My Summer

DIRECTIONS
Read the story, and complete the activity on page 3.

1 "Nevaeh! I missed you!" said Minga. "What did you do this summer?"

2 There it was—the most **popular** question on the first day of school. Before I could answer, she started talking again.

popular: widespread or common

3 "I went to Cape Verde," said Minga." My father was born there. We go every year. We stayed on the island of Sal. The beaches were great, but the flight was so long. So annoying. You know what that's like."

4 The farthest I've ever flown was from Boston to Pittsburgh. I didn't say anything out loud, but I had no idea what it was like to fly across the ocean.

5 Lucas heard us talking and came over to tell us about his sleepaway camp. "I was there for two whole weeks. My favorite part was **archery**. Turns out I'm pretty good with a bow and arrow."

archery: the sport of using a bow to shoot arrows

6 I went to summer camp last year, but that was just at the park down the street from my house. I was glad when Lisette joined us. I saw her over the summer, so I knew she didn't go anywhere.

7 "My Grandma spent the day with me every Wednesday," said Lisette. "The two of us have so much fun together!"

8 Minga went to Cape Verde. Lucas went to sleepaway camp. Lisette didn't go away over the summer, but she still made her summer sound fun.

9 I watched my little brother all summer. My mother worked from home, so it was my job to keep him busy while she worked. How could I tell the truth and still make my summer sound exciting?

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10 I started thinking fast. I was ready when Minga asked me about my summer again.

11 "This was the most **responsible** summer I've ever had. I taught my little brother math. We made it fun by doing things like counting toys and stacking boxes. I've decided to be a math teacher when I grow up."

responsible: in charge of an important task

12 "Wow," said Lucas.

13 "Pretty amazing," said Lisette.

14 "What a summer!" said Minga.

15 I guess it was a pretty good summer, after all.

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Describing a Narrator's Point of View

What does the narrator, Nevaeh, say in each paragraph? Write her words in the middle column of the chart. Then, describe Nevaeh's thoughts and feelings paragraph in the right column.

Paragraph	What Nevaeh Says	Nevaeh's Thoughts and Feelings
6		
8		
9		
15		

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Cousins' Café

DIRECTIONS
Read the story, and complete the activity on page 6.

1 It was Saturday night, Cousins' Night at Vovo's house. For the four cousins, Saturday was the best night of the week. They loved spending time with their grandmother and each other.

2 Alli and Hayden were in the living room. They were taking turns with the **karaoke**. And Terza was the judge.

karaoke: a machine that plays music so people can sing along

3 "Really?" said Terza, with a smile in her eyes. "Nobody told me I was going to be judging a No-Talent Show!"

4 Hayden couldn't help but laugh. He knew he couldn't hold a tune. One of the things he loved about Cousins' Night is that he didn't have to worry about being perfect. His cousins loved him, flaws and all.

5 Alli sang first. She chose her song and then took the mic. Right away, she began tapping her feet. She sang in a sweet, high voice. Alli loved to sing, and she didn't care who was listening.

6 But not all the cousins liked karaoke. Mia was happiest in the kitchen with Vovo. They were making gufong – Cape Verdean fried dough.

7 Mia mashed the bananas while her grandmother made the sugar water mix. She measured the cornmeal and flour and mixed everything in a bowl.

8 Mia took a bit of the dough and rolled it out like a stick. "Like this?" she asked.

9 Vovo kissed Mia on the top of her head. "Just like that," she said.

10 Mia loved Vovo's company, her cooking, and her kisses. Mia rolled out more dough. Vovo dropped the pieces into a pan of hot oil. As the dough **sizzled**, the smell **wafted** through the house. It drew Alli, Hayden, and Terza into the kitchen.

sizzled: made a frying noise

wafted: carried along lightly

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11 "Mia, we missed you during karaoke," said Hayden.

12 "Yeah, we needed someone who could sing," said Terza, giving Hayden a grin.

13 "I was perfecting my gufong skills," said Mia. "I'm going to open a restaurant when I grow up."

14 "We could help you," said Alli. "You could call it 'The Cousins' Café'!" She pictured Vovo and the cousins working in a busy, happy restaurant.

15 Vovo handed each cousin a piece of gufong. Mia and Vovo smiled at each other. They knew there could be no sweeter place than 'The Cousins' Café.'

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Describe the Characters' Points of View

The narrator in this story tells about several characters' thoughts and feelings. Write the narrator's words in the middle column of the chart. Then, describe the character's point of view in the right column.

Character	Character's Thoughts and Feelings	Character's Point of View
Hayden		
Alli		
Mia		

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