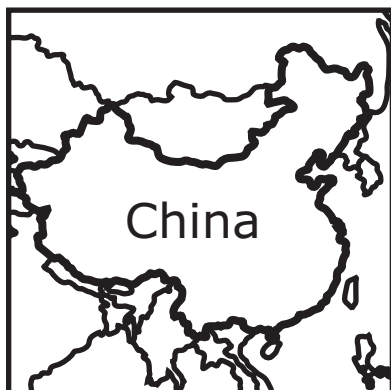
who likes to swim in a pool

☐



when the Lantern Festival takes place

☐



where the Lantern Festival was started

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 4

We are going to read part of the passage again. Then you will be asked a question about the subheading.

Family Fun

The Lantern Festival has many different events. One is to guess riddles. A riddle is a puzzle or question. People write questions on pieces of paper. Other people try to get the answers. They can win prizes if they guess right.



Paul Gisby Photography / Alamy Stock Photo

The Lion Dance is another event. Dancers dress up as lions. They dance in the streets. The Lion Dance is for happiness and safety.

What does the subheading **Family Fun** help the reader understand?

O



[istock.com/klikk](https://www.istock.com/photographer/klikk)

how the paper lanterns fly

O



[istock.com/2ndLookGraphics](https://www.istock.com/photographer/2ndLookGraphics)

when the bus takes kids to school

O



[istock.com/af_istocker](https://www.istock.com/photographer/af_istocker)

what families do at the Lantern Festival

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 5

We are going to read part of the passage and look at a picture again.



Paul Gisby Photography / Alamy Stock Photo

The Lion Dance is another event. Dancers dress up as lions. They dance in the streets. The Lion Dance is for happiness and safety.

What part of the Lantern Festival does the picture show?

O



istock.com/klagyivik

a full moon in the sky

O



Nick Stephens / Alamy Stock Photo

the Lion Dance in the street

O



istock.com/lortie

two friends on a bike ride

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 6

We are going to read some sentences from the passage again. Listen for clues that tell you what the word **drift** means.

“People send paper lanterns with candles into the sky. They wish for happiness. They wish for luck. They watch the lanterns **drift** in the sky.”

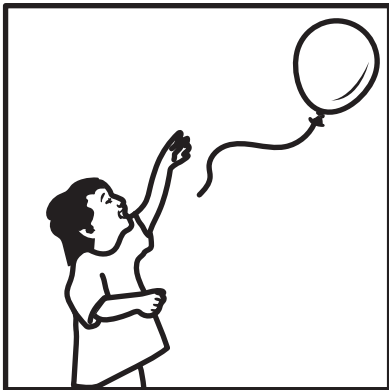
What does the word **drift** mean in this sentence?

☐



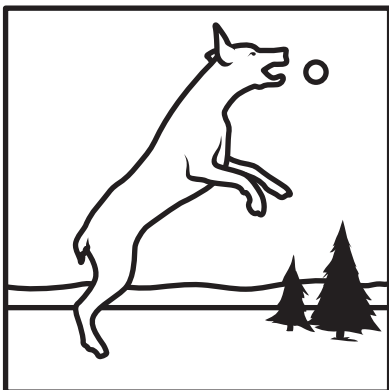
fall asleep

☐



float around

☐



play outside

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

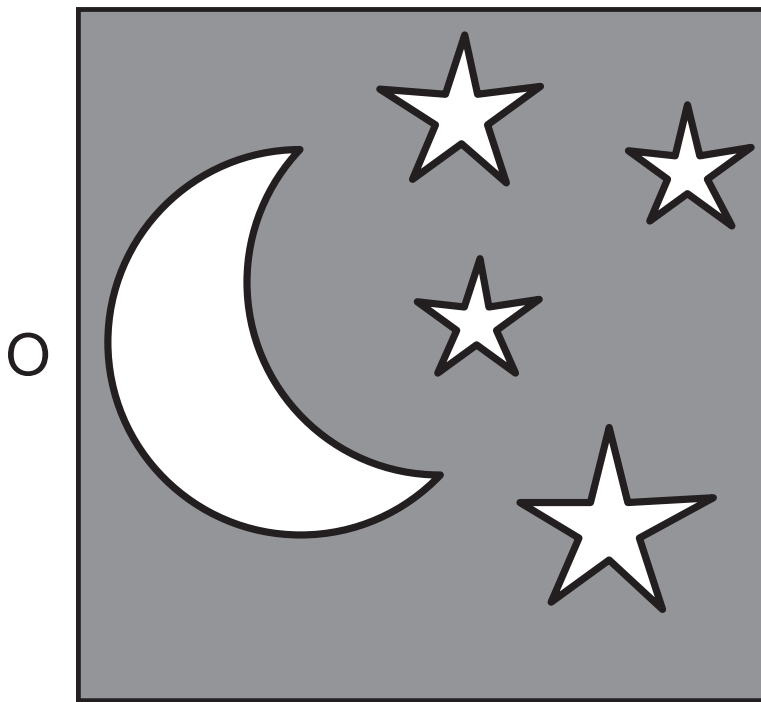
Item 7

Writers put information about the same topic together.

Here are three sentences about the same topic.

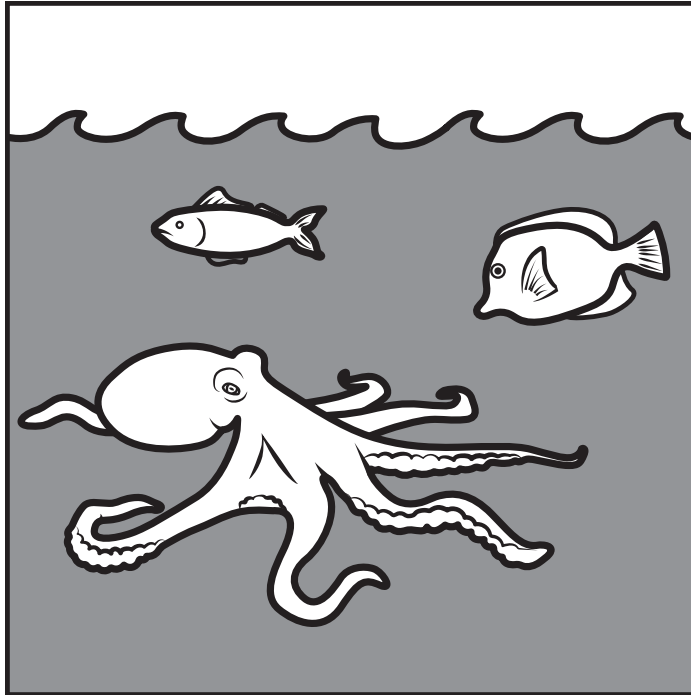
- Fish can be beautiful colors.
- Whales are very large.
- Starfish are shaped like a star.

What is the topic of these sentences?



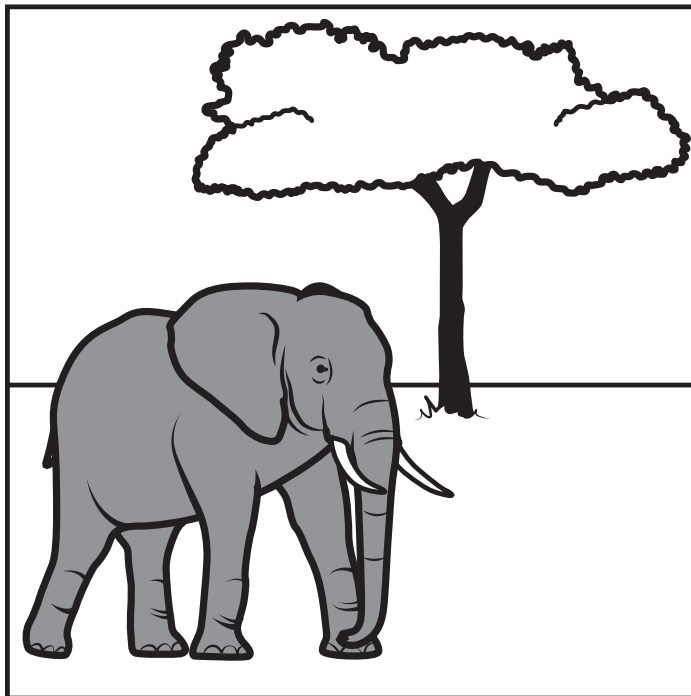
things in the night sky

O



animals that live in the ocean

O



the biggest living things on Earth

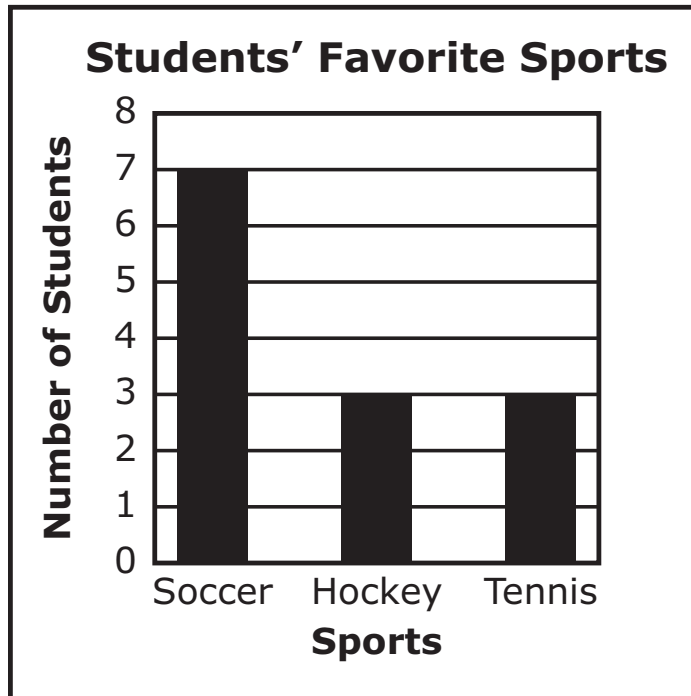
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 8

Text features help writers tell about their topic. Text features can include pictures, graphs, charts, or diagrams.

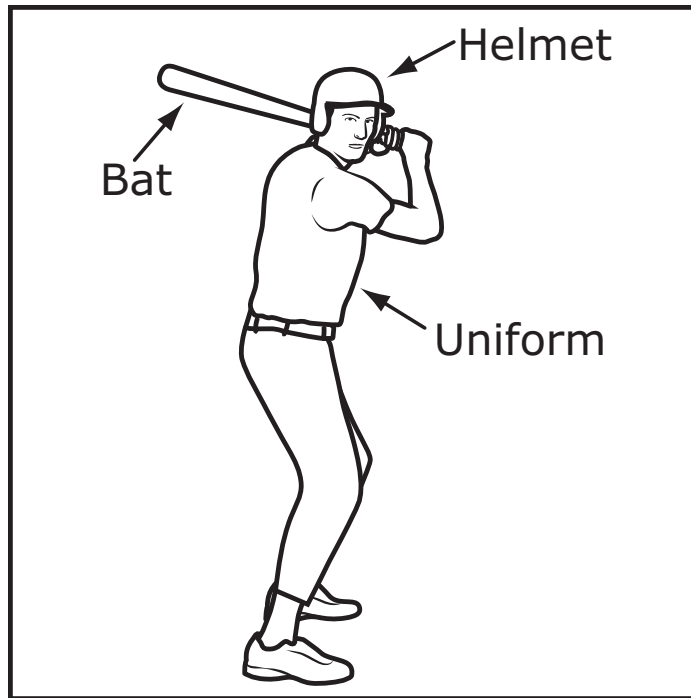
Which text feature would show the sports students like best?

O



a bar graph of students' favorite sports

O



a diagram of a sports player

O



© bulentozber / iStock

a photograph of a place where sports are played

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 9

You are going to write a story. Your story is about a girl named Emmy. She is going to school.

First, you will write about the character. Remember, a character is who the story is about. In this story, the character is Emmy.

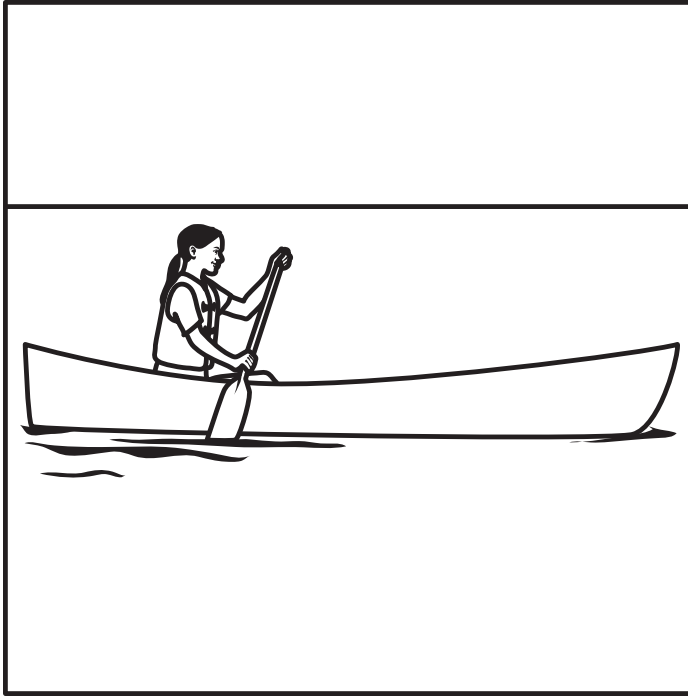
Which sentence tells about the character Emmy?

O



Emmy is a girl who loves to go to the library at school.

O



Sally is a girl who likes to paddle a boat.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 10

The sentence “Emmy is a girl who loves to go to the library at school” tells about the character Emmy.

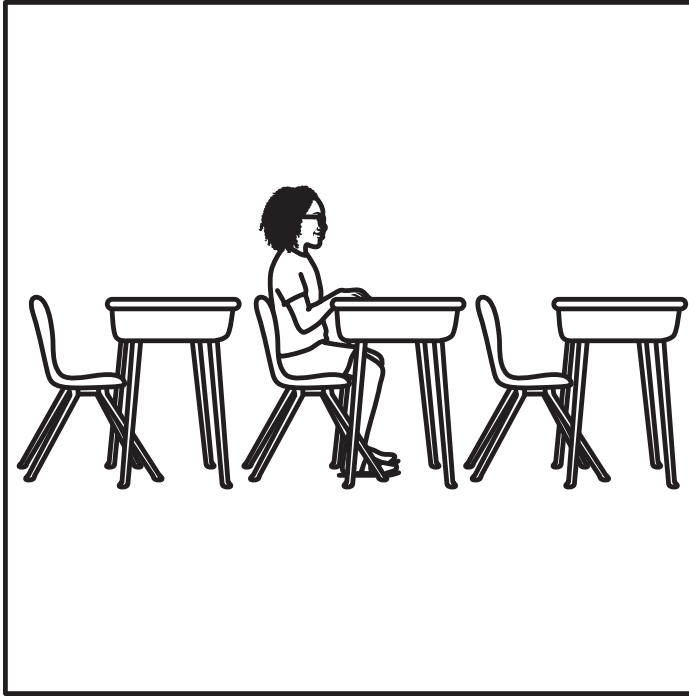
Now, you will write about the first event in your story about Emmy. Remember, events are things that happen in stories.

Which event happens first in your story?



First, Emmy walked to school wearing a backpack.

O



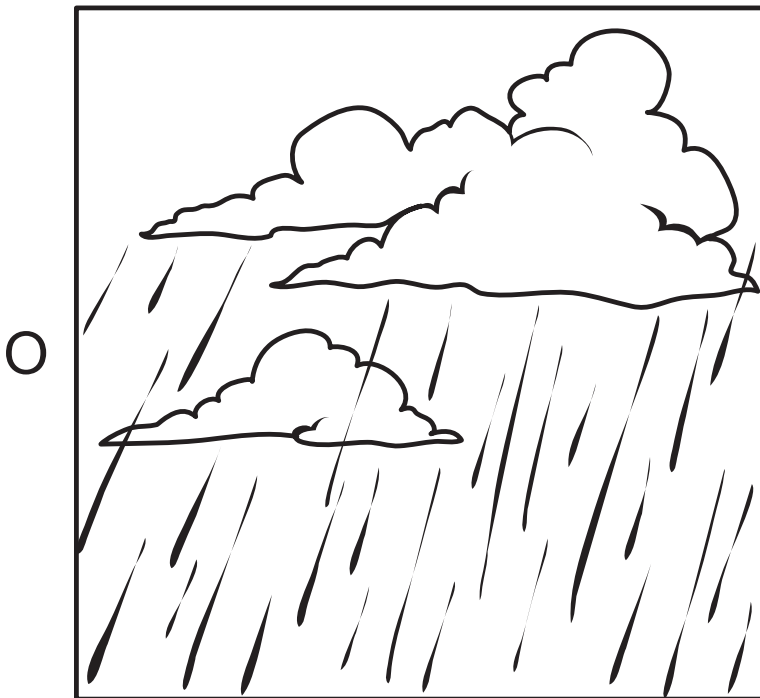
Next, Emmy sat down in the classroom.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 11

Your story begins with “First, Emmy walked to school wearing a backpack.” The next sentence is “Next, Emmy sat down in the classroom.”

Which sentence comes after “Next, Emmy sat down in the classroom” in your story?



Then rain started to fall from the dark gray clouds.

O



Then Emmy went with her class to the library to get a book.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 12

“Then Emmy went with her class to the library to get a book” comes after “Next, Emmy sat down in the classroom” in your story.

Which sentence tells what Emmy did with the book?



Emmy put the book in her backpack to take home later.

O



The buses came into the parking lot.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 13

“Emmy put the book in her backpack to take home later”
tells what Emmy did with the book.

Which sentence is the best ending for your story?

O



Emmy made her lunch for school.

O



Emmy had a good day at school.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 14

The last sentence of your story is “Emmy had a good day at school.”

Now you will select a word or phrase to let the reader know that this is the end of your story.

Which words show that this is the end of your story?

☐ At first

☐ In the end

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

“In the end” tells the reader this is the end of your story.

So now the last sentence of your story is “In the end, Emmy had a good day at school.” Your story is finished. Listen while your completed story is read to you.

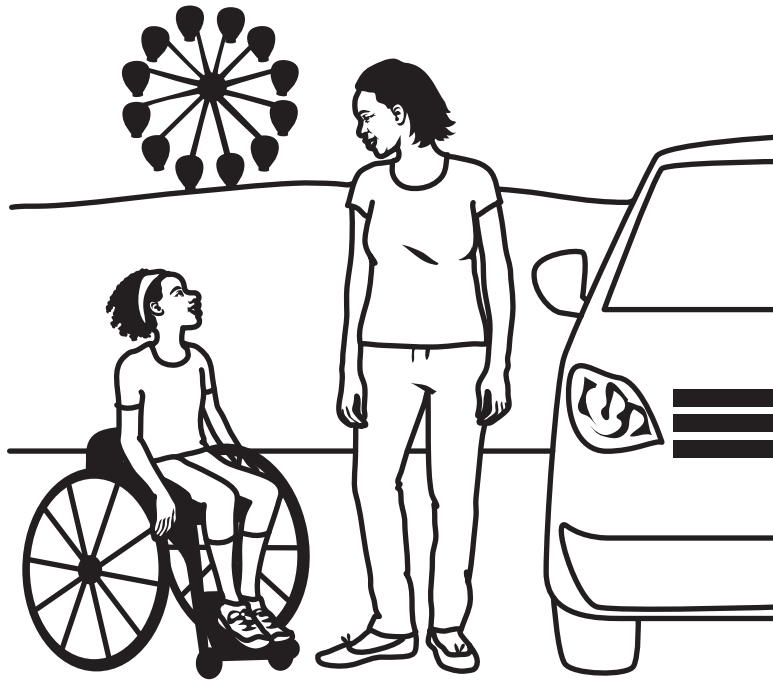
“Emmy is a girl who loves to go to the library at school. First, Emmy walked to school wearing a backpack. Next, Emmy sat down in the classroom. Then Emmy went with her class to the library to get a book. Emmy put the book in her backpack to take home later. In the end, Emmy had a good day at school.”

ELA Grade 4

Directions

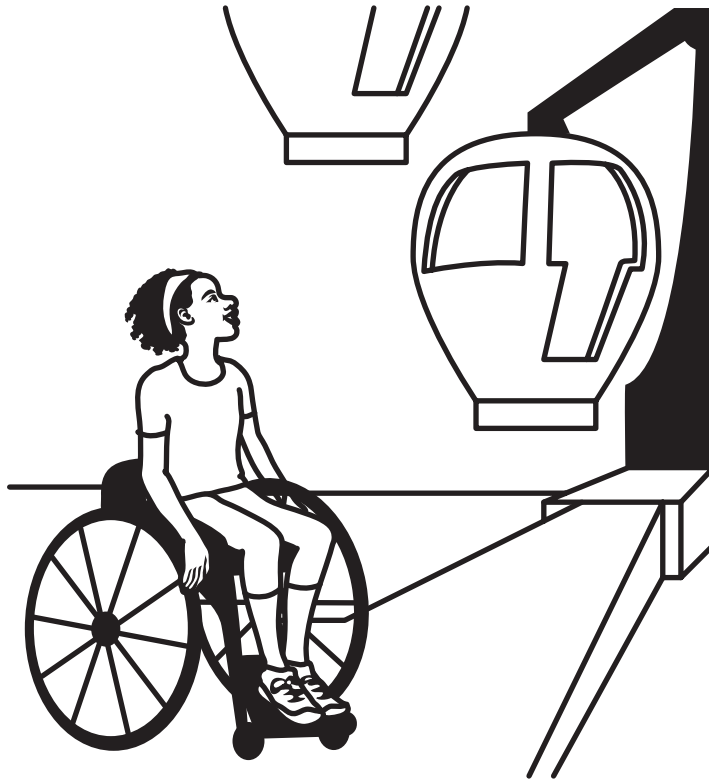
This is a story about a young girl who is eager for a new experience.

The Fun Ride

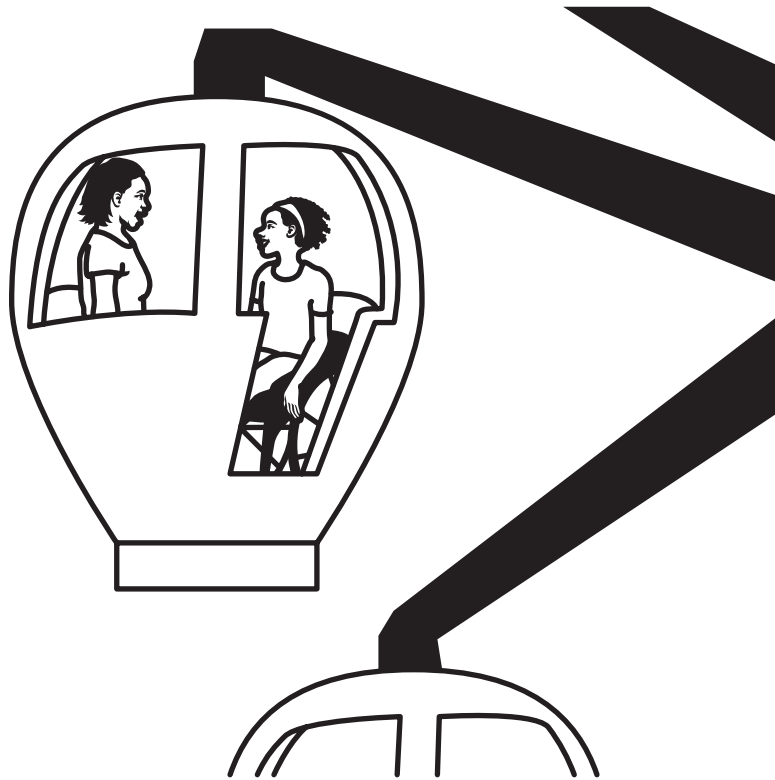


Janelle and her mom were at Fun Ride USA. It is an amusement park that was designed, or created, so people in a wheelchair could go on all of the rides. At some other amusement parks, Janelle's mom said they could only go on the boats and on the train. If Janelle asked to go on a ride, her mom always said "no." Mom was **nervous** that Janelle would be unsafe on the rides. Janelle wished her mom didn't worry so much.

This was Janelle’s first trip to Fun Ride USA. She was very excited. “Mom? Are you ready?” Janelle asked. Janelle was tired of waiting. They had been in the parking lot for quite a few minutes now.



“Okay,” Janelle’s mom said with a nervous look on her face. They entered the park with the crowds. Janelle and her mom found the Ferris wheel. They waited for their turn. When it was time, Janelle and Mom got on the ride. The person in charge of the Ferris wheel helped Janelle and her mom onto the ride.

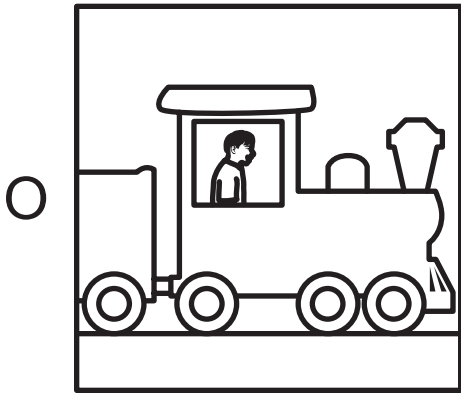


Everyone on the ride looked very excited. The Ferris wheel rocked as it started to move. Everyone squealed with excitement as it went around. They were going very high! Janelle felt a little scared, but she felt excited too. Janelle grabbed her mom's hand. Her mom smiled back at her. Her mom finally looked happy.

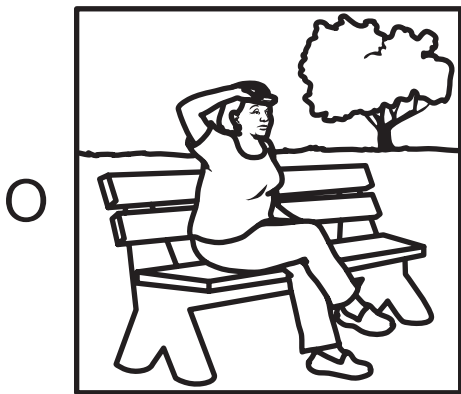
Item 1

The theme is the message of the story.

What is the theme of this story?



Train rides are fun.



Parks often have benches to sit on.

O



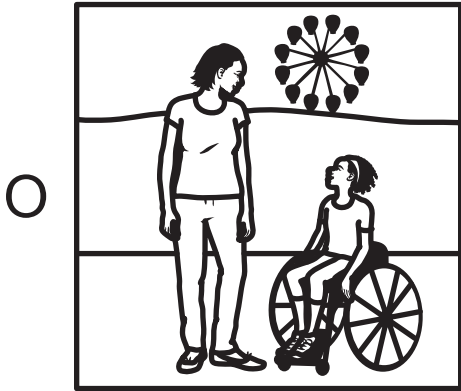
People can feel excited and anxious about trying new things.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 2

The theme of this story is that people can feel excited and anxious about trying new things.

Which sentence shows that people can feel excited and anxious about trying new things?

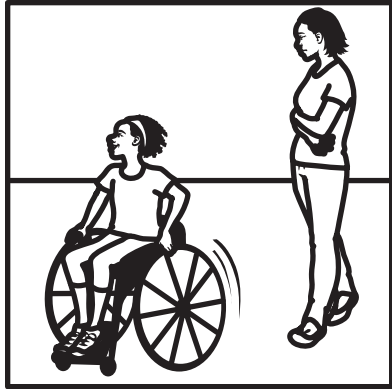


Janelle and her mom went to an amusement park.



Janelle and her mom packed lunch in a cooler.

○

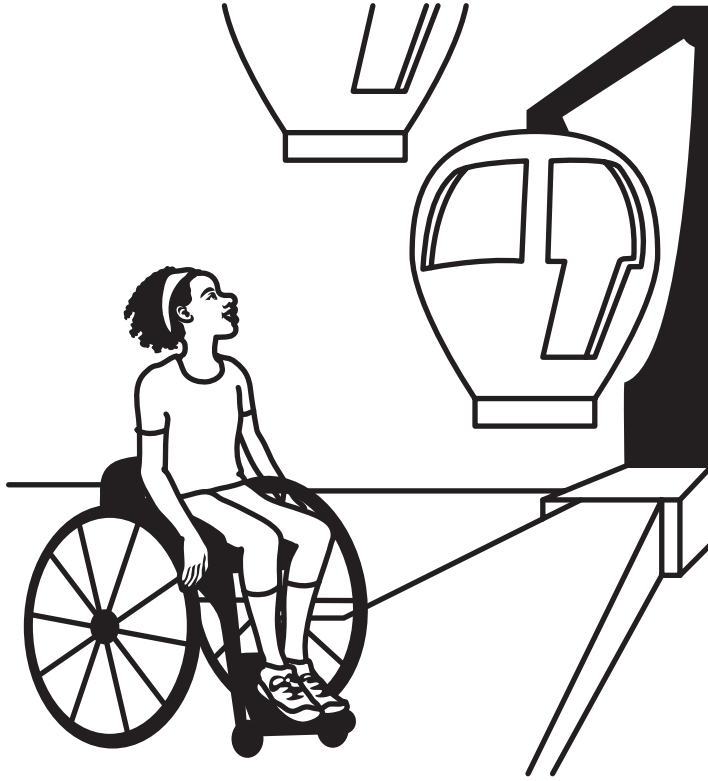


Janelle could not wait to go, but her mom was worried.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 3

We are going to read part of the story again.



“Okay,” Janelle’s mom said with a nervous look on her face. They entered the park with the crowds. Janelle and her mom found the Ferris wheel. They waited for their turn. When it was time, Janelle and Mom got on the ride. The person in charge of the Ferris wheel helped Janelle and her mom onto the ride.

Who helped Janelle onto the Ferris wheel?

☐



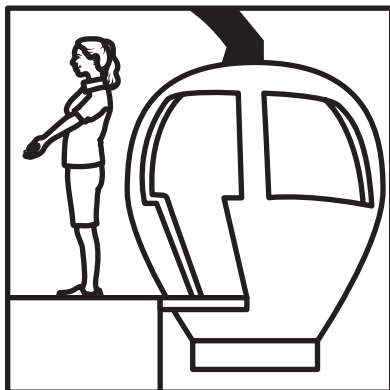
Janelle's mom

☐



a teacher in a classroom

☐

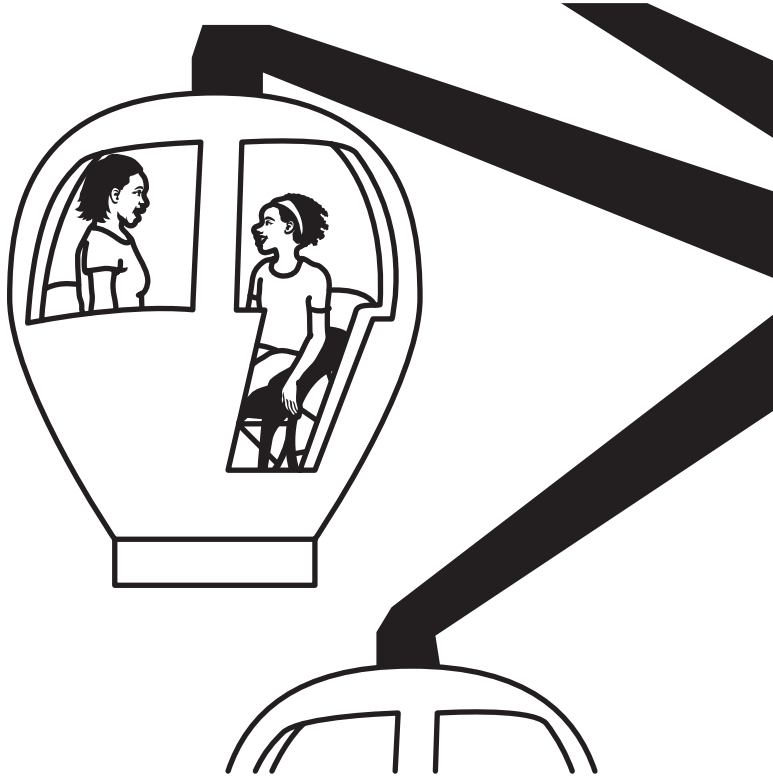


the person in charge of the ride

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 4

We are going to read part of the story again.



Everyone on the ride looked very excited. The Ferris wheel rocked as it started to move. Everyone squealed with excitement as it went around. They were going very high! Janelle felt a little scared, but she felt excited too. Janelle grabbed her mom's hand. Her mom smiled back at her. Her mom finally looked happy.

How did Janelle's mom feel when they were riding on the Ferris wheel?

☐



tired

☐



surprised

☐



happy

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 5

In the story, Janelle's mom felt happy when she was riding on the Ferris wheel.

Which sentence about the story shows that Janelle's mom felt happy?

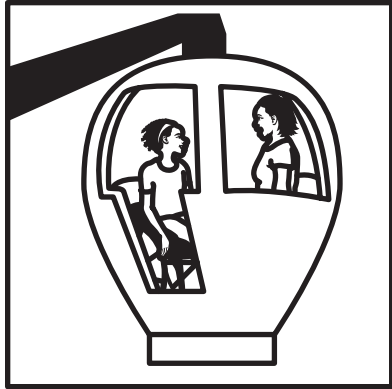


Janelle and her mom listened to birds.



Janelle held her mom's hand.

O



Janelle's mom smiled at Janelle.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 6

We are going to read a sentence from the story again.
Listen for clues to the meaning of the word **nervous**.

“Mom was **nervous** that Janelle would be unsafe on the rides.”

What does the word **nervous** mean in this sentence?

☐



sick

☐



worried

O



bored

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 7

Writers often use pictures to show information in a different way.

Here is some information. Listen for what this information is about.

A bicycle has wheels and a seat. It has handlebars that are used to steer. It also has pedals to push that make the bicycle go.

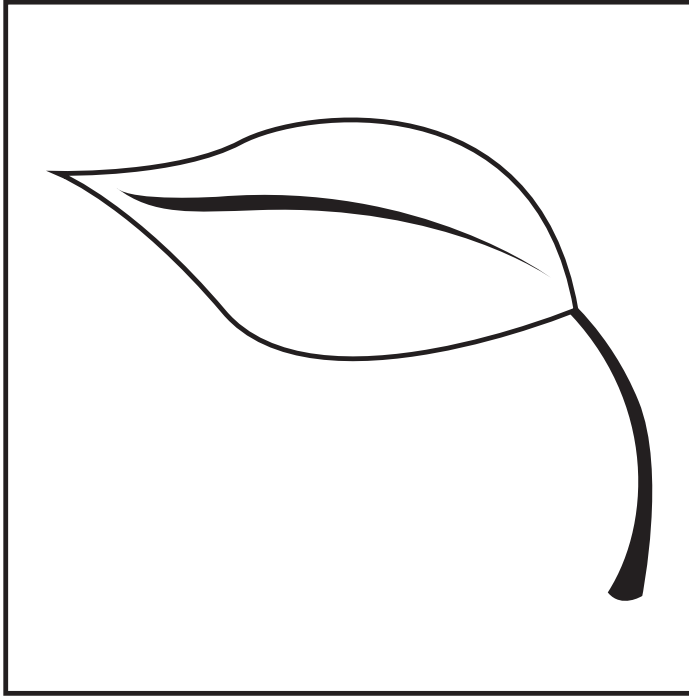
What is the best way to show this information?

O



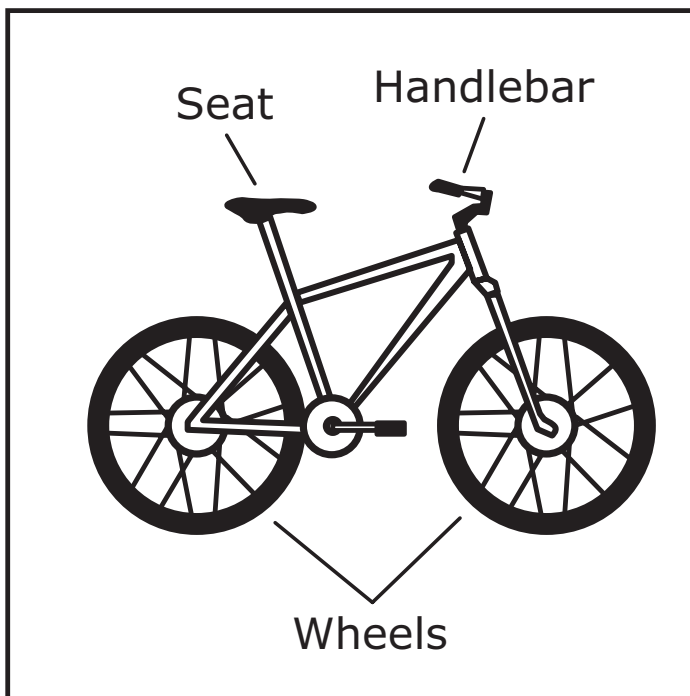
a photograph of a hot-air balloon

O



a drawing of a leaf

O



a labeled diagram of a bicycle

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 8

Here is some information.

Elephants are big animals that have four legs. They have a long trunk. There are two types of elephants. They live in different places. One type has big ears, and the other type has smaller ears.

What is the best heading for this information?

☐ Elephant Facts

☐ Dog Facts

☐ Ear Facts

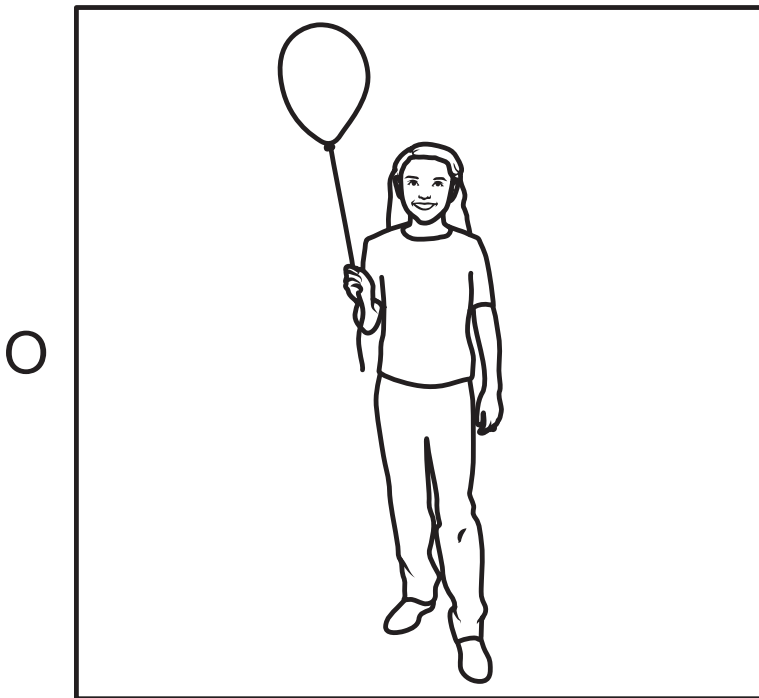
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 9

You are going to write a story. Your story is about a boy named Jim who has a problem with his dog.

First, you will write about the character. Remember, characters are the people in stories. In this story, the character is Jim.

Which sentence tells about the character Jim?



Some children like to play with balloons.

O



Jim lives in a small house with his dog.

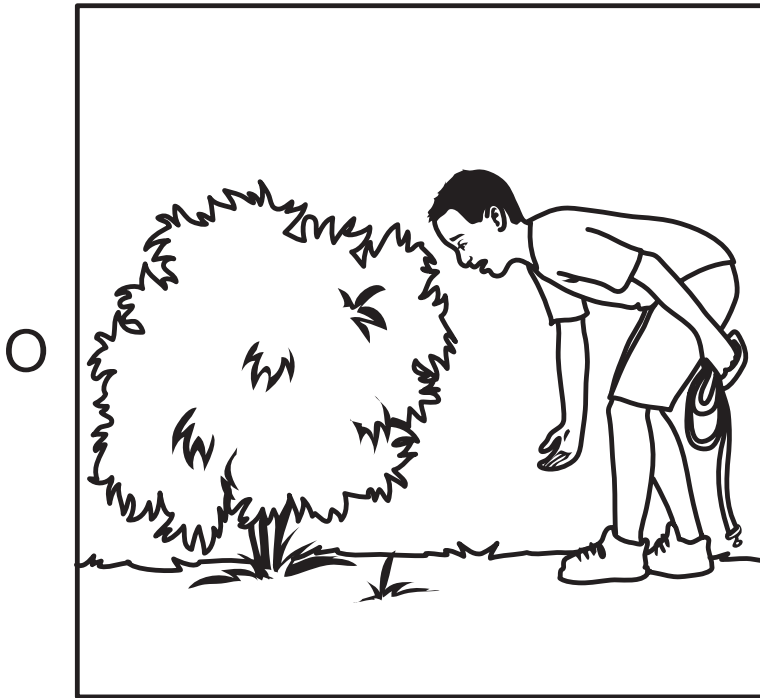
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 10

Jim lives in a small house with his dog.

Next, you will describe the character, Jim, and his dog.

Which sentence describes Jim and his dog?



The dog needs to go for a walk, but Jim cannot find the dog!

O



People like to sit and look at the stars at night.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 11

The dog needs to go for a walk, but Jim cannot find the dog!

Next, you will write about an event. Remember, events are what characters do in stories. In this story, Jim does something to find his dog.

Which sentence tells what Jim does?



Some people like to go to the movies.

○



Jim looks outside under a large tree.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

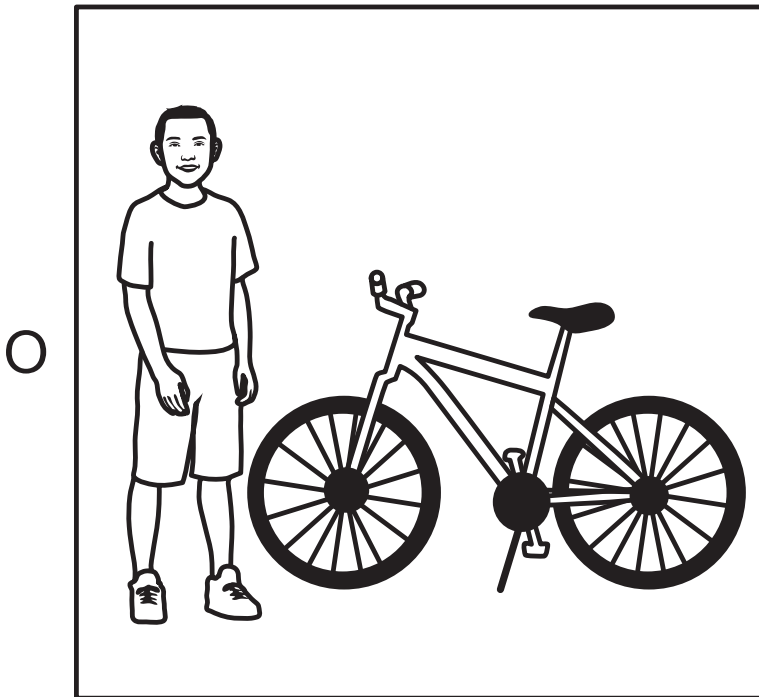
Item 12

Jim looks outside under a large tree.

Let's read what you have written so far.

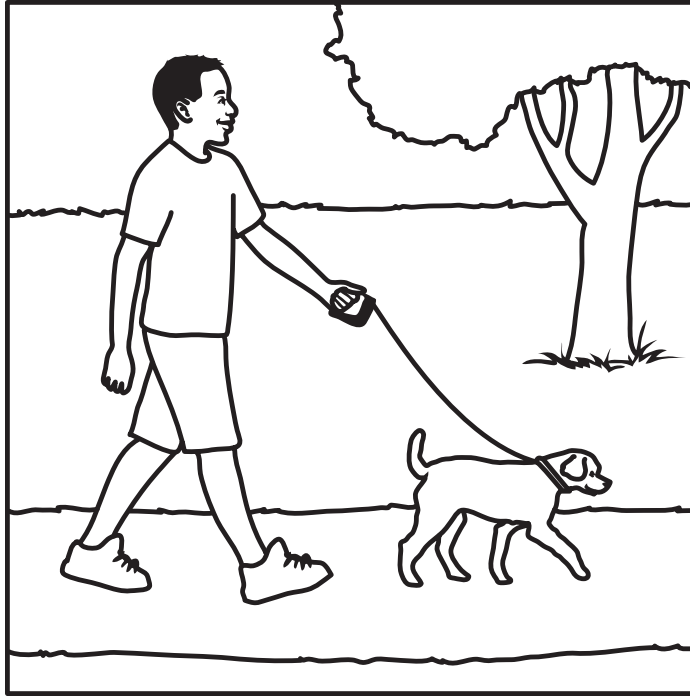
Jim lives in a small house with his dog. The dog needs to go for a walk, but Jim cannot find the dog! Jim looks outside under a large tree.

Which sentence ends the story?



Some students ride a bicycle to school.

O



Finally, Jim finds his dog and they go for a walk.

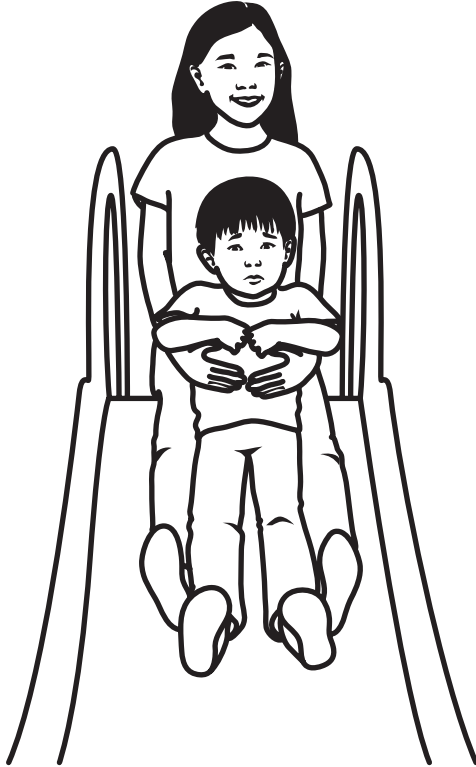
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

ELA Grade 5

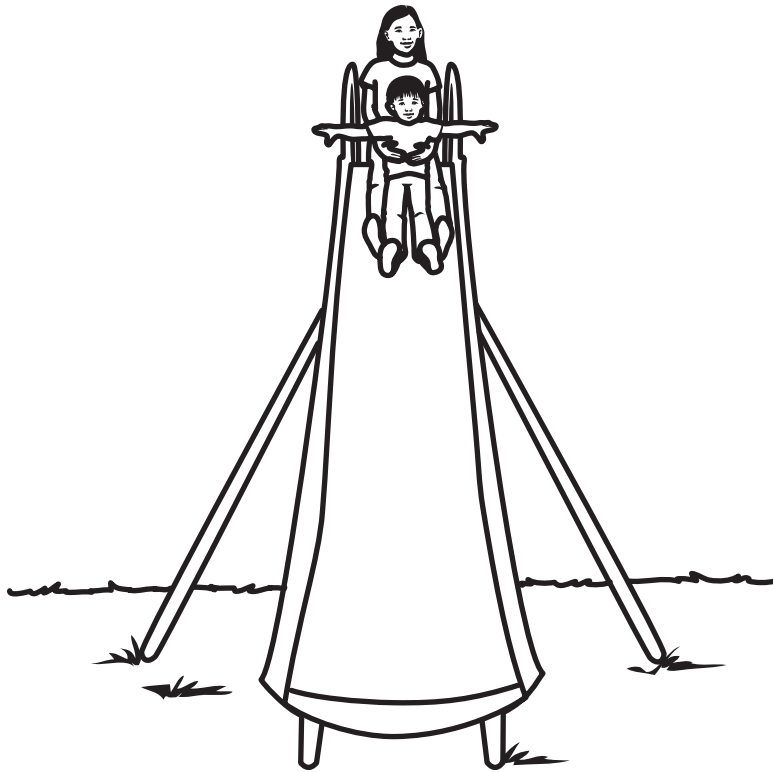
Directions

This is a story about Jack, a young boy who wanted to go down the tall slide by himself. His dad and older sister, Samantha, helped him practice.

Good Things Happen to Those Who Keep Trying



Jack was sitting at the top of a tall slide with his big sister, Samantha, holding onto him. Jack had been trying to go down the tall slide by himself for at least a year. At first, he was scared even when Samantha went with him. Jack would go down the slide holding onto his sister's arms as Samantha hugged him tightly.



After a while, Jack stopped holding onto Samantha. Samantha did all the holding. Jack liked to go down the slide with his arms out, like an airplane. He liked the feeling of the air on his cheeks and butterflies tickling in his stomach. Jack's heart always leapt a little when he went down the slide. He felt both safe and free.

"You can do it, Jack!" Dad exclaimed. Jack shook his head. Going down the slide alone was just too scary.



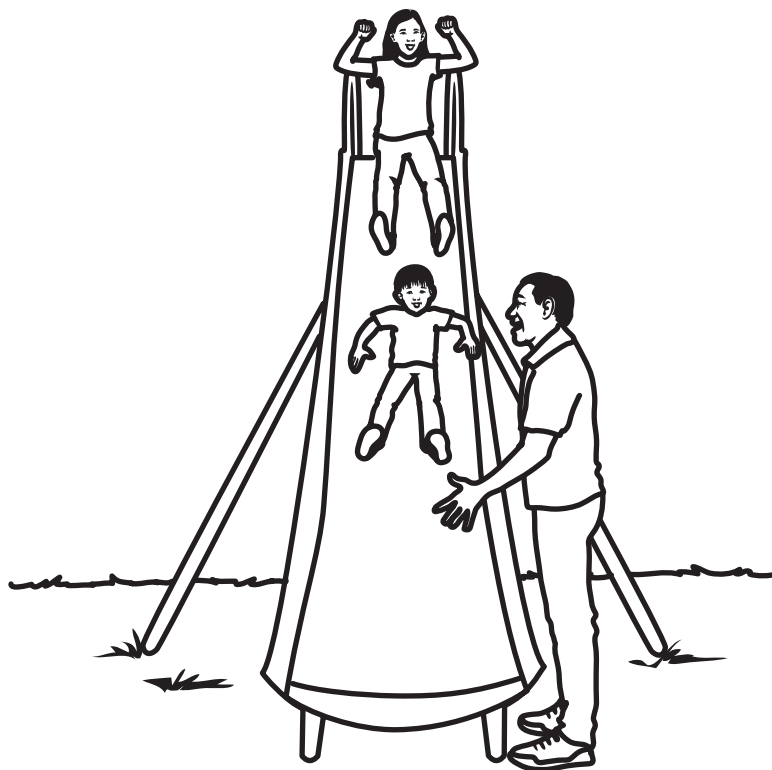
“I won’t let go, Jack. Not until you tell me to,” Samantha whispered.

Jack squeezed his eyes shut. He wanted to do this, but he was so scared. As Jack thought, he realized he had gotten braver with each **attempt** at the slide over the year. Maybe he could be a little more brave today.

“Good things happen to those who keep trying, Son.” Jack heard his dad say.

With his eyes still squeezed shut, Jack thought to himself, “I just have to try.” He was determined to do it.

When he was ready, Jack took a deep breath and signaled to his sister. He was ready. Samantha let go.



Jack sailed down the slide. He couldn't quite get his eyes to open, but he felt his heart leaping. He did it!

He felt the hug of his dad as he came to a stop.

"You did it!" Dad yelled, jumping up and down.

"You're so brave!" said Samantha, grinning from the top of the slide. "You want to go again?"

Jack beamed back. He sure did. Good things do happen to those who keep trying!

Item 1

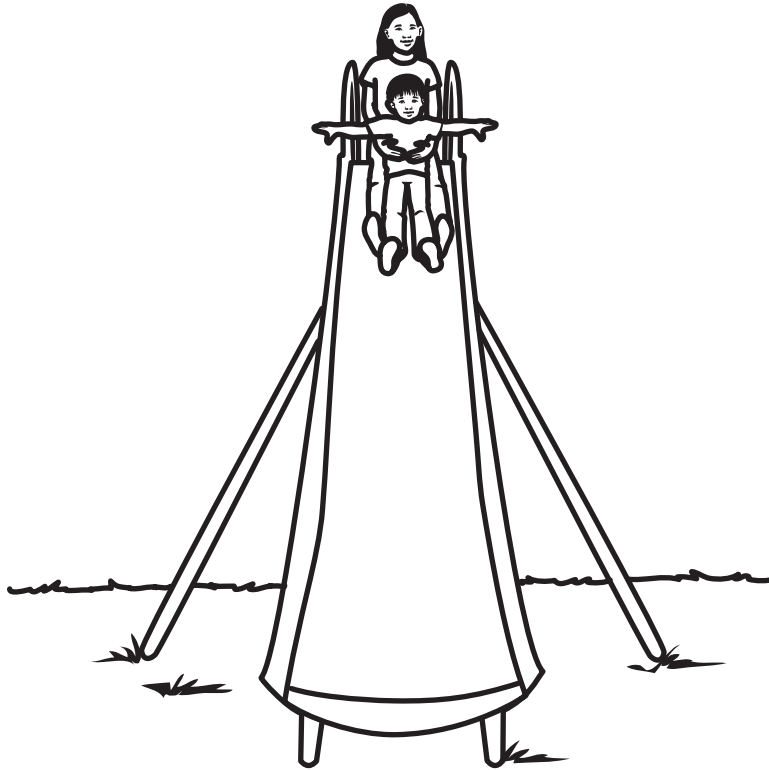
What is the **best** summary of this story?

- ☐ Jack liked to go down the tall slide with his sister, Samantha. He wanted to try to go by himself, but he was scared. Jack finally went down the slide by himself.
- ☐ Jack was scared to go down the tall slide by himself. Jack sat at the top of the slide because he was scared. Jack's dad said Jack should keep trying.
- ☐ Jack went to the playground with his sister and his dad. Jack slid down the tall slide with his sister. Jack was too afraid to go down the slide by himself.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 2

We are going to read part of the story again.



After a while, Jack stopped holding onto Samantha. Samantha did all the holding. Jack liked to go down the slide with his arms out, like an airplane. He liked the feeling of the air on his cheeks and butterflies tickling in his stomach. Jack's heart always leapt a little when he went down the slide. He felt both safe and free.

"You can do it, Jack!" Dad exclaimed. Jack shook his head. Going down the slide alone was just too scary.

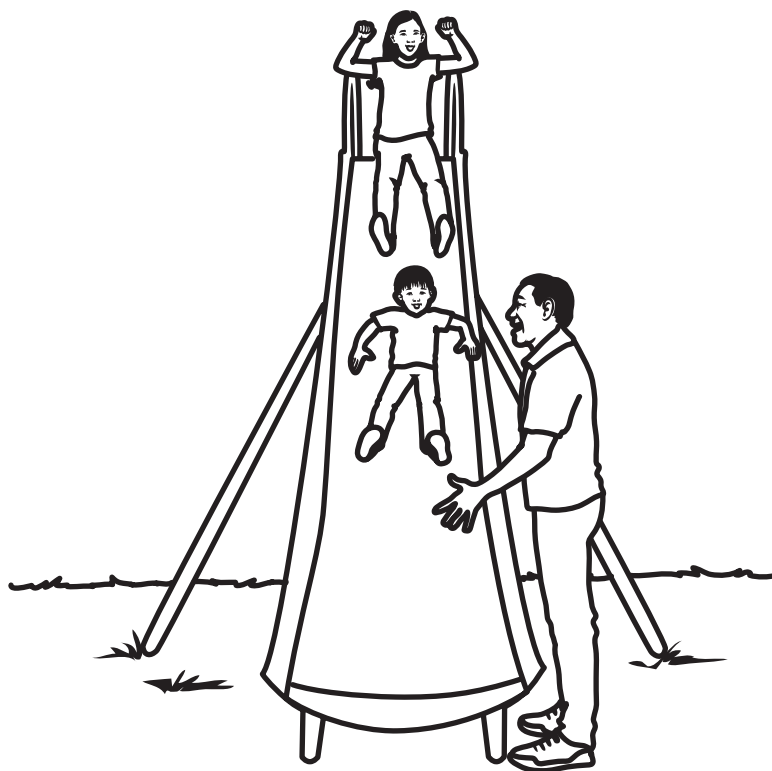
How did Jack like to go down the slide at this part of the story?

- ☐ on his stomach
- ☐ pretending to be an airplane
- ☐ with his legs crossed

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 3

We are going to read part of the story again.



Jack sailed down the slide. He couldn't quite get his eyes to open, but he felt his heart leaping. He did it! He felt the hug of his dad as he came to a stop.

"You did it!" Dad yelled, jumping up and down.

"You're so brave!" said Samantha, grinning from the top of the slide. "You want to go again?"

Jack beamed back. He sure did. Good things do happen to those who keep trying!

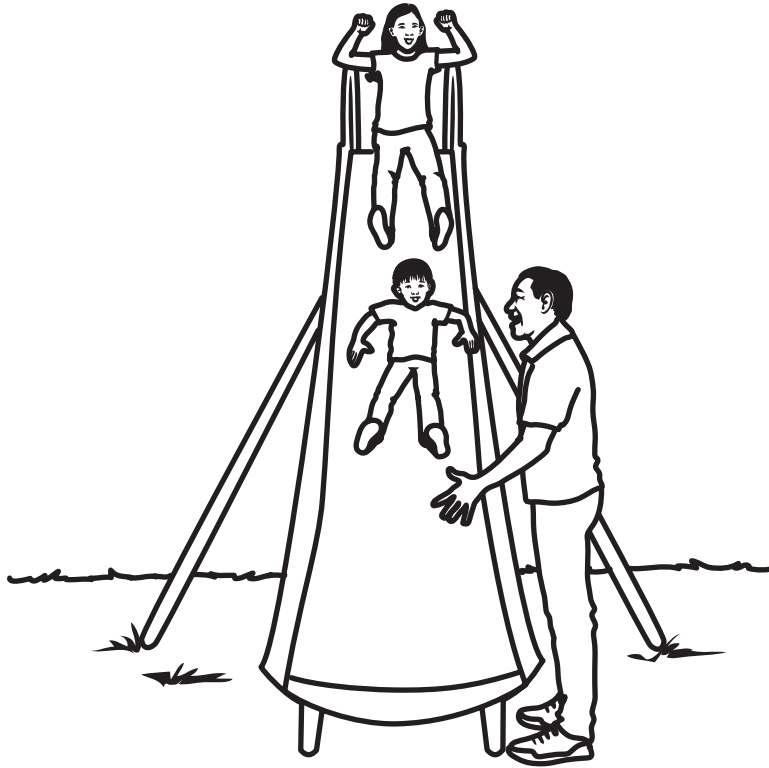
What did Dad and Samantha **both** do after Jack went down the slide by himself?

- ☐ Dad and Samantha nodded their heads.
- ☐ Dad and Samantha cheered for Jack.
- ☐ Dad nodded his head and Samantha cheered for Jack.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 4

We are going to read part of the story again.



Jack sailed down the slide. He couldn't quite get his eyes to open, but he felt his heart leaping. He did it! He felt the hug of his dad as he came to a stop.

"You did it!" Dad yelled, jumping up and down.

"You're so brave!" said Samantha, grinning from the top of the slide. "You want to go again?"

Jack beamed back. He sure did. Good things do happen to those who keep trying!

Which sentence compares how **both** Jack and Dad felt after Jack went down the slide by himself?

- ☐ Jack felt scared, and Dad felt excited.
- ☐ Jack felt proud, and Dad felt excited.
- ☐ Jack felt brave, and Dad felt nervous.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 5

We are going to read part of the story again. Listen for clues that tell what the word **attempt** means.

“As Jack thought, he realized he had gotten braver with each **attempt** at the slide over the year. Maybe he could be a little more brave today.”

What does the word **attempt** mean in this sentence?

- ☐ try
- ☐ stop
- ☐ doubt

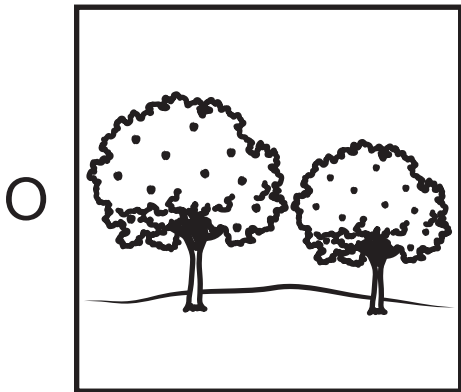
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 6

Which fact is about painting?



Some artists use paints.



Apples grow on trees.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 7

Clarissa is preparing to put things away at her house. Here is Clarissa's list.

fork

soap

pan

towel

plate

toothbrush

What is the best way for Clarissa to organize her list of things to put away at her house?

- ☐ in order from what happens first to what happens last
- ☐ into groups to show which room each item belongs in
- ☐ into groups of what to throw out and what to keep

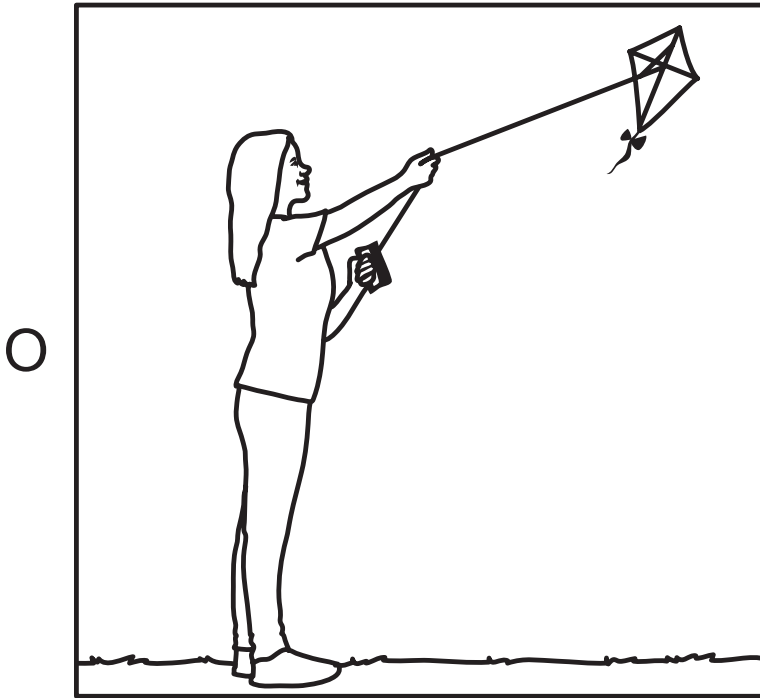
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 8

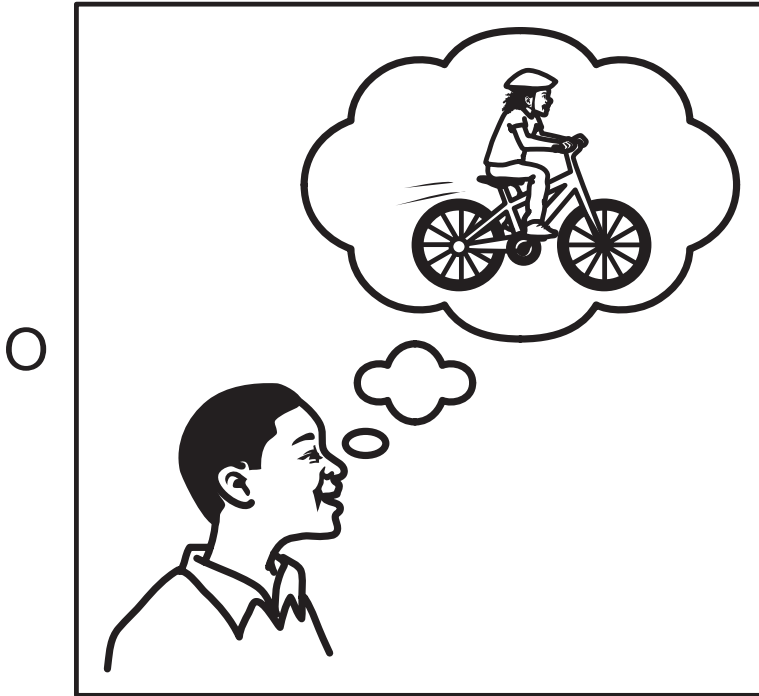
You are going to write a story. Your story is about a boy named Carlos and his sister.

First, you will write about the character. Remember, characters are the people in stories. In this story, one of the characters is Carlos.

Which sentence tells about the character, Carlos, and about the story?



Kites are fun to fly when it is windy.



Carlos wants to help his sister learn how to ride her bike.

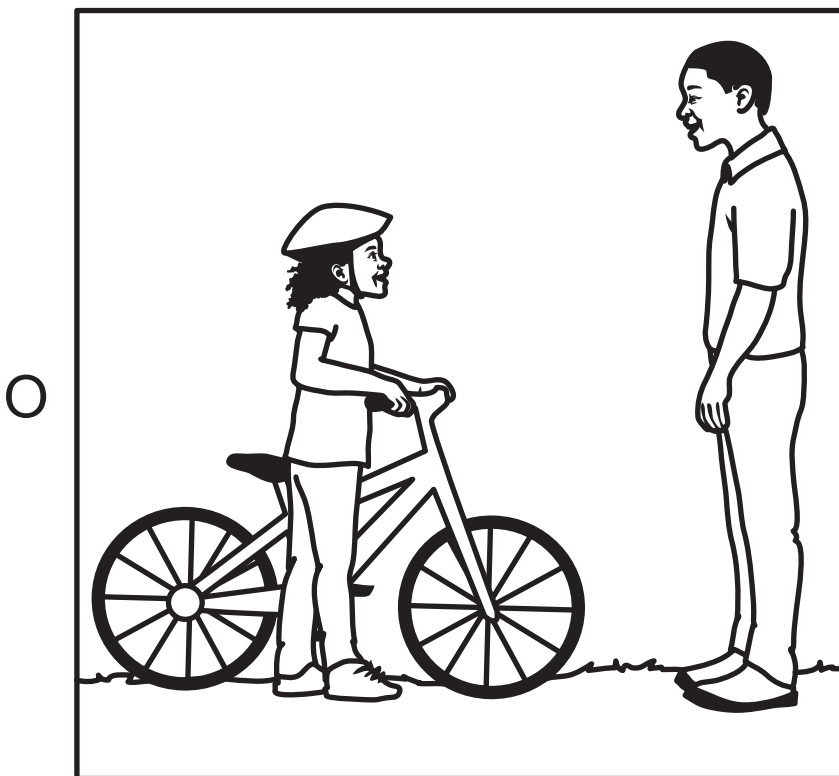
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 9

Carlos wants to help his sister learn how to ride her bike.

In the story, Carlos talks to his sister.

What would Carlos say to his sister, and what would his sister say to Carlos?



Carlos asked his sister, "Would you like me to teach you to ride your bike?" His sister said, "Yes! I would love your help!"

O



Carlos said to his sister, "I need to buy a new pair of shoes." His sister said, "Okay."

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 10

Carlos asked his sister, “Would you like me to teach you to ride your bike?”

His sister said, “Yes! I would love your help!”

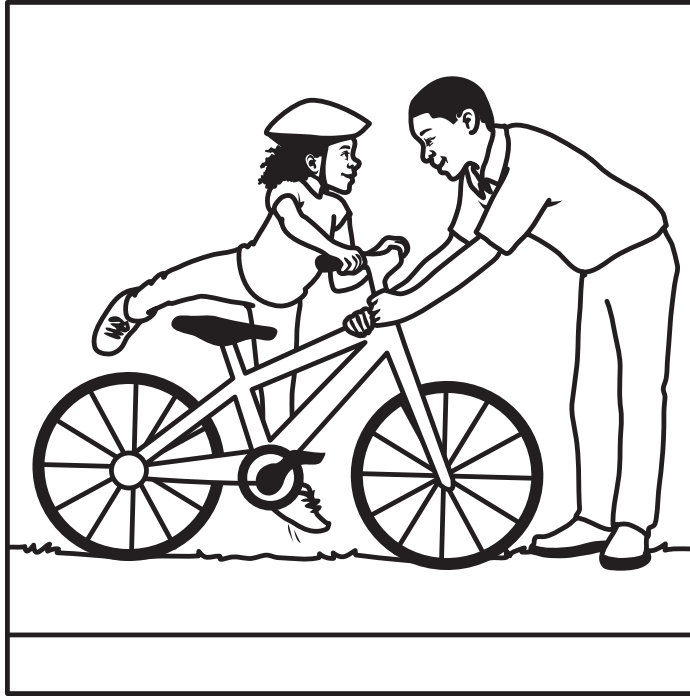
In the story, Carlos helps his sister get on her bike.

Which sentence best helps you imagine or picture what Carlos did?



He pulled a shiny new wagon.

O



Carlos carefully held the bike while his sister hopped on the seat.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 11

Let's read the story so far.

Carlos wants to help his sister learn how to ride her bike.

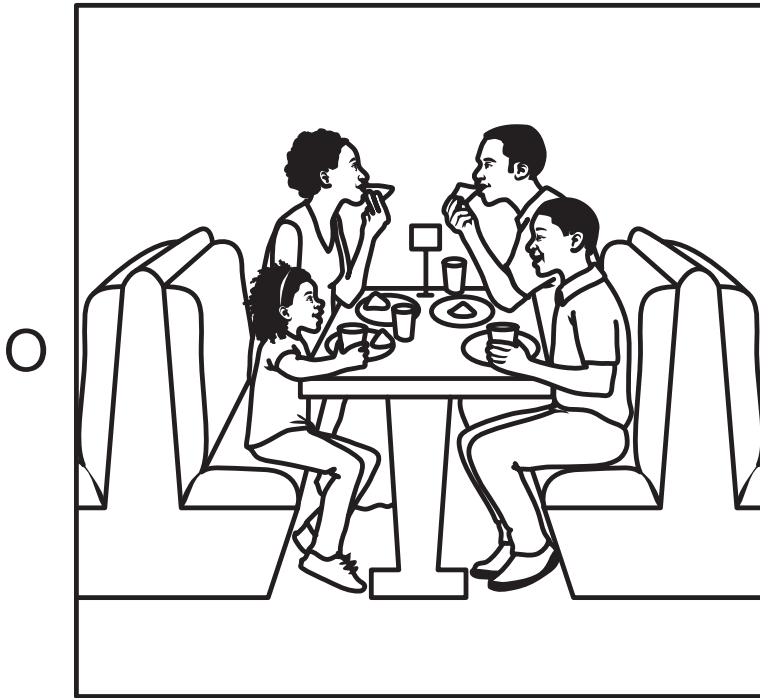
Carlos asked his sister, "Would you like me to teach you to ride your bike?"

His sister said, "Yes! I would love your help!"

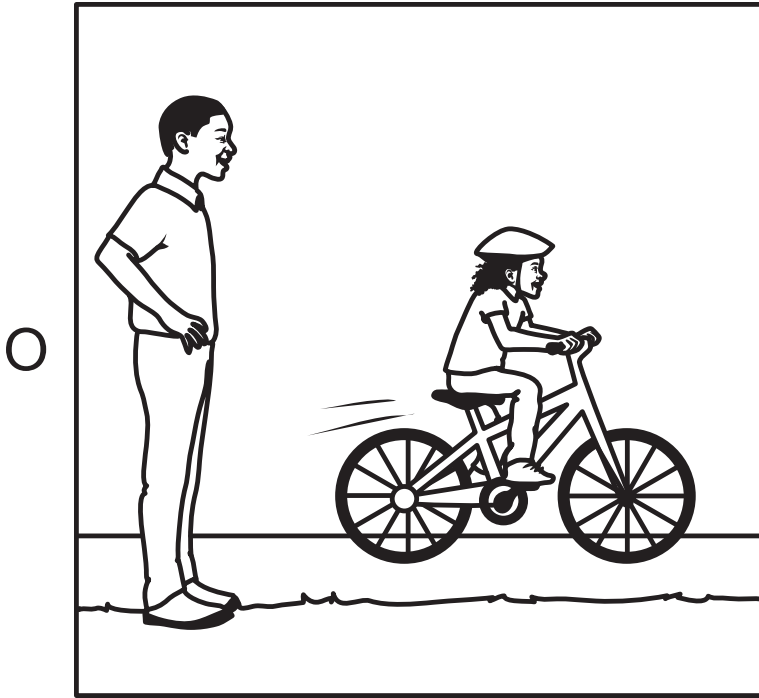
Carlos carefully held the bike while his sister hopped on the seat.

Now, you will choose the end to the story.

Which ending fits this story?



Carlos and his sister ate dinner at a restaurant with their parents.



With Carlos's help, his sister was able to ride her bike.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

With Carlos's help, his sister was able to ride her bike.

Now your story is finished. I will read your completed story to you.

Carlos wants to help his sister learn how to ride her bike. Carlos asked his sister, "Would you like me to teach you to ride your bike?"

His sister said, "Yes! I would love your help!"

Carlos carefully held the bike while his sister hopped on the seat. With Carlos's help, his sister was able to ride her bike.

