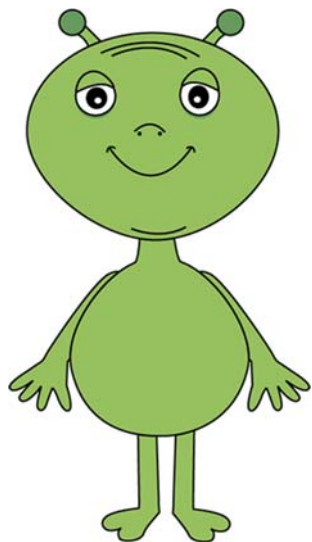


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Mystery of the Cafeteria Creature

At Brookside Elementary School, an intriguing legend had taken root among the students. Whispers and rumors had been circulating for years about a mysterious creature living in the depths of the school cafeteria. Some claimed to have glimpsed it during late lunch hours, while others were convinced it was just a wild imagination.

The legend described the creature as a small, mischievous being with bright green fur, pointy ears, and a long, bushy tail. It was said to be attracted to food and could sneakily snatch snacks and treats from unwary students. Many thought it was just a playful myth, but a group of curious fifth-graders was determined to uncover the truth.

The group, consisting of Emily, David, Lily, and Ethan, decided to form the "Cafeteria Creature Investigation Team." They were armed with notepads, cameras, and a sense of adventure. Their plan was simple: observe the cafeteria during late lunch hours and gather evidence.

One Friday afternoon, the team set their plan into motion. They disguised themselves with oversized jackets and baseball caps, hoping to blend in with the bustling cafeteria crowd. Armed with cameras, they discreetly snapped photos and took notes as they observed the cafeteria.

As the minutes ticked by, the cafeteria buzzed with activity. Students chatted, laughed, and enjoyed their meals. The team kept their eyes peeled for any signs of the mysterious creature. Suddenly, Emily spotted something green darting behind a food cart.

Heart pounding, the team followed the creature's movements. It moved with lightning speed, making it difficult to capture on camera. Lily thought she saw a glimpse of the creature's bushy tail disappearing into a storage closet.

The team decided to investigate further. They quietly approached the closet and, with bated breath, slowly opened the door. Inside, they found... a janitor's mop with a green rag attached to it. It turned out to be a practical joke played by the school janitor, Mr. Jenkins, who had overheard the legends and decided to have some fun.

Feeling both relieved and amused, the team returned to their seats in the cafeteria. They couldn't stop laughing at the mop's "bushy tail." The legend of the Cafeteria Creature had been debunked, and they had discovered the mischievous prankster behind it.

The following Monday, they shared their findings with the entire school during morning announcements, ending the mystery once and for all. While there was no mysterious creature in the cafeteria, the legend had brought the students closer together, teaching them the value of teamwork, curiosity, and a good laugh.

