

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The New Year's Eve Mystery

In the charming town of Sparkleton, excitement filled the air as the year drew to a close. The residents were busy preparing for the much-anticipated New Year's Eve celebration. Everyone was looking forward to welcoming the new year with joy and laughter. However, this year, something mysterious was about to unfold—a New Year's Eve mystery that would capture the attention of the entire town.

On the morning of December 31st, the townspeople woke up to a surprising sight. The town square, usually adorned with colorful decorations, was completely bare. The sparkling lights, the festive banners, and even the giant New Year's Eve countdown clock were nowhere to be seen. The residents were puzzled, wondering where everything had disappeared to.

Among the curious townspeople were three young friends—Lucy, Ben, and Emily. They loved solving mysteries and couldn't resist the urge to investigate this peculiar situation. Determined to uncover the truth, they formed the "Sparkleton Mystery Solvers" team.

The trio began their investigation by interviewing the locals. They asked around, searching for any clues that might lead them to the missing decorations. Some mentioned seeing a suspicious figure near the town square the previous night, while others recalled hearing strange noises.

Following the leads, Lucy, Ben, and Emily ventured into the nearby forest. As they explored, they stumbled upon a hidden trail. Curiosity propelled them forward, leading them to a clearing where the missing decorations lay scattered around.

Their eyes widened in surprise as they discovered a group of woodland animals gathered around the decorations. There was a mischievous raccoon, a wise old owl, a friendly squirrel, and even a family of rabbits. The animals had found the decorations and thought they were toys to play with.

The children approached the animals cautiously, trying not to startle them. They explained that the decorations were meant for the New Year's Eve celebration. The woodland animals, realizing their mistake, expressed remorse and offered to help return the decorations.

With teamwork and laughter, the children and the animals worked together to transport the decorations back to the town square. The clock was carefully set up, the lights were hung, and the banners were proudly displayed. As dusk approached, the town square was once again transformed into a magical sight.

As night fell, the townspeople gathered in the square, eagerly awaiting the New Year's Eve celebration. The countdown began, and as the clock struck midnight, a wave of joy and excitement swept through Sparkleton. The town was enveloped in cheers, laughter, and the dazzling display of fireworks.

As the festivities continued, Lucy, Ben, and Emily couldn't help but smile. They had solved the New Year's Eve mystery and, in the process, brought the community closer together. The woodland animals, now considered honorary members of the Sparkleton Mystery Solvers, watched the celebration with newfound friendship and joy.

From that day forward, the bond between the townspeople and the animals grew stronger. Each year, as they welcomed the new year, they remembered the New Year's Eve mystery that united them and taught them the importance of teamwork, understanding, and the joy of unraveling a mystery together.



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### Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What was the mysterious situation that puzzled the townspeople?
2. Who formed the "Sparkleton Mystery Solvers" team?
3. Where did the children find the missing decorations?
4. How did the woodland animals help the children?
5. What did the New Year's Eve mystery teach the townspeople?

