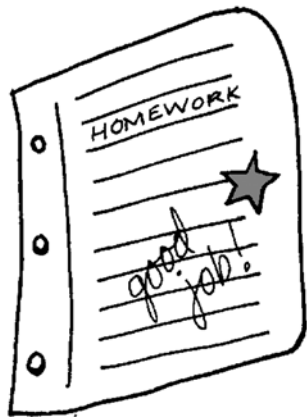


Name _____



The Mystery of the Vanishing Homework

Once upon a time in the bustling halls of Lincoln Middle School, a peculiar mystery began to unfold. It all started in Ms. Rodriguez's fifth-grade class when students noticed that their carefully completed homework assignments were mysteriously disappearing.

For weeks, the students were diligent about finishing their homework, only to find their efforts in vain. Puzzled and frustrated, they couldn't understand how their hard work could simply vanish into thin air. Whispers of a homework-eating monster spread like wildfire throughout the school.

But among the students, there were four intrepid friends determined to get to the bottom of the strange case: Mia, the resourceful detective; Jake, the tech whiz with a knack for gadgets; Olivia, the master of observation; and Ben, the class clown with a penchant for making people laugh.

Their investigation began during a lunch break in the school library. Mia, with her magnifying glass in hand, examined the empty desks of the affected students. She noticed something peculiar – faint traces of glitter on the edges of the desks.

"Glitter?" Jake raised an eyebrow. "What does glitter have to do with our missing homework?"

Olivia chimed in, "I've heard that glitter is often used in pranks. Maybe someone is playing a trick on us!"

With a newfound lead, the quartet decided to set up a hidden camera to catch the culprit in the act. Jake, using his tech skills, rigged a small camera inside a pencil sharpener. The camera would capture any suspicious activity during the night.

The next day, when the students arrived at school, they gathered around the pencil sharpener to check the footage. To their astonishment, the camera had



Name _____

recorded an unexpected visitor – Mr. Jenkins, the school's custodian, known for his love of pranks and jokes.

In the video, Mr. Jenkins was seen sprinkling glitter onto the homework assignments, causing them to disappear in a puff of colorful sparkle. He couldn't contain his laughter as he carried out the glittery sabotage.

The four friends were both shocked and amused by the revelation. They decided to confront Mr. Jenkins, who admitted to his mischievous plot. He confessed that he missed the days of being a student and wanted to inject some humor into the school.

Instead of punishing Mr. Jenkins, the students proposed a compromise. They asked if he could be their "homework guardian angel" and come up with creative, non-homework-related pranks to lighten the school atmosphere. Mr. Jenkins agreed, and from that day forward, he became known as the official prankster of Lincoln Middle School, responsible for lighthearted and funny surprises.

As for the students, they learned that sometimes, even the most baffling mysteries have a humorous twist. They continued to diligently complete their homework, and their days at Lincoln Middle School became filled with laughter, thanks to the antics of their newfound friend, Mr. Jenkins.

