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Session 2: English/Language Arts - Question 1

Questions and Answers

Writing Activity

Hidden Treasure

Lisa loved the old house that her grandma had bought. There were rooms and corners never explored. Today, she decided to explore a closet. Lisa started pushing on bricks in the wall when, suddenly, one pushed in and the wall opened. Inside was a small space containing two objects: a map and a key.

The map shows the location of a box with a keyhole. What does Lisa do with the map? What adventures does she have along the way? When she finds the box, what does she see inside?

Write a story about using a map and a key to find and open a mysterious box. Write about what Lisa sees, what Lisa does, and what events happen.

Be sure to include

- the main character
- what the character does
- what events happen
- details that make your original story interesting
- a beginning, a middle, and an end to your story

Final Draft

Answer: Curious, Lisa studied the map slowly to try and find a path to the box. then she folded it and tucked it into her pocket, along with the key. As she walked down a stone hall, it was dark and had moss growing on each end of the walls. The straight path never seemed to end, Lisa was tired, but nothing was going to stop her from going to that box. As she progressed through the path the quality of the hall was getting worse, now there were cobwebs hanging on the walls and spiders crawling in the cracks of it. suddenly there was a curve, Lisa peeked, and continued. Lisa wondered who created this long hall, and why it was made. Could it be that inside this box could be a secret passage? Or could it be treasure? As she wondered she saw a brown crusty chest with a silver keyhole. She gasped with joy and excitedly put the key inside the keyhole. She turned it and lifted up the lid. There was a note that said, Who ever comes across this treasure will be a true explorer. Under the note was Gold, Emeralds and Pearls. Just then Lisa's grandma called for her, wondering where she is. Lisa quickly lifted the heavy chest, and rushed to her grandma.

Egg Drop Soup

by Heather Tomasello

illustrated by Elizabeth O. Dulemba



Describe Laura's MAIN problem in the story. How does she solve it? Support your answer with details from the story.

Answer: Laura came up with an idea that Cassie did not like, Cassie suggested an idea, but Laura did not like that idea either. So they decided to make thier own ideas and prove that thier idea is better than each others. At the stadium they both drop thier egg, and both of them broke, so it was a tie.

"OK, everybody. It's that time of year," said my science teacher, Mr. Beal. "This Friday we'll have the annual Egg Drop Challenge."

A couple of my classmates groaned, but no one was at all surprised. Mr. Beal's fifth-grade Egg Drop Challenge was a tradition at my school. The goal of the Challenge was simple-you had to build a protective container to keep an egg from breaking when dropped over the stadium wall.

"Bring your containers to class on Friday," Mr. Beal said. "By the way, this year we're going to try something different. You can work alone or with a partner."

My best friend, Cassie, and I grinned at each other. We always worked on projects together. She's brainy; I'm creative. We're the perfect combination. Like peanut butter and marshmallow cream. (Which happens to be my favorite kind of sandwich.)

I made my favorite sandwich that afternoon while waiting for Cassie to come over and work on the container. Spreading the fluffy marshmallow cream gave me an idea.

"I have a brilliant design for our egg container!" I said when Cassie arrived.

"What?" Cassie asked eagerly.

"We can cushion it with some marshmallow cream."

"Huh?"

"You know, to absorb the shock of the impact," I explained.

"You've got to be kidding, Laura."

"You have a better idea?"

Cassie pointed to a sketch in her notebook. "Actually, I do. We put the egg in a basket with a parachute attached. It will simply float to safety."

"It's too easy for something to go wrong. It will never work!" I said.

"And marshmallow cream will?" Cassie rolled her eyes.

"The parachute is better than *that* silly idea."

I couldn't believe it. Of course we'd had our little fights in the past, but this was different. She'd never called any of my ideas "silly" before.

"Oh yeah?" I said.

"Yeah!"

"Then I'll build mine and you build yours, and we'll just see whose is better."

"Fine!" Cassie shoved her notebook into her backpack and stormed out.

And just like that, our friendship was smashed. Like an egg dropped from the top of a stadium without marshmallow cream to protect it.

When Friday finally rolled around, I had to admit that Cassie's *Egg*

Force One looked pretty good. She had used a handkerchief to create a small parachute. It was tied to a basket that held Styrofoam® packing peanuts and, in the center of it all, her egg.

My *Egg-cellent Egg Cream* didn't look quite so scientific. I had lined the sides and bottom of a small box with rice cakes. Then I'd added a layer of marshmallow cream, the egg, and a layer of Jell-O®.

This is how the competition worked: All the kids in my class carried their egg containers up three stadium steps and dropped them over the side wall. If your egg broke, you were out. If the egg survived, you had to walk up three more steps and drop it again. This went on until the last egg broke.

By the fourth launch, only Cassie and I were left.

"OK," Mr. Beal yelled. "Let 'em go on the count of three."

"Good luck, Laura," Cassie said, turning to me. "You're going to need it."

I didn't respond. I figured winning would be even sweeter.

The class called, "One, two, three!" I let go of my box.

"Ew," I heard someone say after a minute. Had my egg broken? I raced down the steps, trying to get to the bottom before Cassie did.

The sidewalk was already dotted with egg shells from previous failed drops. I finally found my brave little *Egg-cellent Egg Cream*. I didn't even have to open the box to see the results. Yolk and egg white mixed with yellow Jell-O seeped from the corner.

"That looks like egg drop soup, Laura," Cassie said. She was holding her *Egg Force One*. My heart raced. Had she won? I looked at her basket. Empty.

"My egg bounced out," she explained, pointing to a broken shell in the grass.

"I guess the pilot had an egg-jector seat," I offered.

Cassie looked at me, and her glare softened. I could see it in the corners of her eyes. She was trying not to smile. I grinned. She giggled.

"Egg-jector seat," she said.

"Egg drop soup," I said, laughing until I had tears in my eyes.

"A tie," Mr. Beal said, shaking his head.

But Cassie and I knew we'd won something more important than the Egg Drop Challenge. Maybe some friendships aren't like eggs

after all. They can survive a little bouncing.

Egg Drop Soup

by Heather Tomasello

illustrated by Elizabeth O. Dulemba



In what ways are Laura and Cassie DIFFERENT? Support your answer with details from the story.

Answer: Laura is productive and Cassie is smart.

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Egg Drop Soup

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One of the themes in "Egg Drop Soup" is friendship. Explain what Laura and Cassie learn about friendship. Support your answer with details from the story.

Answer: Even though you have a big fight over something, you can still be best friends. Like the saying in the story "Maybe some friendships aren't like eggs after all. They can survive a little bouncing".

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Writing Activity**Nick's Big Moment**

Nick peered through a narrow crack in the giant velvet curtain. Lee had just finished her song on the piano and was standing to take a bow. As the audience clapped loudly, Nick started to get a sick feeling in his stomach. He noticed that the entire room was filled with people. In fact, some people were even standing in the back to watch the concert.

Nick wiped his sweaty hands on his pants and gripped his guitar again. His heart seemed to be banging loudly enough for everyone to hear it. He looked around, but no one was staring at him. Just then, a voice echoed over the speakers. "Next we have Nick Jones playing music he wrote himself. He'll be playing the guitar." Nick took a deep breath and tried to move toward the stage, but his feet felt like heavy stones.

Finish the story. Describe what Nick does in this situation. Be sure to include details to support your writing. You do NOT need to rewrite the beginning of the story.

Final Draft

Answer: Nick stared into audience, his arms and legs shaking. He was almost at the edge of the stage, Nick then got out his guitar pick and moved his hand over the guitar strings. He began, sweating from head to toe. He played the beginning of his song, but then he started to miss notes and use the wrong pitch. He felt like he was going to cry. He got so nervous he shook his head and walked back stage. Nick cancelled his play and went home. The next day his best friend Jim knocked on his door to see if he wanted to play guitar. Jim had a black guitar he brought with him and Nick had just an original wood guitar. Jim then asked about Nick's play, Nick had a shy look in his eye and said he couldn't do it. Jim was surprised that he'd just walk out like that, Jim knew he was a very good guitarist. Jim then suggested about practicing with each others family. Nick thought about and decided, he thought it was a great idea. Nick and Jim got thier family together to help him. He closed his eyes and began playing. He played the whole song, pretending no one was even there, just like playing with Jim. Thier family clapped and cheered with amusment. Nick was ready once again to go to the play. Just like playing with Jim and playing for his family, Nick then again closed his eyes and played. Before he knew it the crowd was cheering his name before he finished his song, he put on quite a play and even got first place for being brave.

Session 4: Social Studies - Question 1

Questions and Answers

Look at the drawing below.

A New England Community—1700



Using information from the drawing and what you have learned, give **TWO** different ways British colonists in New England changed the land.

1)

Answer: They built bridges

2)

Answer: They built houses and created towns

Session 4: Social Studies - Question 2

Questions and Answers

Read the information below.

The town of Pineville is considering tearing down a historic building to make room for a new hotel. Many people in the town are against this idea. They argue that the building is part of the town's history and should be maintained. These concerned citizens want other people in the community to be aware of this issue.

Give TWO different ways the citizens of Pineville could voice their opinion on this issue.

1)

Answer: It is a historic memory and reminds citizens of that time.

2)

Answer: There are many other hotels and they don't think we need another one.

Session 4: Social Studies - Question 3

The journal entry below is from Christopher Columbus's first voyage to the Americas. His voyage was paid for by the king and queen of Spain.

October 17, 1492

At noon [we] set sail from the village where we had anchored and watered. . . . My intention was to follow the coast of the island to the southeast as it runs in the direction, being informed by the [Native American] Indians I have on board . . . that in such a course I should meet with the island which they call Samoet, where gold is found. . . . I assure your Highnesses that these lands are the most fertile, temperate¹, level, and beautiful countries in the world.

¹**temperate:** having mild temperatures

Questions and Answers

Based on the journal entry, explain how Spain could benefit from Columbus's exploration.

Answer: They would take them to a land called Samoet that has gold and good climate.

Using the journal entry and what you have learned, describe ONE way that Columbus's explorations impacted the Native American Indians.

Answer: He would force them to tell him about great lands.

Session 4: Social Studies - Question 4

Questions and Answers

Read the newspaper article.

Daily Herald

April 2, 2012

Due to recent cold weather, strawberry fields across the state have frozen. This will reduce the amount of strawberries available to Jelly Jams, a local company that makes a very popular strawberry jam.

Describe TWO different economic effects that the strawberry shortage described in the article might have on Jelly Jams' customers.

1)

Answer: There would not be a lot of berry jam.

2)

Answer: The berries would not be pure like they would be in Summer or Spring

Describe TWO different actions that Jelly Jams could take to meet the demand for its product.

1)

Answer: Make a different kind of jam.

2)

Answer: Once the berries are unfrozen, they could make a discount on berry jam.