

Fun and Formal Writing

4th
Grade



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** Has an Answer Sheet*

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Creative Writing

Use your imagination to create your own store. Write detailed descriptions below to describe your store.

1. Write down the name of your store and why you chose that name.
2. Describe what it is that your store sells. Do you sell things or provide a service?
3. Describe who your store benefits. For example, if you sell soccer balls, your store would benefit soccer players.





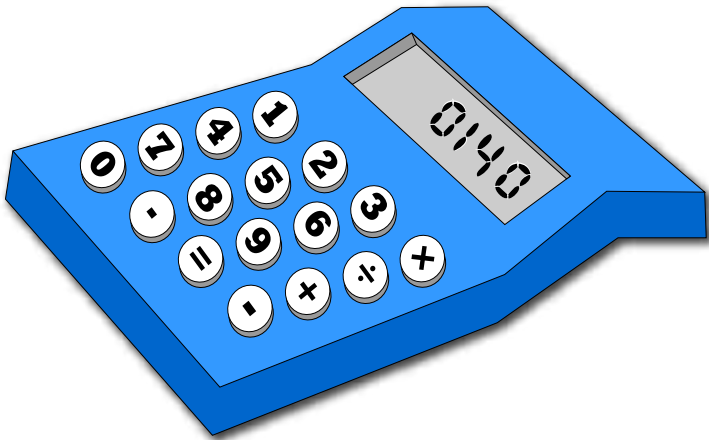
Creative Writing

Imagine you have your own restaurant! What food do you serve? What does it look like inside? And where is it located? Be creative!



Complete the Mystery

Read the two paragraphs below and decide what might happen next in the story. Underline the words or phrases that give you clues about the ending, and then write a paragraph concluding the story.



It was Monday afternoon, and Georgia sat in class taking a geography quiz. She was trying to answer the last question, "Columbus is the capital of what state?," when she heard a noise coming from the desk in front of her. Galen, the most disruptive kid in class, sat at

the desk in front of Georgia's. Galen's sister, Gina, sat beside him. The teacher often caught Galen and Gina whispering and giggling. This time, however, Georgia saw that Gina was only passing a calculator to her brother. Georgia returned her attention to her paper.

The bell rang and Georgia stood up to hand in her test. As she passed Galen's desk, she glimpsed the calculator. It sat upside down, and its screen displayed the numbers 0, 1, 4 and 0. Why was the calculator upside down, and why would Galen need a calculator for a geography quiz? Suddenly, Georgia recalled the answer to the last question on the test. She looked back down at Galen's desk. He snatched the calculator away, but it was too late. Georgia knew Galen and his sister had cheated.

Concluding paragraph:



Marnie and the Muffins



Complete the story by writing in the empty boxes below.

Marnie stood at the kitchen table, flour covering her arms and hands. She had spilled the flour, spilled the milk, and dropped the mixing spoon on the floor. Baking muffins was not as easy as she thought it was going to be.

"It's okay," said Marnie's mom. "Sometimes, baking can be messy. Here, use this one," she said, handing Marnie a new mixing spoon.



Marnie tried to mix the lumps out of the batter, but no matter how hard she tried, the lumps wouldn't go away.

"I could stir for a year, and this batter still wouldn't be smooth!" Marnie wailed. "I can't do this." She stomped off to her bedroom, closed the door, and began to cry.



Marnie's mom pulled on her oven mitts and carefully lifted the muffin tins out of the oven. The scent of cinnamon filled the air. Marnie's mom set the tins on top of the stove, and the two surveyed their work.

"They look delicious!" Marnie exclaimed. "Next time, let's bake a cake!"

Benji's Baseball Tryout



Complete the story by writing in the empty boxes below.

Benji's mom pulled up to the curb in front of school. Benji got in, threw his baseball glove on the floor, and slumped in his seat.

"What's wrong?" asked Benji's mom.

"I've been practicing all summer, and I still didn't make the baseball team," Benji wailed. "I don't think I'll ever make it. I'm a terrible player!"



"That's not true," Benji's mom replied. "You're very talented. If you want to be really good at something, you have to keep practicing. Maybe I can help! I was the star pitcher on my high school softball team, you know."

Benji scowled. "No, thanks. It won't help. I think I'll just give up on baseball."



"Great catch!" said Benji's mom. "That was the best one yet."

"Thanks!" said Benji. "I guess you were right about practicing. I feel like I'm getting better already."

"I knew you could do it."

"Mom, I'm sorry I said softball was silly. You're a pretty good pitcher."

Benji's mom smiled. "Apology accepted, buddy."

Gail's Garden



Complete the story by writing in the empty boxes below.



Gail knelt in her garden, pulling weeds in her tomato patch. Sunlight streamed through the leaves of the apple tree, casting pretty shadows across the yard. A bluebird perched on top of the fence, singing a little song.



Suddenly, a rustling came from behind the sage bushes. Gail turned just in time to see her cat Geranium dash across the yard!
"Geranium!" Gail called. "Come back here! What are you chasing--or, what's chasing you?"



Gail picked up Geranium and cradled her in her arms. "I sure am glad you're okay," she told the purring cat. "I guess the weeds aren't the only wild thing in the garden!"



Fiona's Fury

Complete the story by writing in the empty boxes below.



Fiona was having a bad day. First, she couldn't find her favorite socks. Then, she spent so long looking for another pair to match her outfit, she didn't have time to eat her oatmeal before she left for school.

By lunch time, Fiona's stomach was growling. She hurried to the cafeteria and sat down beside her best friend, Frances. When Fiona opened her lunch bag, however, she noticed a terrible smell!

When Fiona found that her peanut butter sandwich was the source of the stench, she frowned and slumped in her seat.

"What's wrong?" asked Frances.

"My sandwich is rotten," Fiona wailed. "Everything's going wrong today!"

"Sounds like you need cheering up," said Frances.

"Nothing can cheer me up," Fiona insisted. "I'm furious!"

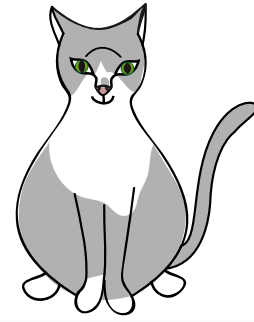


Fiona's sides began to hurt from laughing. "I have to admit," she said to Frances, "that did cheer me up. Thanks!"

"I've got something I think will make you even happier," said Frances. She took an apple from her lunch bag and handed it to Fiona. "You can have half of my peanut butter sandwich, too!"



Kahlil Gets a Kitten



Complete the story by writing in the empty boxes below.

Kahlil and his mom were walking home from the park when they spotted a sign on their next door neighbor's door. **FREE KITTENS**, said the sign in big, bold letters.

"Oh, mom, can we take a look?"

Kahlil begged, pointing to the sign.

"Sure, why not?" Kahlil's mom replied. Just that morning, after months of discussion, she had finally agreed to let Kahlil adopt a kitten.



They knocked on the door and their neighbor, Mrs. Kim, greeted them with a smile.

"Hello, Kahlil!" she said. "I bet you're here for the kittens. Come on in." Inside, eight tiny kittens lay sleeping in a basket.

"How can I possibly choose? Kahlil asked his mom. "I like them all."

"Don't worry," she replied. "I have an idea."



"Thanks for helping me choose," said Kahlil, carefully cradling his new kitten as they walked home. "She's perfect."

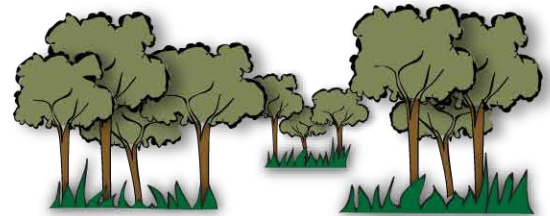
"Mew," said the kitten.

"You're both welcome," said Kahlil's mom, smiling.



A Walk Through the Forest

Complete the story by writing in the empty boxes below.



Franka went walking through the forest with her mom and dad. It was a bright, warm day, and Franka liked the way the sunlight filtered down through the trees.

"The forest can be a safe place," said Franka's mom, "as long as you're careful and stay on the trail."

"I will," Franka promised.



"Look at that rabbit!" Franka's father exclaimed. Franka turned just in time to see a fluffy, brown tail disappear into a blackberry bramble.

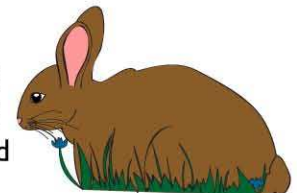
"I missed it," Franka said sadly. Just then, the rabbit darted out of the bush. Before she could stop herself, Franka dashed after it. She broke through the bushes and found herself tumbling down a hill!

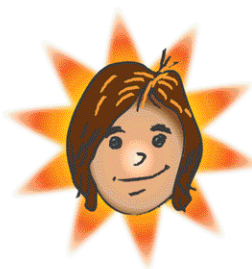
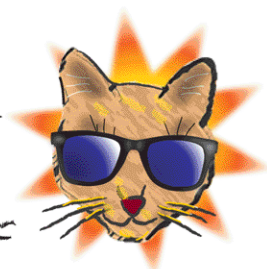


"You're lucky it was just a small hill," said Franka's dad.

Franka nodded, rubbing her sore elbow. "The forest is a great place to be..."

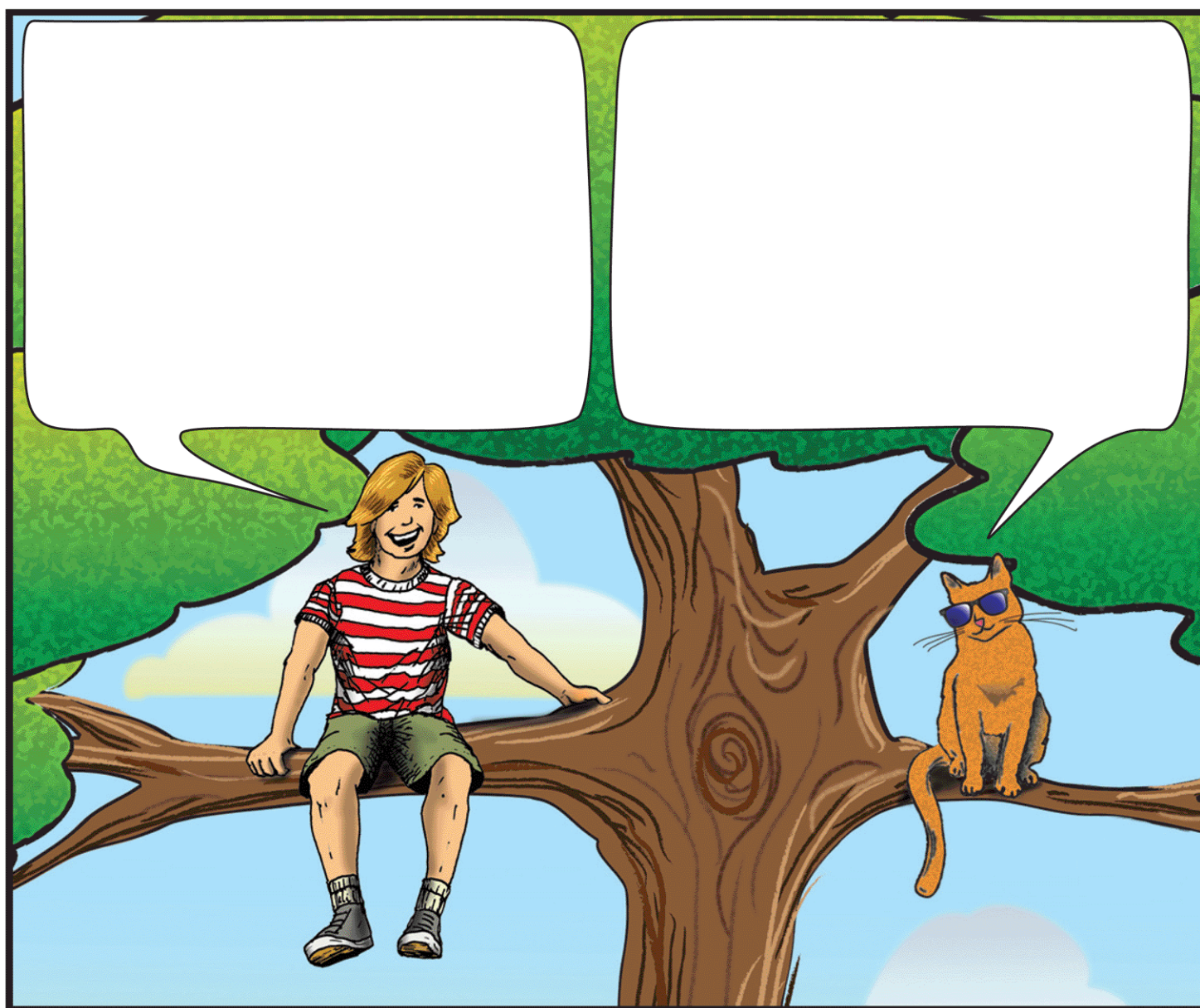
"...As long as you pay attention and stay on the trail," said Franka's mom and dad in unison.



**THE ADVENTURES OF**

What are A.J. and C.K. talking about?

Fill in the word balloons and make up your own comic!



THE ADVENTURES OF A.J. & C.K.

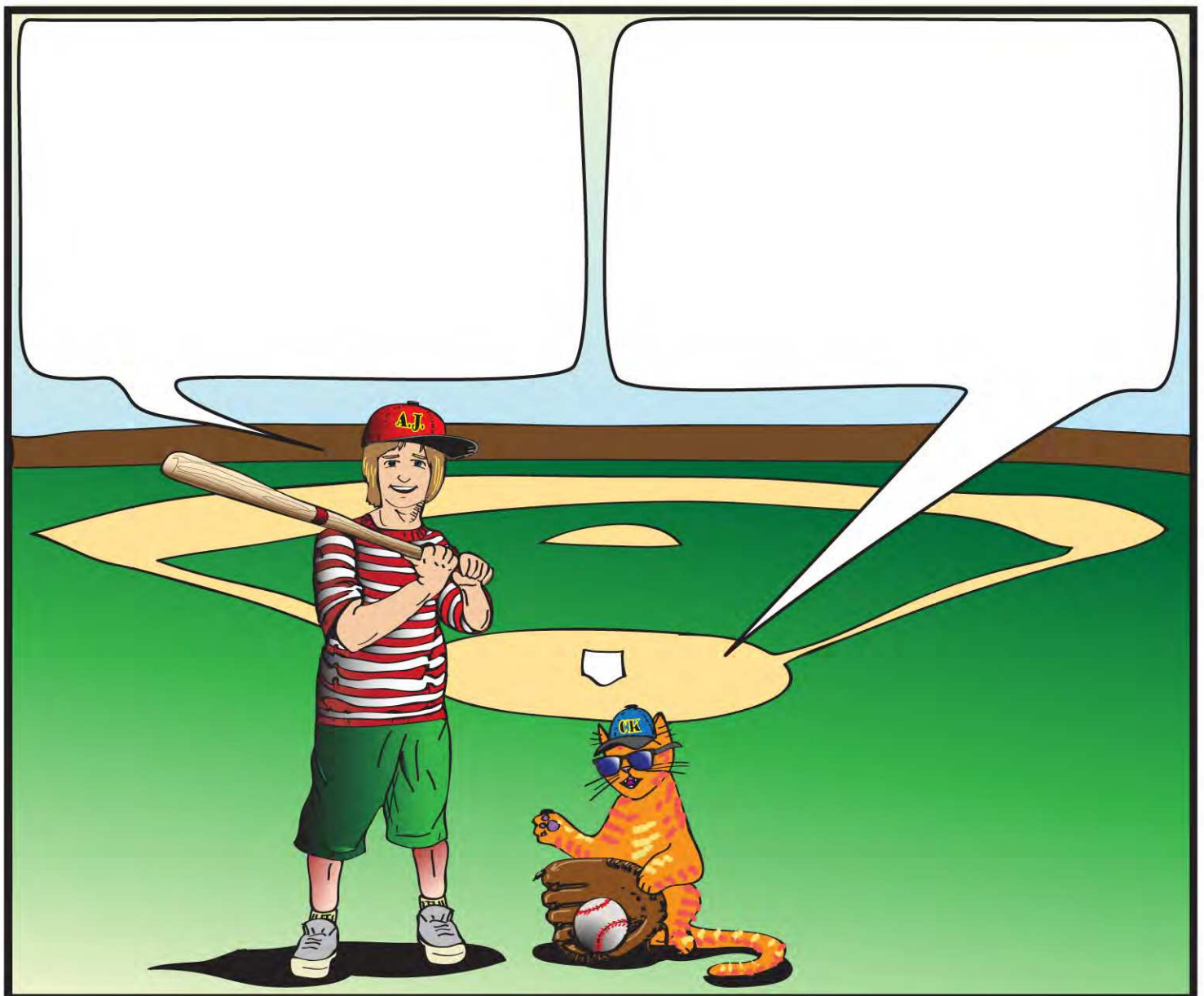
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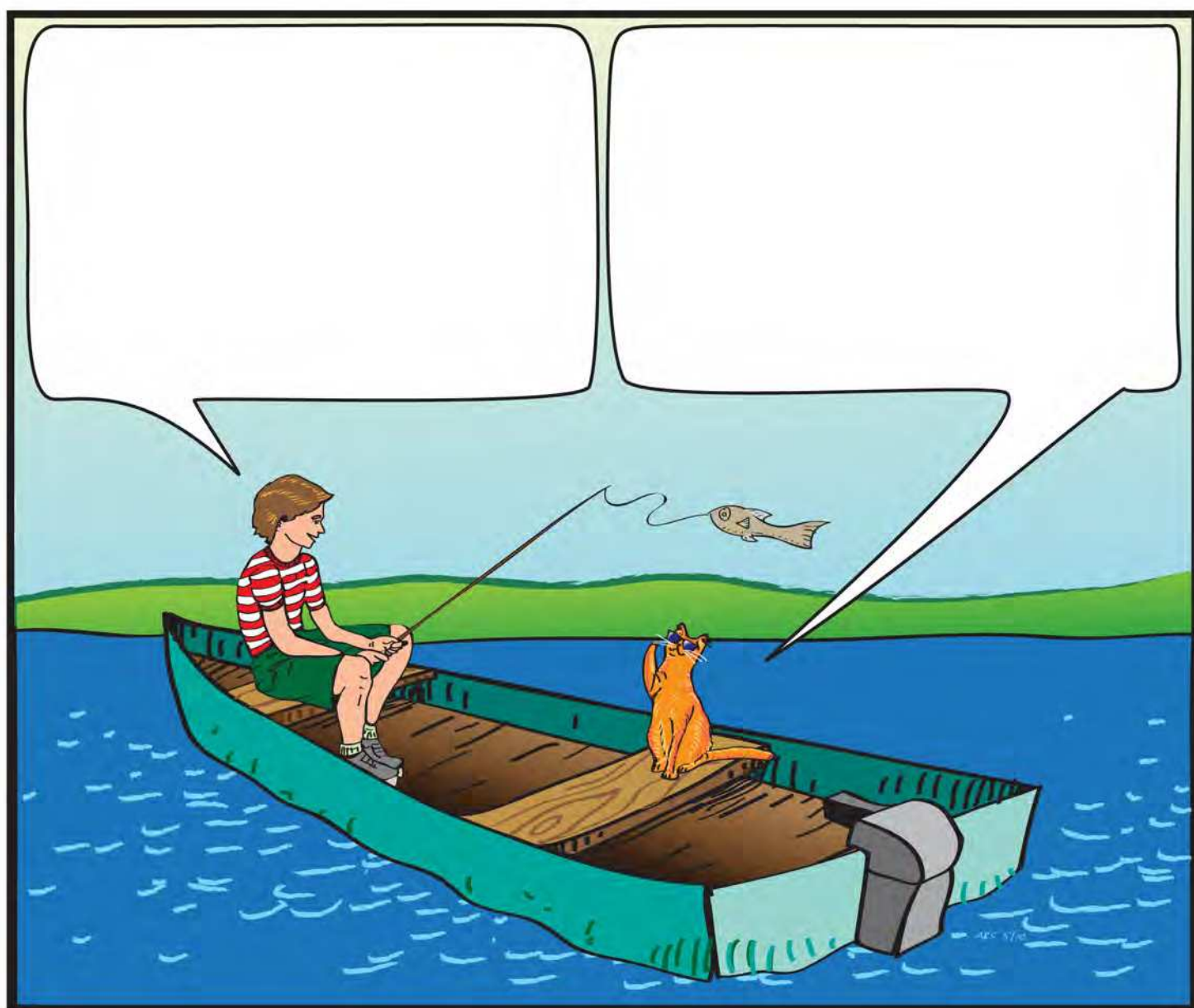


THE ADVENTURES OF



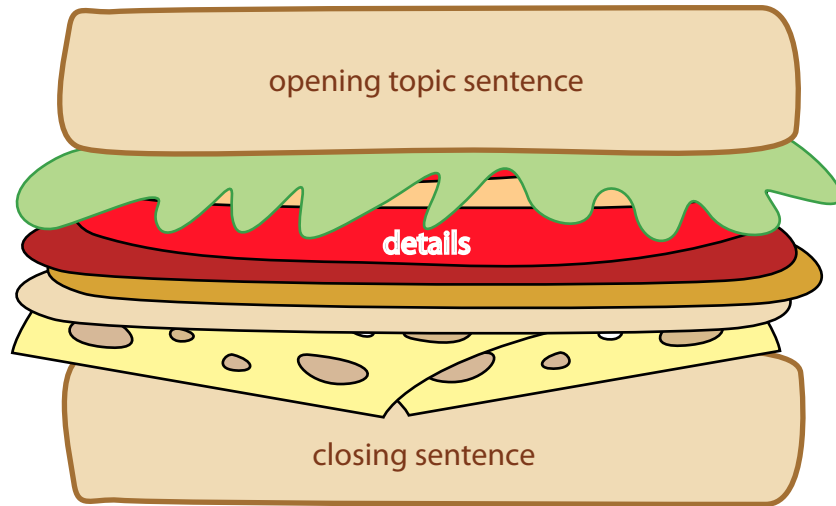
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Fill in the word balloons and make up your own comic!



PARAGRAPH SANDWICH

Writing a paragraph is a lot like making a sandwich.



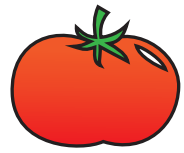
Write a paragraph about your birthday party last year. Make sure to use all the pieces of a "paragraph sandwich": opening topic sentence, details, and a closing sentence.

If you need more space to write in, use the other side of this page or an additional piece of paper

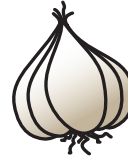
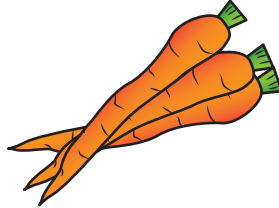
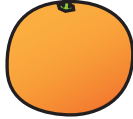
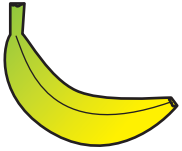


Investigate!

Where does my food come from?



We all know that most of our food comes from the grocery store. But do you know where some of our most common foods really come from, before they arrive at the grocery store?



The Investigation:

Go with your parents or a guardian to your favorite grocery store, head to the produce department, and search for the following items:

RED APPLE		POTATO	
ORANGE		BROCCOLI	
BANANA		TOMATO	
CARROT		MUSHROOM	
ROMAINE LETTUCE		ONION	
SPINACH		GARLIC	

In the space provided in the table, write down the country that each item came from. This information should be listed on a sticker or label. If you can't find it, ask your parent or guardian for help.



The Conclusion:

What do you think the information you gathered means? Did a lot of the items in your table come from the United States, or from other countries?

Which items that are from other countries could be grown in your area? What would be the advantages of having food grown closer to the grocery store? Would there be any disadvantages?



FORMAL WRITING

4th Grade

Use your knowledge of grammar and punctuation to edit this newspaper article! Mark your corrections in brightly-colored pen or marker.

local girl wins science fair

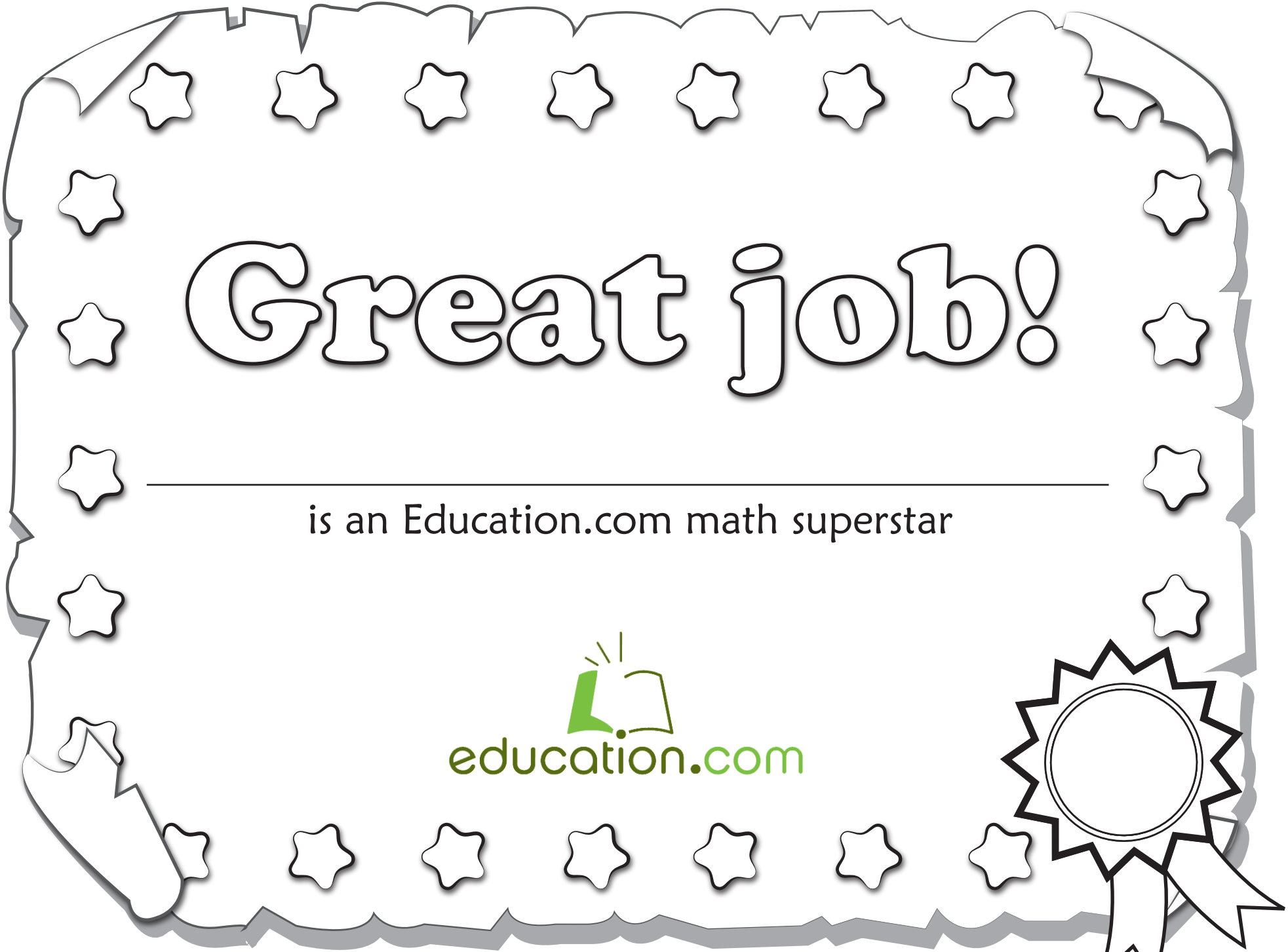
by marshall mallett

On Sunday evening, at the washington convention center in washington dc local 4th-grade student Sylvia Smith was named the first-place winner in the national science fair for her project which discovered a cure for the common cold.

Smith is a student in mister romero's class at sandy hill elementary in bakersfield and began working on her project last winter. I got sick three times in a row that year and kept having to miss school said Sylvia. I did a little reseach and found that the cold is the most common reason students stay home sick from school, and wanted to know how it could be prevented.

Smiths teacher contacted local researchers about her project, called how to cure a cold. I thought she was really on to something said Mr. Romero. Doctors and scientists in bakersfield encouraged him to sign her up for the national science fair, which awards winners scholarship money and a meeting with the president as a grand prize.

Judges were impressed by her work. In all my years, ive never seen a project that accomplished something this important said jane mitchell a judge on the panel. with a cure for the common cold now found scientists may be able to find cures for other common seasonal ailments like the flue.



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Answer Sheet

FORMAL WRITING ANSWER SHEET

4th Grade

Local Girl Wins Science Fair

by Marshall Mallett

On Sunday evening, at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., local 4th-grade student Sylvia Smith was named the first-place winner in the national science fair for her project which discovered a cure for the common cold.

Smith is a student in Mr. Romero's class at Sandy Hill Elementary in Bakersfield and began working on her project last winter. "I got sick three times in a row that year and kept having to miss school," said Sylvia. "I did a little reseach and found that the cold is the most common reason students stay home sick from school, and wanted to know how it could be prevented."

Smith's teacher contacted local researchers about her project, called How To Cure A Cold. "I thought she was really on to something," says Mr. Romero. Doctors and scientists in Bakersfield encouraged him to sign her up for the national science fair, which awards winners scholarship money and a meeting with the president as a grand prize.

Judges were impressed by her work. "In all my years, I've never seen a project that accomplished something this important," says Jane Mitchell, a judge on the panel. With a cure for the common cold now found, scientists may be able to find cures for other common seasonal ailments like the flu.