

The Rootabaga Stories

Name: _____

The Rootabaga Stories is a collection of short stories by Carl Sandburg in 1922. He wrote the stories for his three daughters. Below is the beginning of one of the stories.

The Wedding Procession of the Rag Doll and the Broom Handle and Who Was in It

by Carl Sandburg

The Rag Doll had many friends. The Whisk Broom, the Furnace Shovel, the Coffee Pot, they all liked the Rag Doll very much.

But when the Rag Doll married, it was the Broom Handle she picked because the Broom Handle fixed her eyes.

A proud child, proud but careless, banged the head of the Rag Doll against a door one day and knocked off both the glass eyes sewed on long ago. It was then the Broom Handle found two black California prunes, and fastened the two California prunes just where the eyes belonged. So then the Rag Doll had two fine black eyes brand new. She was even nicknamed Black Eyes by some people.

There was a wedding when the Rag Doll married the Broom Handle. It was a grand wedding with one of the grandest processions ever seen at a rag doll wedding. And we are sure no broom handle ever had a grander wedding procession when he got married.

Who marched in the procession? Well, first came the Spoon Lickers. Every one of them had a tea spoon, or a soup spoon, though most of them had a big table spoon. On the spoons, what did they have? Oh, some had butter scotch, some had gravy, some had marshmallow fudge. Every one had something slickery sweet or fat to eat on the spoon. And as they marched in the wedding procession of the Rag Doll and the Broom Handle, they licked their spoons and looked around and licked their spoons again.

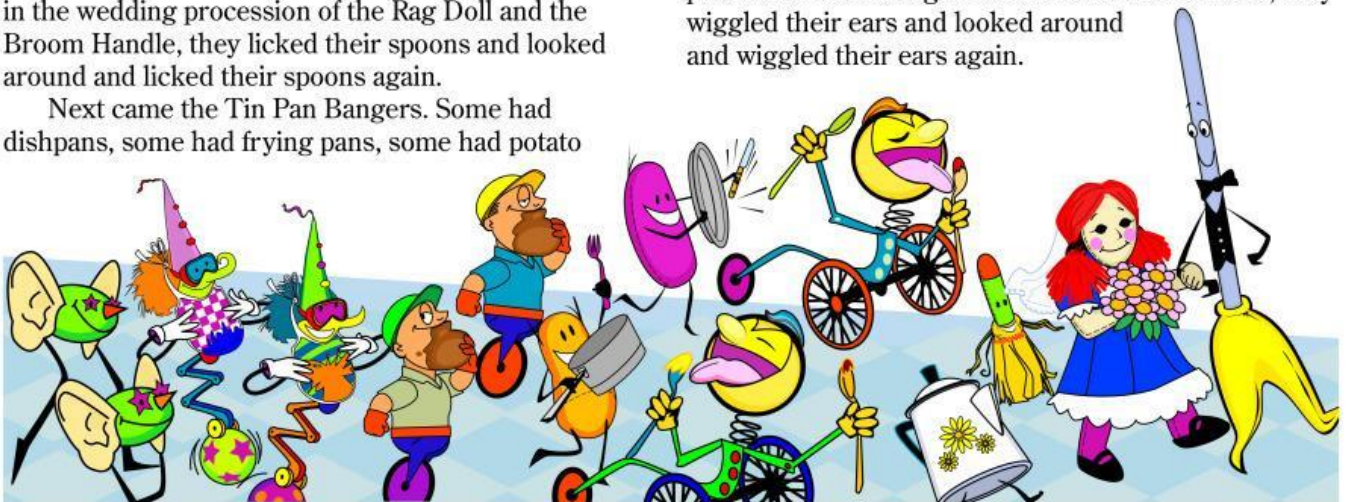
Next came the Tin Pan Bangers. Some had dishpans, some had frying pans, some had potato

peeling pans. All the pans were tin with tight tin bottoms. And the Tin Pan Bangers banged with knives and forks and iron and wooden bangers on the bottoms of the tin pans. And as they marched in the wedding procession of the Rag Doll and the Broom Handle they banged their pans and looked around and banged again.

Then came the Chocolate Chins. They were all eating chocolates. And the chocolate was slippery and slickered all over their chins. Some of them spattered the ends of their noses with black chocolate. Some of them spread the brown chocolate nearly up to their ears. And then as they marched in the wedding procession of the Rag Doll and the Broom Handle they stuck their chins in the air and looked around and stuck their chins in the air again.

Then came the Dirty Bibs. They wore plain white bibs, checker bibs, stripe bibs, blue bibs and bibs with butterflies. But all the bibs were dirty. The plain white bibs were dirty, the checker bibs were dirty, the stripe bibs, the blue bibs and the bibs with butterflies on them, they were all dirty. And so in the wedding procession of the Rag Doll and the Broom Handle, the Dirty Bibs marched with their dirty fingers on the bibs and they looked around and laughed and looked around and laughed again.

Next came the Clean Ears. They were proud. How they got into the procession nobody knows. Their ears were all clean. They were clean not only on the outside but they were clean on the inside. There was not a speck of dirt or dust or muss or mess on the inside nor the outside of their ears. And so in the wedding procession of the Rag Doll and the Broom Handle, they wiggled their ears and looked around and wiggled their ears again.



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Name: _____

Do You Understand?

Part I. Short Answer

Answer each question below.

1. How did Rag Doll lose her eyes? _____
2. Who fixed Rag Doll's eyes? _____
3. What are Rag Doll's eyes made of now? _____
4. What was Rag Doll's nickname? _____
5. Why was there a procession? _____



Part II

In the passage there were five groups in the procession. They were the Spoon Lickers, the Tin Pan Bangers, the Chocolate Chins, the Dirty Bibs, and the Clean Ears. Write the correct group for each description below.

1. Used knives and forks _____
2. Had something sweet or fat _____
3. Wiggled something _____
4. Had chocolate on the end of their noses _____
5. Laughed as they looked around _____



Words in The Rootabaga Stories

I. Vocabulary Match

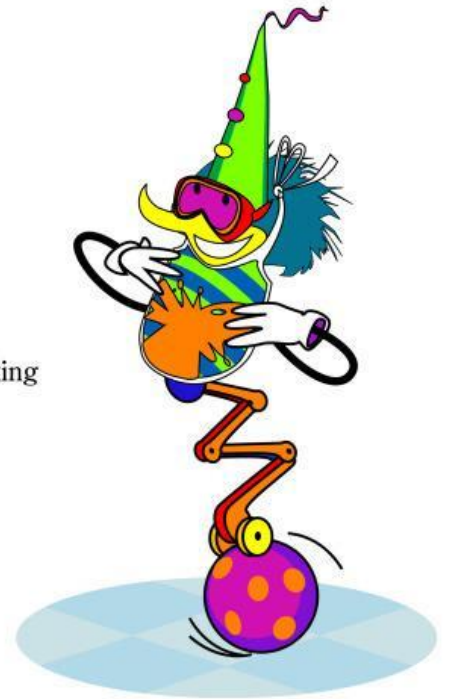
Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B

Column A

1. _____ careless
2. _____ nicknamed
3. _____ procession
4. _____ tin
5. _____ splattered
6. _____ checker
7. _____ speck
8. _____ muss

Column B

- A. a type of metal
- B. squares of different colors
- C. thoughtless or without thinking
- D. splashed
- E. a little spot
- F. parade
- G. untidy or messy
- H. given a special name



II. Meaning in the Text

Some of the words in the text are made from regular words that have been changed to funny words. Below are some of these words. Circle the correct meaning of the underlined word.

1. "Well, first came the Spoon Lickers."

A. people who like spoons B. people who look like spoons C. people who lick spoons

2. "Every one had something slickery sweet or fat..."

A. slippery and sticky B. soft and light C. ugly and dark

3. "Tin Pan Bangers banged with knives and forks and iron and wooden bangers..."

A. clumsy people B. people who hit something C. sausages

4. "...the chocolate was slippery and slickered all over their chins."

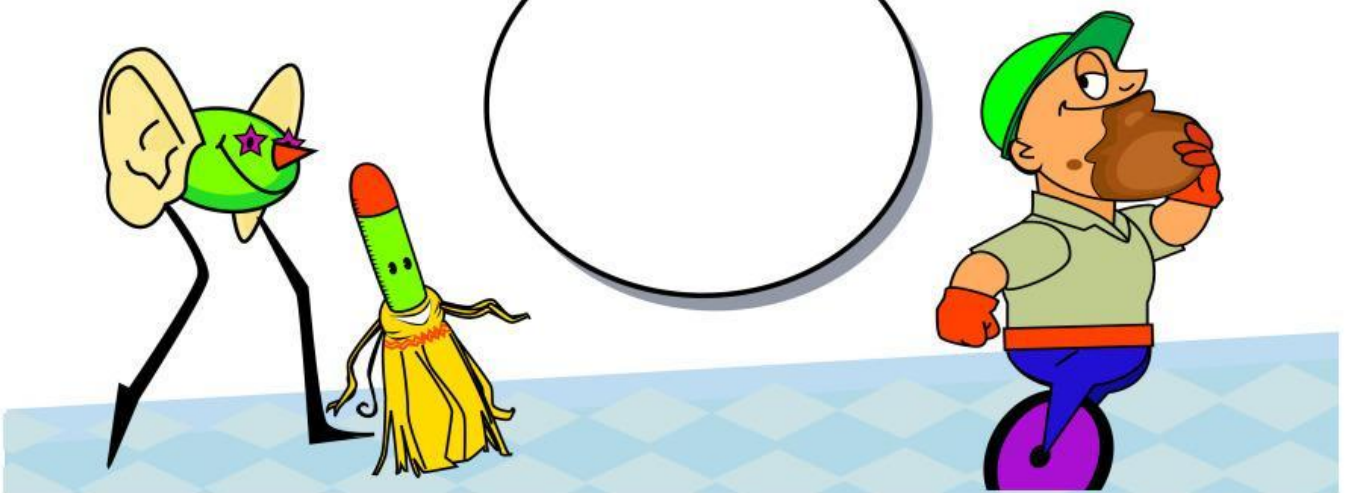
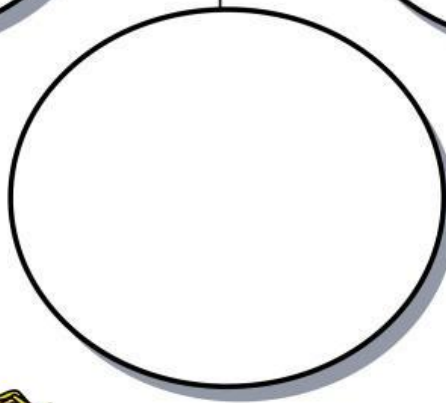
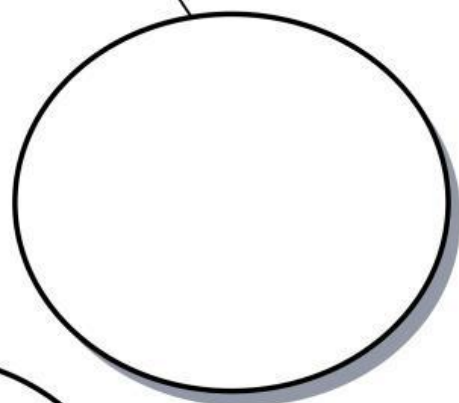
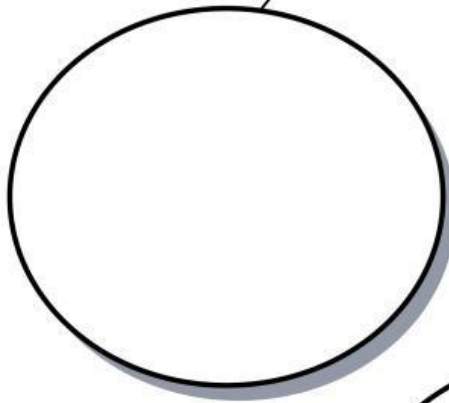
A. spread B. bounced C. rough



Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. Write three ideas from the passage that support this main idea.

The wedding procession
was large and wonderful.



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Who Else?

There were many funny groups in the procession for the wedding. The passage tells about the Spoon Lickers, the Tin Pan Bangers, the Chocolate Chins, the Dirty Bibs, and the Clean Ears. Create another group of your own that was in the procession. What was their name? What did they look like? What did they do?

The Rootabaga Stories

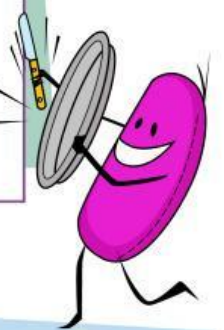
Name: _____

Rootabaga Stories Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.



Q	O	T	A	L	U	B	M	A	R	E	P	N	C	C
I	L	Z	E	T	I	O	R	D	S	R	A	B	H	D
P	U	P	Z	B	R	O	O	M	O	Q	S	A	O	O
D	K	N	R	E	V	C	T	K	H	E	D	A	C	K
F	I	O	R	O	K	D	O	L	L	M	P	N	O	N
R	A	G	A	B	C	T	H	D	G	U	T	V	L	S
O	D	U	G	U	W	E	D	D	I	N	G	E	A	O
K	G	L	E	F	E	O	S	Q	I	M	D	O	T	E
J	N	R	F	D	A	J	E	S	W	R	T	D	E	U
D	Q	C	H	I	N	S	R	L	I	C	K	E	R	S
S	I	C	N	R	O	F	O	W	P	O	E	O	B	K
P	P	G	V	T	P	Q	W	H	H	A	N	D	L	E
L	E	O	H	Y	G	I	M	T	P	E	N	A	R	M
Z	S	W	O	D	H	T	U	Y	V	B	I	B	S	A
R	Z	C	Q	N	T	R	Z	Q	F	O	N	F	M	J



BIBS
BROOM
CHINS

CHOCOLATE
DIRTY
DOLL

HANDLE
PROCESSION
RAG

SPOON
LICKERS
WEDDING

KEY

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There was a wedding when the Rag Doll married the Broom Handle. It was a grand wedding with one of the grandest processions ever seen at a rag doll wedding. And we are sure no broom handle ever had a grander wedding procession when he got married.

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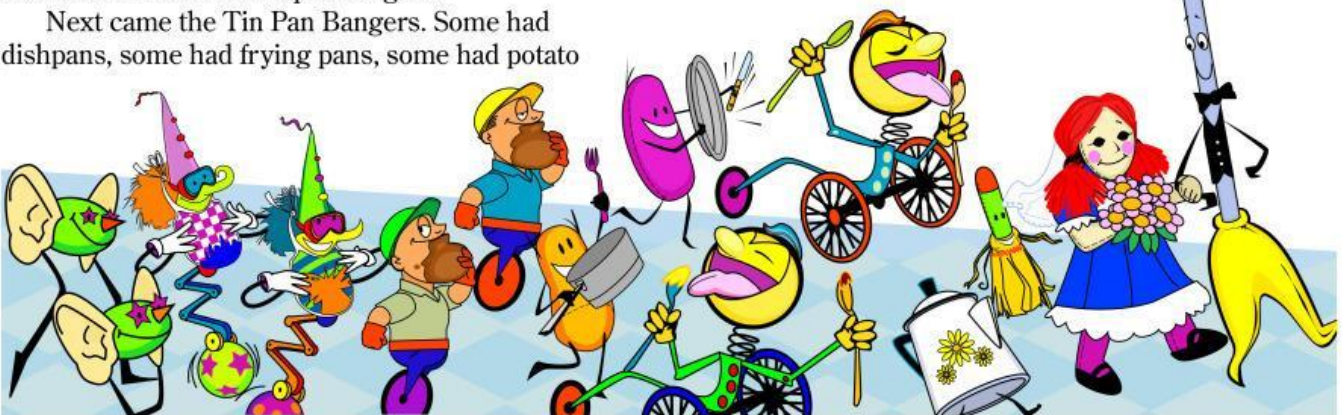
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Answer each question below.

1. How did Rag Doll lose her eyes? A child banged her against a door
2. Who fixed Rag Doll's eyes? Broom Handle
3. What are Rag Doll's eyes made of now? California prunes or prunes
4. What was Rag Doll's nickname? Black Eyes
5. Why was there a procession? for the wedding



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3. Wiggled something the Clean Ears
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5. Laughed as they looked around the Dirty Bibs



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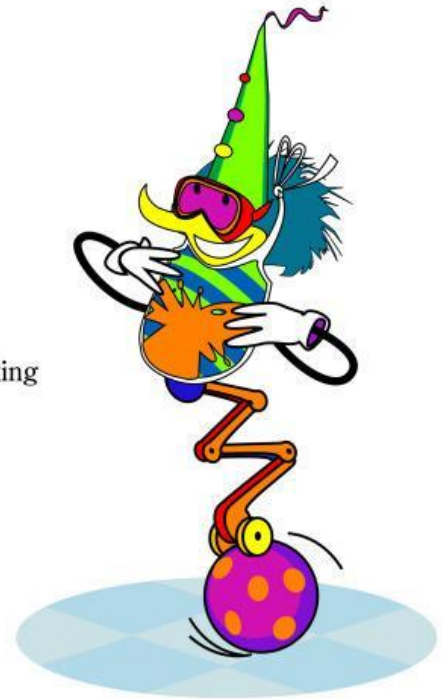
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The wedding procession
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Student's answers may vary. Example of correct answers:

It was one of the
grandest processions
ever seen at a rag doll
wedding.

No broom handle
ever had a grander
wedding procession.

Many groups
marched in the
procession.



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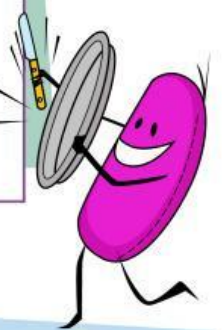
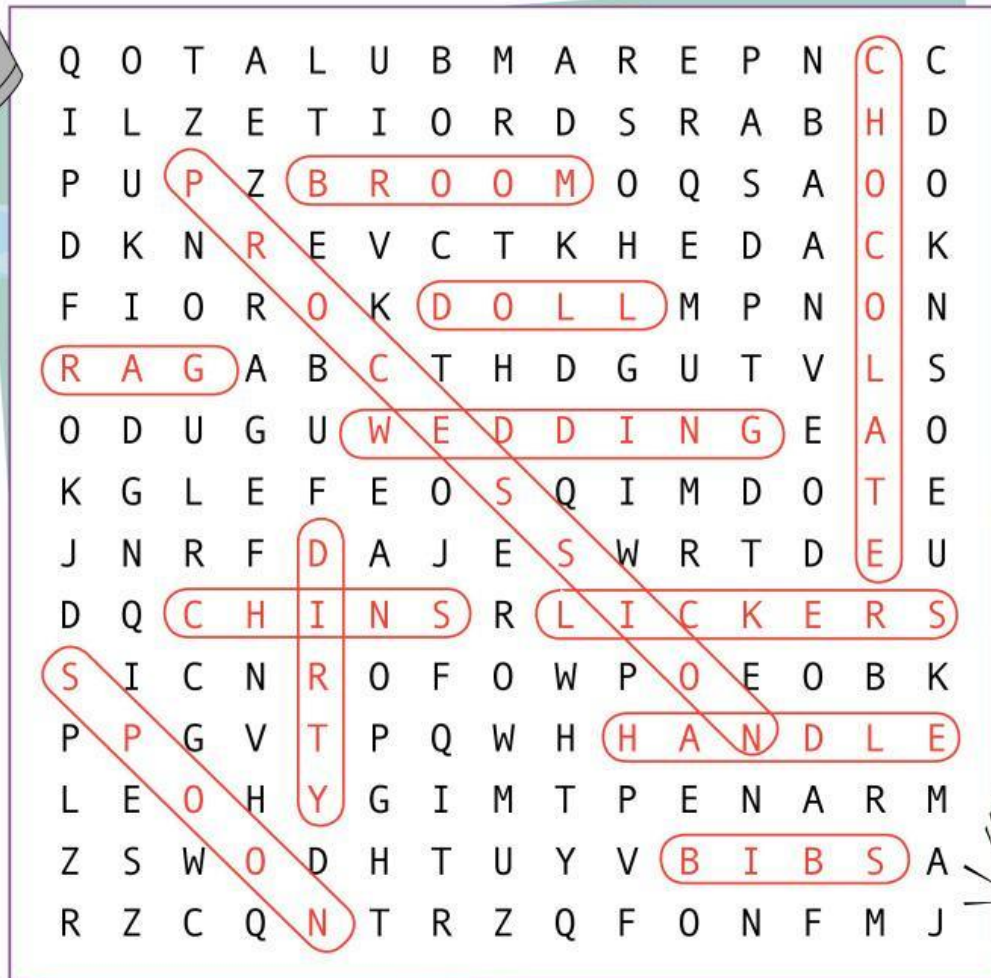
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