

Name: _____

Date: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 4

Part 1 of 5

“Squirm Worms”

Part 1 of 5: Mr. Nitman’s Complaint

Worms were everywhere. Mr. Nitman looked over his classroom and watched them dance on the desks. He knew by now they were called Squirm Worms. They were electronic toy worms, about the size of a crayon, that danced. They had two legs and two arms attached to a wormy body, and they boogied around on any flat surface. The makers of Squirm Worms claimed the toys helped squirmy children feel more comfortable in school.

“We all know about baseball, but doesn’t acidball sound way more exciting?” Mr. Nitman asked with an awkward chuckle. He expected to hear several jeers of disgust after his awful science jok, but he didnt. He looked at the class. A few students were trying to pay attention, but most couldn’t help but stare lazily at the wiggling worms in front of them.

Mr. Nitman became annoyed. He knew he had only about a week left before holiday break to finish his unit on acids and bases. Just then, it hit him. Holiday break! Any child who didn’t yet already have a Squirm Worm would get one over the Holidays. Then every student would be hypnotized.

Mr. Nitman needed to find a way to get Squirm Worms banned from Fairview Middle.

BONUS ACTIVITY

*What do you imagine
Squirm Worms look like?*

**Draw one in the box to
the right!**



Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

Key

- Spelling error
- Add punctuation
- Capitalize letter
- Remove word
- Wrong word
- Move word
- Make letter lower case

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

What are Squirm Worms?
Underline the lines in the
text that tell you.

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 4

Part 2 of 5

“Squirm Worms”

Part 2 of 5: School Rules

Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

After school, Mr. Nitman went to talk to Principal Mellon about Squirm Worms. When he walked into the principal’s office Nitman immediately saw four worms wiggling on Mellon’s desk. He was relieved.

“Ah, I see you are familiar with Squirm Worms to,” Nitman said. “You’ve had to confiscate a few, hm?”

“Oh, no,” Mellon replied. “These are mine.” Principal Mellon wore the smile of a youngster on Christmas morning. He gazed at the band of dancing worms on his desk, bobbing his head to match their rhythm. Nitman scowled.

“Sir, I’ve been having some problems with these worms in my classes. Students are...” Nitman waved his hand, trying to get the principal’s attention. “They’re...distracted. I think the worms should be banned.”

“No can do,” Mellon said, finally looking up. “They say these little guys actually help kids who have trouble sitting still. I couldnt ban them from school. Parents might get upset. We can only items ban that are dangerous.”

Mr. Nitman had been staring at the wispy snow starting to fall outside Principal Mellon’s window. With the word “dangerous,” his attention snapped back to the principle. Mr. Nitman had an idea.

Key

- Spelling error
- Add punctuation
- Capitalize letter
- Remove word
- Wrong word
- Move word
- Make letter lower case

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

Mr. Nitman has an idea.
What do you think it is?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Date: _____

Story 4

Part 3 of 5

“Squirm Worms”

Part 3 of 5: The Spill

Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

“Students, this acid is very dangerous,” Mr. Nitman said to his class the next day. He walked around the room showing the kids a fizzing green juice inside a glass cup. The juice was strange enough to distract most of them from the Squirm Worms still grooving around on the tables.

“Children! Look!” Nitman declared suddenly. “It has begun to snow! Everyone, to the window!”

if anything enlivens middle schoolers, it is falling snow during school hours. Every student immediately ran to the window. Once everyone was staring outside, Mr. Nitman quietly the glass cup of fizzing juice placed on a table covered with Squirm Worms. He made sure to place it right on the table’s edge. Then he joined his class at the window.

“Blast! I suppos I was mistaken,” Mr. Nitman said, craning his neck toward the sky. Not a single snowflake fluttered down.

A chilling crash brought everyones attention back to the classroom. The cup of green juice had fallen and shattered. The acid started eating away at the floor.

“The dancing worms have spilt the acid!” Mr. Nitman yelled, faking shock. “Quick! Someone please go alert Principal Mellon of this incredibly dangerous accident!”

Key

- Spelling error
- Add punctuation
- Capitalize letter
- Remove word
- Wrong word
- Move word
- Make letter lower case

Checklist

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Question

How do you think Principal Mellon is going to react to the spill?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 4

Part 4 of 5

“Squirm Worms”

Part 4 of 5: Two Holiday Wishes

The next morning, Mr. Nitman’s holiday wish came true.

“Attention, students and staff,” Principal Mellon’s voice scratched through the loudspeaker. “Squirm Worms are no longer permitted at Fairview Middle School. It pains me to say it, but those cute little bugs have proven themselves dangerous. As I saw yesterday, their adorable dancing can cause destruction if they get too close to chemicals. Please don’t bring Squirm Worms to school anymore. And please never dance near chemicals. That is all.”

That afternoon, Mr. Nitman practically skipped to his car. In the parking lot, he ran into Mrs. Fincher, Eric’s mother. Eric was one of Mr. Nitman’s best students.”

“Oh, Mr. Nitman,” Mrs. Fincher said. “I’m just coming from Principal Mellon’s office. Eric told me about the new Squirm Worm rule. He is devastated. You see, a Squirm Worm is all Eric wants for Christmas. He says he’s just about the only boy in school without one and, well, he’s felt left out. I was hoping Principal Mellon might lift the ban so Eric’s Christmas won’t be so disappointing.”

Mr. Nitman’s heart sank. As his holiday wish came true, Eric Fincher’s was ruined.

Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

Key

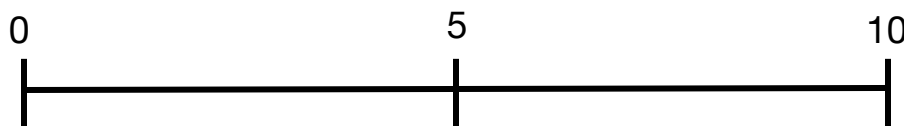
- Spelling error
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Checklist

1.
2.
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5.

Scrooge Scale

Deep down, how much of a Scrooge is Mr. Nitman?



Kind and caring

Totally heartless

Question

Based on your answer for the Scrooge Scale, how do you think this story will end?

Name: _____



Classroom Cereal

Story 4

Part 5 of 5

Date: _____

“Squirm Worms”

Part 5 of 5: Jolly Old Saint Nitman

Directions

1. Read the story
2. Find the five errors
3. Mark the errors using the key

After speaking with Mrs. Fincher, Mr. Nitman returned to his classroom. He the table examined from the acid accident. Then he took a screwdriver from his desk and got to work.

When Eric Fincher’s class arrived the next day, Mr. Nitman was holding another glass cup. This time, the cup was filled with a muddy-looking liquid.

“Today,” Mr. Nitman said as he strolled toward the seen of the acid spill, “I thought we’d explore a few common acids.” Holding up the cup with one hand, Nitman casually leaned on the table with the other. CRASH!!!








The table collapsed and Mr. Nitman tumbled to the floor, spilling the muddy liquid all over himself. The class rushed over. Principal Mellon, who had heard the crash from the hallway stormed in.

“Not to worry, everyone. It is only chocolate milk, a slightly acidic and delicious beverage,” Mr. Nitman said from the floor. But it appears this table is broken. I suppose it were this wobbly leg, not the Squirm Worms, that caused the acid to fall the other day. The worms appear innocent.”

“Sir,” Eric Fincher said, turning to Principal Mellon. “Does this mean Squirm Worms may return?”

The principal gave Eric the good news. Mr. Nitman returned to his desk and hid the screwdriver, the instrument of his good holiday deed.

Key

-  - Spelling error
-  - Add punctuation
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Checklist

1.
2.
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4.
5.

Questions

What was Mr. Nitman’s “good holiday deed”?

If you could write a Christmas card to Mr. Nitman, what would it say?