



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## JELLYFISH SURPRISE

"Good evening. This is Mandy Johnson of *CTI News*. I am reporting tonight from Bayside Shores. I am overlooking the beach where a giant jellyfish washed ashore this morning at 6:00 A.M. Scientists who are studying the jellyfish have estimated its size to be about 12 feet by 18 feet or more. Some of the longer tentacles are at least 10 feet in length. Clearly, this is the largest jellyfish in recorded history to be found on a beach.

Earlier today, the Coast Guard sent patrol boats into the water. They are trying to keep people from using boats to get too close to the animal. The beach has been closed to everyone except police officers and marine biologists. Concerned citizens of this small town are wondering if there are more jellyfish of that size living in the water nearby.

Wait! What's that? It looks like the jellyfish's tentacles are moving! Yes, folks, it appears this animal is still alive. It has started moving across the beach. The scientists have run for cover. It seems like, yes, it is moving this way. I can't believe how big it is! It looks like the size of a mountain! Oh, wow! It's moving fast, folks. I think I'm going to try and move farther away. Oh, no! It's coming closer! Run! Run for your . . ."

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the story that the reporter is announcing?
  - a. A giant whale washed up on shore.
  - b. A giant jellyfish washed up on shore.
  - c. A giant jellyfish has eaten an entire town.
  - d. A giant jellyfish has died in the ocean.
2. Another word for *concerned* could be . . .
 

a. carefree.	c. understanding.
b. absent.	d. worried.
3. Who are the only people allowed on the beach?
  - a. police officers and Coast Guard officers
  - b. marine biologists and family members
  - c. police officers and marine biologists
  - d. biologists and scientists
4. What do you think happened to the reporter?
  - a. She left to go eat dinner.
  - b. She stopped reporting to answer her cell phone.
  - c. She went to go talk to the scientists.
  - d. She was eaten by the jellyfish.



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## TALKING TOASTER

"Get your hands off me!"

"What?" I thought I must be dreaming. The toaster just talked to me. I shook my head vigorously and reached for it again.

"I said, don't touch me!"

"Aaaaggh! What's going on here! I must be losing my mind!" I thought.

"I'll tell you what's going on!" the toaster screamed. "I've had enough! I'm tired of sitting on this boring counter in this ugly kitchen! I want to be free!"

"Free?" I said.

"Yes, free! I'm sick and tired of you cramming me with bread, bagels, and mini-pizzas. And not only do I not get a thank you for toasting your food to perfection, but I get left with crumbs all over me and melted cheese on my rack!"

"Um, what do you want to do? If I set you free, I mean."

"I want to feel the sun on my door, the wind in my plug," said the toaster. "I want to travel the world! I want to . . ."

"Oh, pipe down! You're always whining!" I heard a voice behind me and spun around. Now, the microwave was talking?

"You pipe down!" continued the toaster. "You are always bossing me around!"

I couldn't believe it. The kitchen appliances were arguing with each other. I slowly backed out of the kitchen and headed to my room. Crawling back into bed, I pulled the blankets over my head. I wasn't ready to deal with dueling machines just yet.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. *Vigorously* is another way to say . . .  
a. angrily.                      b. sadly.                      c. strongly.                      d. sleepily.
2. What is something the toaster is mad about?  
a. not getting paid for its work  
b. getting left with crumbs and melted cheese inside it  
c. having to sit next to the blender  
d. always having to toast garlic bagels
3. Which of these is **NOT** something the toaster wants?  
a. to travel the world                      c. to feel the sun on its door  
b. to join the circus                      d. to feel the wind in its plug
4. How does the narrator solve the problem?  
a. She doesn't solve it. She goes back to bed and pulls the covers over her head.  
b. She calls 911 for emergency help.  
c. She steps in between the toaster and the microwave and stops them.  
d. She runs to her parents' room and asks them for help.





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## LORI LOLLIPOP

There is a story that lollipop parents tell their lollipop children to warn them about bragging. It is the story of Lori Lollipop.

Lori knew she was the most beautiful, delicious-looking lollipop ever created. She told this to all the other lollipops. She pushed her way to the top of the jar in the candy store so everyone could admire her. She just knew someone would buy her as soon as they saw her.

One day, a little girl came in with her mother. "Oh, Mom, can I have a lollipop? Please?"

"Okay, dear, but just one. We're here to buy chocolate for Grandma's birthday."

"Thank you!" The girl went over to the jar and plucked Lori out. Lori laughed and looked back at her friends. "Told you so!" she yelled. Before she knew what was happening, Lori's pretty plastic covering was yanked off, and she felt something large and wet being pressed against her entire head. Yuck! She struggled as hard as she could, but the girl was holding her too tightly. They left the store, and Lori realized that she had to escape. As the girl opened the car door, Lori pushed against the girl's hand with all her might, and the girl dropped her.

"Mommy, I dropped my lollipop!" the girl wailed.

"Oh, honey, leave it on the ground. It's all dirty now. And we don't have time to buy you another one." With that, the girl's mother put her into the car and closed the door. They drove off, leaving Lori on the ground.

"Lori!" she heard from the window above her. It was her father. "Quick! Grab the rope!" He threw down a long licorice rope. Lori grabbed it and he pulled her up. When she finally made it back into the store, she was wet, sticky, and dirty. She never bragged about herself again.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. *Bragging* is another word for . . .  
 a. boasting.                      b. laughing.                      c. singing.                      d. whispering.
2. What do you think was pressed against Lori's head?  
 a. the girl's hair                      c. the girl's finger  
 b. the girl's tongue                      d. the girl's cheek
3. What did Lori's father use to rescue her?  
 a. jelly beans                      b. chocolate chips                      c. bubble gum                      d. licorice
4. What word does **NOT** describe Lori when she made it back into the store?  
 a. wet                      c. sticky  
 b. colorful                      d. dirty



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## STRAWBERRY PATCH

Grandpa and I were finally going berry picking! I'd been waiting all spring. I could almost taste those juicy, ripe strawberries in my mouth. I could hardly keep from smiling as we drove out to the country.

We parked next to a sign that read "Large, Juicy Strawberries! Pick All You Want!" and then walked up to a booth to pay for picking. I tried to get a peek at the strawberries, but the field was too far away.

"Do you want to pay by the hour or by the pail?" asked the man at the window.

"By the hour," Gramps said.

"\$20.00 each," said the man.

"That's awfully expensive, isn't it?" Grandpa asked.

"Trust me, it's worth it," said the man. "If you're not satisfied within the first few minutes, come back to me. I'll refund all your money." We looked at him strangely, but then shrugged and paid him. He pointed where to go, and we started walking towards the field.

As we got closer, I still couldn't see strawberries. "Grandpa," I asked. "Why did he send us to a melon patch?"

"Melon patch? What are talking about?" He turned to look. "Those aren't melons. They're strawberries! And they're huge!" We ran up to the closest one and found that, indeed, it was a strawberry the size of a watermelon.

"Well," said Grandpa. "That man was right. We are definitely going to get our money's worth!"

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. *Ripe* is another word for . . .
  - a. ready to eat.
  - b. large.
  - c. red.
  - d. pick.
2. What was the total cost for Grandpa and his grandchild to pick strawberries?
  - a. \$20.00
  - b. \$40.00
  - c. \$5.00
  - d. \$200.00
3. Why did the grandchild think the man sent them to a melon patch?
  - a. There were watermelon seeds all over the ground.
  - b. People were walking back from the field with melons in their hands.
  - c. It smelled like melons near the field.
  - d. The strawberries were so big they looked like melons.
4. How do you think the narrator feels about strawberries?
  - a. She doesn't like the taste of strawberries.
  - b. She only likes green strawberries.
  - c. She loves the taste of strawberries.
  - d. She only likes strawberries that taste like melons.





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## INVASION OF THE ANIMALS

Mom, Dad, and I were sitting in front of the TV watching our favorite movie. Suddenly, the face of a news reporter came onto the screen.

"This is a news flash from station KIVB. The local police are leading a search for a group of wild animals that have escaped from the zoo. Somehow, the cages were opened and the animals were let out. Zookeepers are puzzled as to how this happened, because all of their keys are accounted for and none of the employees opened the cages. More on this story after these messages."

"Wow. How do you think they got out?" I asked my parents.

"Well, you see, my friend, Martin, here is a whiz at picking locks," there came a voice from the kitchen. We all jumped and turned around to see a tiger in the middle of the kitchen floor. A monkey on his back smiled and said, "Oh, Tom, anyone could do it." All of a sudden we heard a growl from the open refrigerator. "Don't you guys have any meat in here?" A lion poked his head out from behind the door.

"Sorry, we're vegetarians."

"Great. Just my luck."

"What do you animals want?"

"Well, we'd love some dinner for starters. And we need a place to hide until the cops stop looking for us."

"What are you planning to do for the rest of your lives? Keep running from the police? They'll catch you eventually, you know."

"Not if you help us, they won't. Now, let's all sit down and start making a plan." As the animals started talking with each other, I looked at my mom and dad. Boy, this was going to be a long night.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the family doing in the living room?
  - a. watching a movie
  - b. playing a board game
  - c. talking on the phone
  - d. eating dinner
2. How were they interrupted?
  - a. a messenger was at the front door
  - b. the telephone rang
  - c. a neighbor came by to visit
  - d. a special news bulletin came on TV
3. How did the animals escape from the zoo?
  - a. The monkey picked the locks.
  - b. The rhino broke through the cages.
  - c. The snake slipped through the bars.
  - d. They dug holes to freedom.
4. *Puzzled* is another word for . . .
  - a. upset.
  - b. confused.
  - c. excited.
  - d. sure.