



Pin the Tail on the What?

by Audge Podge

Joel was having a great time playing games at Sharlisa's party. He bobbed for apples faster than anyone else did. He successfully whacked the piñata, and a shower of candy rained over the children. He loved winning.

After eating cake, Sharlisa said, "Let us play pin the tail on the donkey. Really, though, we will be sticking the tail on with tape. Mom will not let us use pins because she worries too much. Anyway, who wants to go first?"

"I do," answered Josie, and Sharlisa blindfolded her and spun her around many times. After the dizziness wore off, Josie wandered around the living room and stuck the tail on a fish tank.

When Josie took her blindfold off, she rolled on the floor and laughed until her stomach hurt. Almost all the other children thought it was just as funny. Joel, however, was too busy thinking of ways to win.

"I will go next," Joel volunteered. Sharlisa blindfolded Joel and spun him around. As Joel became less dizzy, he started to walk. After a few minutes, he thought, *I must be close! I can feel it!*

With confidence, Joel finally stuck the tail to what he thought was the donkey. Then, the other children burst with laughter.

When Joel removed the blindfold, he saw that the tail was stuck to a mirror in Sharlisa's bedroom.

"Aw, man!" Joel shouted disappointedly.

"What is wrong, Joel?" asked Sharlisa.

"I missed the donkey," answered Joel.

"Winning is not everything, Joel," said Sharlisa. "Besides, how much fun would the game be if everyone put the tail on the donkey?"

"Yeah," agreed Josie. "The worse a player is at this game, the better!"

"Well, I guess this game is pretty funny," admitted Joel with a smile. "I guess I win at pinning the tail in the funniest place! Who would have thought I would stick the tail on a reflection of myself!"

How is Josie different from Joel?

- ☐ A. She does not take the game seriously.
- ☐ B. She bobs for apples faster.
- ☐ C. She is a much better friend to Sharlisa.
- ☐ D. She breaks the piñata on her first try.

Extended Learning - RL 4.3 Characters

"Shoo, go away!" Mrs. Chavez said, but Buddy, her next-door neighbor's poodle, kept barking at her and jumping around her legs. "You know I do not like dogs. Go on home!"

As Mrs. Chavez started to go into her house, Buddy's bark became more insistent.

"What is it that you want, you crazy dog?" Mrs. Chavez said.

At that point, Buddy ran toward the gate that separated Mrs. Chavez's yard from her neighbor, Mrs. Roswell. Then Buddy looked back at Mrs. Chavez expectantly.

That dog wants me to follow it for some reason, Mrs. Chavez thought. She started through the gate.

She had taken only a few steps toward her neighbor's house when she heard a faint call from inside the garage. "Help!" the voice called. "Is anyone out there? Can anyone help me?"

Mrs. Chavez rushed to the garage. "I am here, Dorothy!" she called. "What is wrong?"

"I am stuck in here," Mrs. Roswell called through the garage door. "The door is broken or something. I cannot push it up, and the other door has not been opened for so many years that it is completely stuck!"

"You hold on, I will go get someone who can help," Mrs. Chavez called. Then, she hurried back toward her house to call someone who could rescue Mrs. Roswell. As she passed by Buddy, who was sitting quietly now beside the garage, she reached down and patted his head. She thought to herself that she would remember to bring the ham bone left from last night's dinner when she came back with help.

How does Mrs. Chavez's attitude change from the beginning of the story to the end?

- ☐ A. She does not care for Buddy at the beginning, but she plans something nice for him at the end.
- ☐ B. She is afraid of dogs at the beginning, but she decides she wants one of her own by the end.
- ☐ C. She is impatient and in a hurry at the beginning, but she slows down and relaxes by the end.
- ☐ D. She is not a very good neighbor at the beginning, but she becomes a good neighbor by the end.