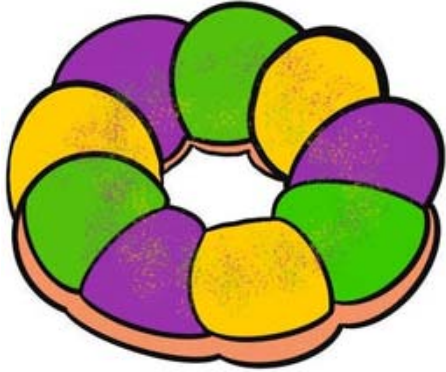


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The King Cake Caper

One sunny afternoon in the vibrant city of New Orleans, a group of friends gathered at Mardi Gras World for their annual King Cake celebration. Emily, Alex, Mia, and Liam had been friends for as long as they could remember, and they cherished this tradition. Little did they know that this year's celebration would lead to an extraordinary adventure.

As they savored each bite of the delicious King Cake, Emily bit into something unusual. It was a small piece of parchment paper. She carefully unfolded it, revealing an ancient-looking map filled with cryptic symbols and clues. The friends gathered around, their eyes wide with excitement. "This is incredible! A treasure map hidden inside a King Cake?" exclaimed Alex.

Mia examined the map closely. "It looks like it leads to a hidden treasure, guys! We have to follow it." Liam grinned. "Adventure awaits!"

The map led them to the French Quarter, where they discovered a clue painted on the side of a historic building. It read, "Beneath where the jazz fills the air, seek the first piece of treasure rare."

They followed the sounds of jazz music, which led them to a bustling jazz club. Inside, they found another clue hidden in the melody of a song. It revealed that their next destination was the famous Lafayette Cemetery.

At the cemetery, they encountered a peculiar riddle etched on a tombstone: "In the shadow of the weeping willow's grace, the treasure's next stop is a watery place."

After some pondering, Emily realized that the weeping willow's shadow pointed toward a nearby bayou. They ventured into the swampy waters, where they stumbled upon an old, abandoned paddleboat. Hidden in its bowels was a chest filled with sparkling jewels and ancient artifacts.

The friends celebrated their find but soon realized that they had to decipher the final clue to complete their adventure. It read, "Return to where you began, by the Mardi Gras parade stand."

Back at Mardi Gras World, they stood by the parade stand, and with a final burst of excitement, they realized the stand itself was hollow. Inside, they discovered the ultimate treasure – a rare and exquisite King Cake that sparkled with gold and gems. Their adventure had come full circle, and they couldn't have been happier. They returned the treasure map to its hiding place in the King Cake, ensuring that the tradition would live on for generations to come.

