

Name: _____

Surprise Party

By Kelly Hashway

Emma hung the streamers, not really paying attention to where she was placing them. She was too disappointed to focus. After all, it was her birthday too and no one in her class had even said happy birthday. They were all busy planning the surprise party for Mr. Stinton, the custodian.

Sure Mr. Stinton was great. He knew everyone's birthday and made cards and cookies for them. He high-fived you when you got an A on a test, and he offered encouragement when you didn't do as well as you'd wanted. Emma knew Mr. Stinton deserved a surprise party, but she wished just one person would have remembered it was her birthday too.

Emma glanced at the giant card the class had made. It was the length of the blackboard. Mr. Stinton wouldn't like it if they bought presents for him, so Emma had suggested the class make a card and bake goodies just like he did for them. She'd spent a lot of time planning the surprise party. She wanted Mr. Stinton to feel special.

"I'm going to call Mr. Stinton now," Mrs. Bowman said. "Emma will you turn off the lights please?"

Mrs. Bowman called Mr. Stinton saying the lights in the classroom had gone out. As soon as Mrs. Bowman hung up, Emma took one last look around the room and turned the lights off with a sigh.



Emma heard Mr. Stinton's boots thumping down the hallway. The doorknob turned and Emma flicked on the light. Everyone yelled, "Surprise!"

Mr. Stinton was surprised, but so was Emma. Mr. Stinton was carrying a bunch of balloons and a tray of cookies.

"A surprise party for me?" Mr. Stinton said. He walked over to the giant card. "This is the most beautiful card I've ever seen." He turned to Emma and handed her a card. "It makes my birthday card for you look kind of small." He gave Emma the balloons and the tray of cookies. "Happy birthday, Emma. I was so excited when I found out we have the same birthday."

"Happy birthday, Emma," her classmates said.

"I'm glad we share the same birthday, too," Emma said, smiling at Mr. Stinton.

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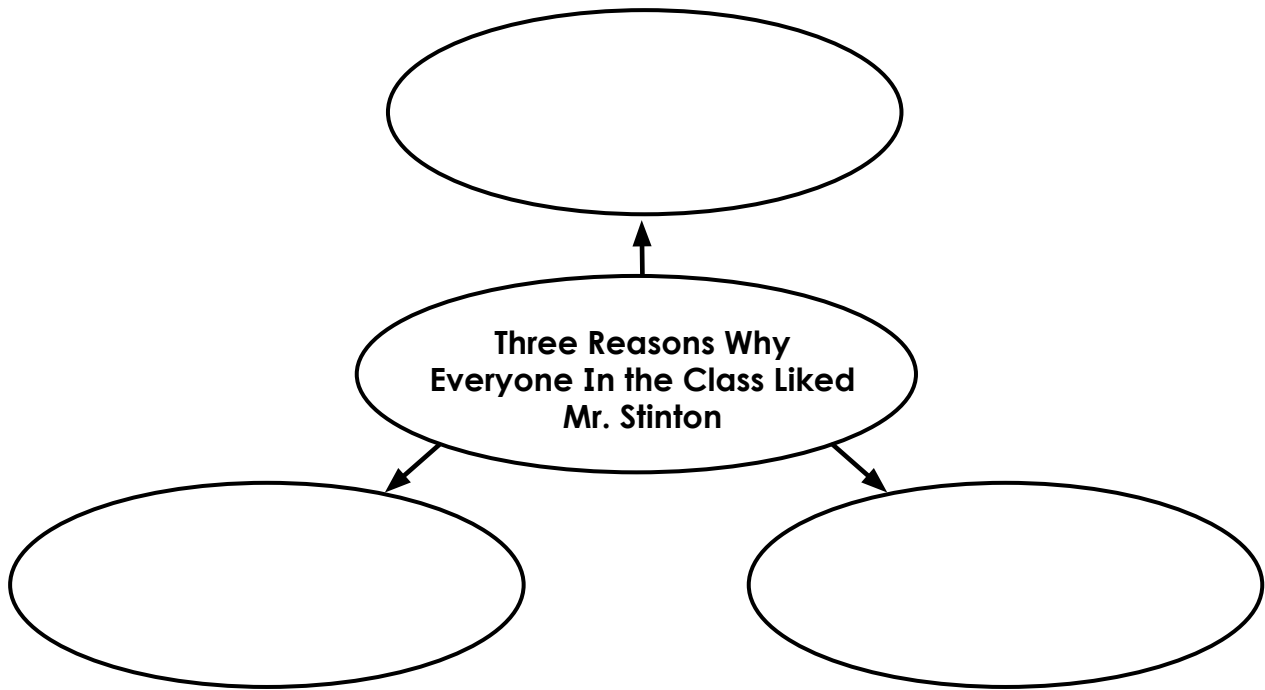
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1. Why was Emma disappointed in the beginning of the story?

2.



3. Approximately how large was Mr. Stinton's card?

- a. about two feet long
- b. about fifteen feet long
- c. about seventy feet long
- d. about twenty yards long

4. What is the author's purpose for writing this story?

- a. to teach readers how to throw a surprise party
- b. to persuade readers to throw surprise parties for school custodians
- c. to entertain us with a story about two people that share a birthday

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Part 1: Reread "Surprise Party" by Kelly Hashway.

As you read highlight the following vocabulary words in the story.

streamers	custodian	encouragement	
deserved	glanced	sigh	flicked

Part 2: Match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. streamers | a. positive, supportive words |
| _____ 2. custodian | b. turned a switch on or off |
| _____ 3. encouragement | c. breathe deeply and heavily |
| _____ 4. deserved | d. party decorations made from paper |
| _____ 5. glanced | e. looked quickly |
| _____ 6. sigh | f. person who takes care of a building |
| _____ 7. flicked | g. was worthy of |

Part 3: Use a vocabulary word from the list to complete each sentence.

8. Shannon _____ at her watch every few minutes.
9. The school _____ fixed the squeaky door.
10. Alex hung _____ in the house on his sister's birthday.

ANSWER KEY

Surprise Party

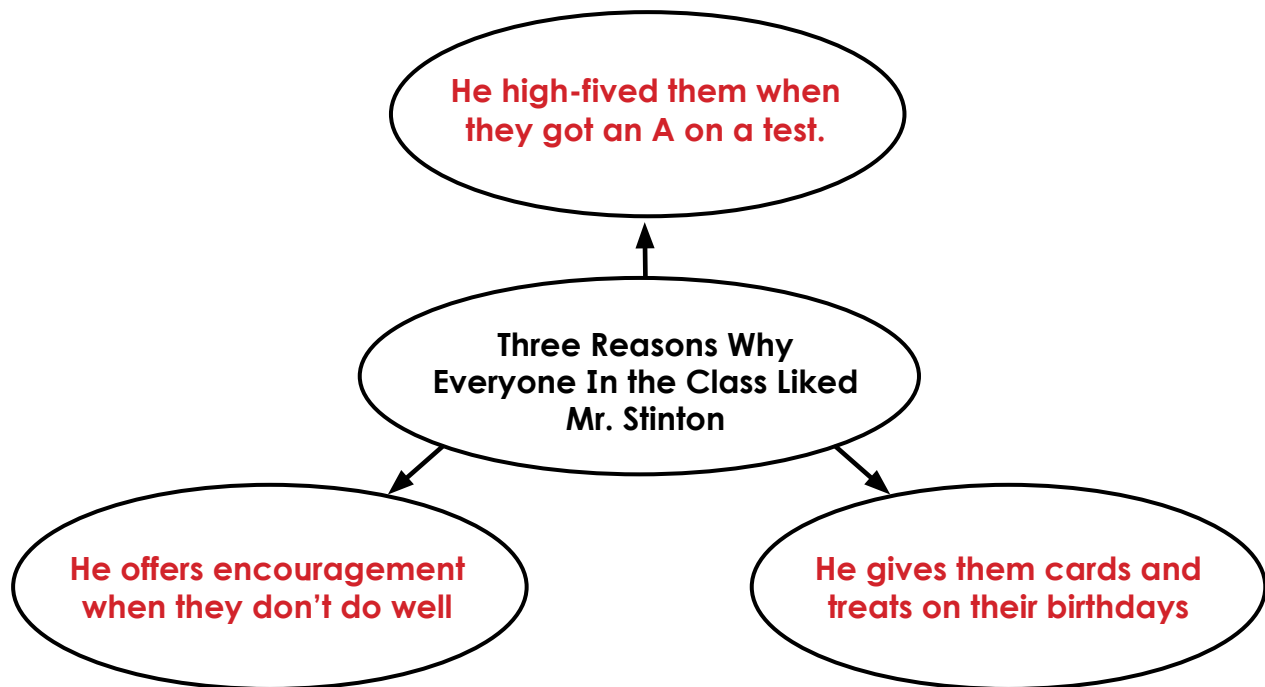
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