

ELA Practice Worksheet: The Mystery of the Missing Lunch

Story

(1) Lena sat at her desk, staring at her empty lunchbox. She had packed her favorite sandwich that morning—peanut butter and jelly on whole wheat with a side of grapes. But now, it was completely empty. Her eyes widened as she looked around the classroom.

(2) “Did anyone take my lunch by mistake?” she asked. A few classmates shook their heads. Lena wasn’t angry, but she was confused. She always placed her lunch in her cubby before morning announcements. Today was no different—or so she thought.

(3) She walked over to the cubby area and peeked into the next one over. Sure enough, there was a lunchbox that looked exactly like hers, except it had a blue zipper. Lena’s had a red zipper! She opened it carefully and saw a ham and cheese sandwich. Definitely not hers.

(4) Just then, Ms. Carter walked in. “Lena, I found your lunch in the teacher’s lounge,” she said with a smile. “It must’ve been placed on the wrong cart this morning.”

(5) Lena laughed and felt relieved. “Mystery solved!” she said. She gave Ms. Carter a thank-you hug and promised to double-check her lunch placement tomorrow.

Multiple Choice Questions

Why was Lena confused when she opened her lunchbox?

- A. She forgot what she packed
- B. The lunchbox was missing
- C. Her lunch was gone
- D. She found extra food inside

What does the word 'confused' most likely mean in paragraph 2?

- A. Happy and excited
- B. Lost and unsure
- C. Angry and upset
- D. Tired and bored

What helped Lena figure out the blue lunchbox wasn’t hers?

- A. It had a different sandwich
- B. It was in a different cubby
- C. It had a blue zipper, not red
- D. It had her name on it

Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

Lena packed a _____ and grapes in her lunch.

Ms. Carter found Lena's lunch in the _____.

Sequence of Events

Number the events from 1–4 in the order they happened:

___ Lena found a lunchbox with a blue zipper

___ Ms. Carter returned the lunch

___ Lena opened her empty lunchbox

___ Lena asked her classmates about the missing lunch

RACE Strategy Writing Prompt

Question: How did the character solve the problem in this story?

R - Restate the question: _____

A - Answer the question: _____

C - Cite evidence from the text: _____

E - Explain your answer: _____

Author's Purpose

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

- A. To inform the reader about something
- B. To persuade the reader to do something
- C. To entertain the reader with a story
- D. To describe how something works

Text Comparison

Part A: Think of another story you've read where a student solved a problem.

- What is one way the character in this story and the other character both solved a problem?
- What's something different about how they solved it?
- Do you think the two stories were written for the same or different purposes?

Your Response: _____

Part B: In this story, the character solves a problem in one way.

Write a paragraph about another story where the character solves the problem in a different way. What does that tell you about the characters in both stories?