DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

NEIGHBORLY GHOSTS

Mary Beth had gone to spend the summer with her aunt. Aunt Lyddie had bought a very old house that was haunted. Mary Beth was both excited and nervous at the possibility of sleeping in a haunted house.

The first night, Mary Beth saw a figure in the mirror. It was just a glimpse, but she was sure she saw it. Aunt Lyddie saw a ghost in the pantry. Night after night, the sightings continued.

One morning over breakfast, Mary Beth asked, "Aunt Lyddie, are you afraid of the ghosts?"

"Oh, maybe a little bit, but it's all very exciting to own a haunted house," she said.

Mary Beth thought about that and then asked, "Why are the ghosts here? What do they want?"

"That's a very good question," responded Aunt Lyddie. "I intend to ask the museum curator when he makes a visit later today."

A few hours later, the museum curator came to the door. He came to examine some old artifacts Aunt Lyddie had found in the basement.

Aunt Lyddie couldn't wait a minute longer. "Tell us about the ghosts that live in this house."

"This house?" asked the curator. "This house isn't haunted. It's actually the house next door that's haunted."

"Oh," replied Aunt Lyddie as the curator left. Mary Beth was looking out the window. "Oh, look, Aunt Lyddie, I think I see a ghost in the neighbor's garden." That raised Aunt Lyddie's spirits, and off they

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *spirits* as used in this passage?
   a. ghosts
   b. trances
   c. feelings
   d. extraterrestrial beings
2. Which of the following traits best describes Aunt Lyddie?
   a. punctual
   b. scared
   c. shy
   d. adventurous
3. What is another good title for this story passage?
   a. "The Vacant House"
   b. "Haunted Happenings"
   c. "Mary Beth Learns Her Lesson"
   d. "The Ghosts Next Door"

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 4

Name _____ Date _____

LOST OWNER

Taylor and Gwen were excited the afternoon they found a lost dog. The dog was white and fluffy with thick fur. The girls had been hanging signs up around their apartment building trying to find the owner, but they didn't really want to find the owner.

"Lost dog," called Taylor.

The next morning, the dog followed Taylor to school. Taylor had to call her mom to come and get it. Gwen took the dog with her on her paper route that afternoon, asking customers if they recognized the dog.

That evening, they couldn't find the dog. The girls searched everywhere in the apartment, but the dog was missing. Just then, they heard a knock at the door. Mother opened the door to find a man standing there. "What can I do for you?" she asked.

"I've lost my white dog. I've searched for days and can't find it," he explained.

Taylor and Gwen's heart sank. "We used to know where it was," explained Mother, "but it has since vanished."

The man went on. "Well, would you be interested in the dog? Our family is moving, and we have to get rid of it. I wish I could have found the dog a home before we left."

"Yes!" screamed the girls. "The dog has a home here!"

"That is, if you can find the dog," reminded Mother.

"That's great," said the man, and he headed outside. The girls began searching again for the dog. That is, they began searching for *their* dog.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to the story, Taylor and Gwen are . . .
   a. bored and frustrated.
   b. hesitant about finding the owner.
   c. friends with the dog.
   d. going shopping when they find the owner.
2. Which paragraph first explains Taylor and Gwen's relationship?
   a. seventh paragraph
   b. first paragraph
   c. fourth paragraph
   d. third paragraph
3. At the end of the passage, Taylor and Gwen felt . . .
   a. disappointed.
   b. excited.
   c. frustrated.
   d. exhausted.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 5

Name _____ Date _____

DINNER BY FIRELIGHT

Brett had told his mom that he would cook dinner tonight, but he wished he had chosen a different night. He had tons of homework and a science experiment to do. But there was no getting out of it. He had made a commitment.

Brett decided on frozen dinners. While fixing dinner, Brett was also doing his science experiment. He measured vinegar into a beaker and then added baking soda. The resulting explosion sent fluffy white stuff all over the counter. Brett tried to mop up the mess with paper towels before his mom walked in.

Brett turned around just in time to miss a paper towel catching on fire. It didn't take long for the small fire to catch onto some of the trash on the counter.

Brett's mother walked in at that moment. "What," she screamed,"is that?!"

Confused, Brett turned around to see the fire on the counter. "Well, that's my science experiment . . . I mean, dinner!"

Brett and his mom hastily put out the fire, grabbing water and dishtowels to extinguish it.

"Whew!" called Mom as she rested her head on the table. "This has definitely been a long day."

Brett's heart was still pounding. He placed a wet dishtowel over his arm and picked up what was left of the frozen dinner.

"Your dinner is served," said Brett as he took a bow.

His mother laughed and laughed. Brett went to get the phone number for pizza delivery.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which words best describe how Brett was feeling at the beginning of the passage?
   a. nervous and afraid
   b. happy and content
   c. relieved and afraid
   d. stressed and overwhelmed

2. Which sentence explains the problem in the story?
   a. Brett's mother walked in at that moment.
   b. He had tons of homework and a science experiment to do, but he had committed to making dinner.
   c. His mother laughed and laughed.
   d. Brett tried to mop up the mess with paper towels before his mom walked in.

3. What did Brett do that seemed to relax his mother in the situation?
   a. He tried to scare her.
   b. He was trying to defend himself.
   c. He used his sense of humor.
   d. He was trying to explain what happened.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 6

Name _____ Date _____

MY SHADOW

Cade went to his locker to get out his books. Standing beside his locker was a boy Cade didn't recognize. Cade shut his locker and headed for class. On the way, he glanced behind him and could see the boy following him.

"Hey! What's up?" asked Cade's friend, Brian. Brian slapped Cade on the back while Cade hurried to his seat. The boy found a seat in the back.

The next hour things went the same. The boy followed Cade to his locker and then sat in the back of Cade's class. Cade was scared. Was he being stalked? He kept his eyes on the boy during lunch in the cafeteria. The boy kept looking at Cade.

After lunch, Cade got dressed for P.E. The boy stayed close to Cade the entire time. By this time, Cade had had it. He dropped the ball and marched out of the gym. When he got to the principal's office, he asked to speak to the principal. Mr. Jones stepped out of his office and motioned for Cade to come in.

Cade didn't waste a second, "Mr. Jones, there is a kid who is stalking me. He's been following me all day long. It's starting to freak me out." Principal Jones started chuckling. Cade interrupted, "Mr. Jones, this isn't laughing matter!"

"Did you forget that you signed up to mentor a new student?" asked Mr. Jones calmly.

The realization of what had happened flooded through Cade. He jumped up and ran out the door.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the problem in this story?
   a. Cade doesn't know the name of the boy.
   b. Cade doesn't know why the boy is following him.
   c. Cade doesn't know why the boy doesn't introduce himself.
   d. Cade doesn't know why he is feeling so scared of the boy.
2. After reading the passage, which of the following statements would be something Cade would say?
   a. "Leave me alone!"
   b. "The principal better explain what's going on."
   c. "I wonder why this kid is following me."
   d. "Get away from me!"
3. Why did Cade jump up and run out of the principal's office?
   a. He was happy to get the kid off his back.
   b. He realized the mistake he had made and wanted to fix it.
   c. He was going to yell at the boy for following him.
   d. He was afraid to get a tardy in his next class.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 7

Name _____ Date _____

THE DOG ATE IT

"Where is it?" hollered Allison as she tossed pillows to the floor. "I have lost my homework again," she groaned.

"Calm down, Allison, you are freaking me out again. When you yell like that, I think something serious has happened," said her sister Katie.

Allison raced down the stairs, trying to find her backpack. "The teacher is going to give me an 'F' this time for sure," she yelled.

"Did you check in Dad's truck?" asked Katie.

Dad was just pulling out of the driveway. Allison went racing down the driveway waving her arms. It was too late: Dad sped off.

"Well, I hope it wasn't in there," panted Allison. She decided to check the laundry room. Sometimes she left her backpack in there as she came through the garage. She opened the door just in time to see their dog Snoopy leave a mess on the floor.

"Oh, Snoopy! How could you?" asked Allison as she began to clean up the mess. By the time she finished, she knew she only had a few minutes before the bus came around the corner.

"Katie! Help!" Allison was starting to panic. Katie calmly looked in closets, under beds, in the laundry chute, and on the dresser. She couldn't find it anywhere. "Allison's going to have to learn from this one," thought Katie as she put on her shoes. As she walked to the bus stop, Katie could hear Allison's shrieks and howls throughout the neighborhood.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does the phrase *"freaking me out"* mean as used in this story?
   a. You are annoying me.
   b. You are acting smarter than me.
   c. You are making me sick.
   d. You are scaring me.
2. Which sentence below explains the problem in this story?
   a. Dad was just pulling out of the driveway.
   b. "When you yell like that, I think something serious has happened."
   c. "I have lost my homework again," she groaned.
   d. Sometimes she left her backpack in there as she came through the garage.
3. What would be another good title for this story passage?
   a. "Helping Allison"
   b. "Allison Goes Crazy"
   c. "What a Mess!"
   d. "Lost, Not Found"

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 8

Name _____ Date _____

THE BIG BUCK

Kenny loved to go hunting with his dad. It was a tradition, as they went every year. They planned their strategy each year hoping to catch the big buck.

This year, Kenny was old enough to get his own deer tag. He had passed the gun-safety classes offered for his age group. He was ready for this year's hunt like never before.

Kenny's dad went through the trees just ahead of him. They had seen some evidence of deer just over the hill, and they knew they were closing in on the search. All was quiet in the forest. Just then, a rustle was heard through the thicket. Kenny dashed through as quickly as he could. He had his hand on his rifle, ready to release at any moment. His dad veered off to the right, but Kenny stayed on the trail. He thought he caught a glimpse of some antlers through the trees.

There was another noise off to the left, and Kenny scurried on. His heart was pounding in his ears. Before he took another step, Kenny looked up and gasped. Standing directly above him was the big buck.

The buck was pawing the ground with his hoof, as if challenging Kenny. Kenny saw the rack of antlers swaying with weight. This was the moment of a lifetime. Kenny clutched his rifle again. He could not take his eyes off the buck. The two stared at each other. Kenny couldn't decide whether to shoot the deer or let it go.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Who is the main character in this story?
   a. Kenny
   b. Kenny's dad
   c. the big buck
2. Which sentence explains the problem in the story?
   a. The buck was pawing the ground with his hoof, as if challenging Kenny.
   b. Kenny couldn't decide whether to shoot the deer or let it go.
   c. He could not take his eyes off the buck.
   d. His heart was pounding in his ears.
3. Where is the setting of the story?
   a. in a cabin
   b. in the woods
   c. on a rock
   d. in the mountains

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 9

Name _____ Date _____

THE RACE

Evan raced down the mountain as quickly as he could. He was determined to beat Steve to the bottom of the hill. As Evan swerved in and out of the skiers, he clenched his teeth. There was no time for a wreck today. Besides, his back still hurt from last week's wreck. The wind was now starting to pick up.

A skier yelled at Evan because he cut him off. Evan wondered if it was worth the risk. He felt like his time was quicker than last time—but was it enough to beat Steve?

Evan crossed over to where the ski runs merged back together. He glanced over his shoulder to see if Steve was behind him. No such luck.

"Where is he?" wondered Evan.

There was one more jump in the run that Evan had to make before he was home free. As he approached the jump, he saw a group of people standing around with other people sitting on the ground. Evan didn't have time to get a good look. He had his eyes set on the finish line. There was still no sign of Steve. He wasn't at the finish line waiting. That was unusual.

After stopping at the finish to catch his breath, Evan finally allowed himself to believe he had won the race! Only then did he look up at the crowd to see his friend Steve walking down the hill on crutches.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. According to the story, Steve and Evan are . . .
   a. friends.
   b. interesting.
   c. related.
   d. children.
2. Which sentence from the story would help you answer the previous question?
   a. Evan raced down the mountain as quickly as he could.
   b. He was determined to beat Steve to the bottom of the hill.
   c. A skier yelled at Evan because he cut him off.
   d. Only then did he look up at the crowd to see his friend Steve walking down the hill on crutches.
3. Why didn't Evan think that Steve might be hurt?
   a. Evan didn't really care about Steve but about winning.
   b. That would be unusual for Steve because he was such a good skier.
   c. Steve had told Evan he would meet him at a certain place.
   d. none of the above

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 10

Name _____ Date _____

IT'S ALL DOWNHILL

For her birthday, Carol had gotten a brand new scooter. Today was the day she decided to try it. She grabbed her library books and put them in her backpack. Carol began peddling down the hill towards the library. This was going to be a great day!

But Carol didn't realize that the hill was longer than it seemed. As she continued down the hill, she began going faster and faster. She also began to realize how little she knew about using a scooter.

On her bike, this trip was easy. Carol would just put a little pressure on her brakes to slow down. There wasn't a brake on her scooter. She was afraid to put her foot down on the scooter for fear that she would hit the ground and fly through the air.

Swoosh! The wheels were clicking, and Carol was starting to panic. How was she going to stop? Click, click, click . . .

Carol noticed a big bump in the road. She tried to remember if she should hit the bump aggressively or timidly.

Bump! The bump sent her flying through the air. This was going to be a rough ending. Things were going from bad to worse. She could see a car coming from her right. With her luck, she would probably hit the intersection at the exact same moment. Panic raced through Carol's body.

"How can I slow the scooter down?" she thought. Thoughts were racing through her mind.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did Carol feel about her scooter at the beginning of the passage?
   a. embarrassed
   b. excited
   c. frustrated
   d. expectant
2. Which paragraph would help you answer the previous question?
   a. second paragraph
   b. first paragraph
   c. fourth paragraph
   d. none of the above
3. What is the meaning of the word *aggressively* as used in the passage?
   a. forcefully
   b. quietly
   c. loudly
   d. angrily

LIVEWORKSHEETS