

Name _____ **Comparing Stories**

Story 1: The Mystery of the Disappearing Ice Cream

It was the hottest summer anyone in Maplewood could remember. Every day, the temperature climbed higher and higher, and all the kids in the neighborhood knew the best way to cool off was with a trip to Mr. Scoop's Ice Cream Parlor. Mr. Scoop was a friendly old man who made the best ice cream in town, with flavors like Double Chocolate Chunk, Rainbow Swirl, and Peanut Butter Paradise.



Mia, Leo, and Ella were best friends who spent nearly every afternoon at Mr. Scoop's. But one day, something strange happened. When they arrived, the doors were locked, and a sign in the window read, "Closed Due to Missing Ice Cream." The kids were shocked. How could all the ice cream be missing? They decided to solve the mystery themselves.

They started by interviewing the other shop owners on the street. Mrs. Potts from the bakery said she hadn't seen anything unusual, but she had noticed that her pies were disappearing faster than usual. Mr. Johnson from the toy store mentioned that he'd seen a lot of empty ice cream cartons in the alley behind his store. This made the kids even more curious.

Determined to crack the case, they staked out the ice cream parlor that night. They hid behind a bush across the street and waited. Just after midnight, they saw a shadowy figure slip out from the alley and head toward the back door of Mr. Scoop's. The figure was carrying something large and round.

The kids crept closer, trying to get a better look. Suddenly, they heard a crash and a loud "Oops!" The figure had dropped what it was carrying—a giant tub of ice cream!

To their surprise, the thief wasn't a person at all. It was a raccoon! The raccoon had been sneaking into Mr. Scoop's and stealing the ice cream to share with its family. The kids couldn't believe their eyes. They watched as the raccoon scurried away, leaving a trail of melted ice cream behind.

The next day, they told Mr. Scoop what they had discovered. He laughed and thanked them for solving the mystery. As a reward, he gave them free ice cream for the rest of the summer. Mr. Scoop also made sure to lock up his ice cream tubs securely every night to keep the raccoons out. From then on, the kids enjoyed their ice cream knowing they had saved the summer from the great ice cream caper.



Story 2: The Great Balloon Adventure

Sam had always dreamed of flying. Every time he saw a bird soaring through the sky, he imagined what it would be like to feel the wind in his hair and see the world from above. So when the town's annual Balloon Festival arrived, Sam was beyond excited. The festival was the biggest event of the year, with brightly colored hot air balloons filling the sky.

This year, Sam's dream was about to come true. His uncle Max, a seasoned balloon pilot, had invited Sam to join him on a flight. Sam could hardly sleep the night before the festival. He woke up early, grabbed his binoculars, and raced to the field where the balloons were being prepared.

When Sam arrived, the field was buzzing with activity. People were inflating the balloons, and the sound of the burners filled the air. Uncle Max greeted Sam with a smile and handed him a helmet. "Ready for an adventure?" he asked. Sam nodded eagerly.

The balloon was a brilliant shade of blue with white stars scattered across it. As they climbed into the basket, Sam's heart raced with excitement. Uncle Max pulled the lever, and with a roar of the burner, the balloon began to rise. Slowly, they lifted off the ground, and soon, they were floating high above the town.

The view was incredible. Sam could see the entire town laid out below him like a map. He spotted his school, the park, and even his house. The fields and rivers looked like they belonged in a painting. Sam felt like he was on top of the world.

As they drifted higher, Sam noticed something strange. Another balloon, this one bright red, was drifting dangerously close to a tall tree. Uncle Max quickly adjusted their course and shouted a warning to the other pilot. The red balloon veered away just in time, avoiding a collision.

After a few hours of peaceful flying, it was time to land. Uncle Max expertly guided the balloon back down to the field, where a crowd had gathered to watch the landings. As they touched down, Sam felt a rush of pride. He had just experienced the most amazing adventure of his life.

When the festival was over, Sam knew he would never forget his great balloon adventure. From that day on, every time he looked up at the sky, he dreamed of flying again.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the main problem the characters face in each story?
 - a) A missing person
 - b) A stolen treasure
 - c) A mystery to solve
 - d) A dangerous adventure

2. How do the characters in each story solve their problem?
 - a) They ask an adult for help.
 - b) They work together to figure it out.
 - c) They find a hidden clue.
 - d) They use technology.

3. Which story involves an animal causing trouble?
 - a) The Mystery of the Disappearing Ice Cream
 - b) The Great Balloon Adventure
 - c) Both stories
 - d) Neither story

4. What is the main difference between the two adventures?
 - a) One takes place indoors, and the other outdoors.
 - b) One is about solving a mystery, and the other is about experiencing something new.
 - c) One involves a group of friends, and the other involves just one person.
 - d) One is about a competition, and the other is about teamwork.

5. How do the endings of the two stories compare?
 - a) One ends with a reward, and the other ends with a rescue.
 - b) One ends with a celebration, and the other ends with a discovery.
 - c) Both end with the characters making new friends.
 - d) Both end with the characters feeling proud of what they accomplished.