

The Tent

by Valeri Gorbachev



One hot summer day, Turtle found a tent in the sand. “Cool!” he said. “Now I can escape from the hot sun,” and he crawled inside.

“Hey, Mouse! Come and see the tent I found,” said Turtle. “It is a great place to escape from the hot sun!”

“Thank you,” said Mouse, and he crawled into the tent.

“Hey, Frog!” called Turtle and Mouse. “Come and see our tent. It is nice and shady in here.”

“Thanks,” said Frog as he crawled inside.

“Hey, Rabbit!” they called. “Come into our tent and cool off!”

“Thank you,” said Rabbit, crawling inside.

“Hello, Elephant!” said Turtle, Mouse, Frog, and Rabbit. “We would ask you to join us inside our tent, but there is no more room. We are very sorry.”

“I am the one who is sorry,” said Elephant. “You see, this is not a tent. It is my hat.”

“Oh,” said Turtle. “We will look for shade somewhere else.”

“That’s OK, friends,” said Elephant. “We can share it!”

1 What is this story **mostly** about?

- A** finding new friends
- B** playing with friends
- C** hiding from friends
- D** sharing with friends

2 What is Turtle trying to escape from?

- A** a tent
- B** the heat
- C** the sand
- D** an elephant

3 What is the **main** reason Turtle uses the hat as a tent?

- A** The hat blocks the sun.
- B** He finds the hat outside.
- C** He can hide under the hat.
- D** The hat is sitting on sand.

4 Which word **best** describes Elephant?

- A** curious
- B** friendly
- C** nervous
- D** upset

5 Which event from the story could **not** really happen?

- A** A rabbit finds shade.
- B** A frog goes into a tent.
- C** A mouse thanks a turtle.
- D** A turtle walks on sand.

Hot Job

by Audra Esposito

Firefighter Regina Wilson works in Brooklyn, New York. A reporter is asking Regina questions about how she does her job.



Reporter: How long have you been a firefighter?

Regina Wilson: Eight years.

Reporter: How did you get started?

Wilson: First, I had to take a lot of tests. Then, I went to firefighter school for 13 weeks. I learned how to put out fires and how to use equipment, such as the ax and the fire hose. I also had to work out every day!

Reporter: How do you stay safe on the job?

Wilson: I wear special clothing called *bunker gear*. It helps keep me protected (safe) from fire. I also carry an oxygen tank and a mask. They help me to breathe in a smoke-filled building.

Reporter: Are there any new tools that firefighters use?

Wilson: We have a special camera that can see in the dark. It can detect (find) heat. That way, we can tell where a fire is located.

Reporter: Do you save pets?

Wilson: I recently helped save some kittens. They were hiding under the beds. Pets usually hide during a fire because they are scared.

Reporter: Do you ever get afraid?

Wilson: There is no time to be afraid. I think about what I have to do to put out the fire safely.

Reporter: What do you like best about being a firefighter?

Wilson: Helping people!

- 1** What is this article **mostly** about?
- A** what a firefighter does
 - B** how a firefighter is trained
 - C** what a firefighter wears
 - D** how a firefighter helps animals

- 2** What did Regina Wilson do **first** to become a firefighter?
- A** She saved some kittens.
 - B** She used fire equipment.
 - C** She learned to put out fires.
 - D** She took a lot of tests.

- 3** Why does Regina Wilson say she does **not** get afraid?
- A** She has an oxygen tank.
 - B** She enjoys her job too much.
 - C** She knows how to fight fires.
 - D** She is too busy putting out fires.

- 4** What does Regina Wilson like **most** about being a firefighter?
- A** working out
 - B** saving animals
 - C** helping people
 - D** using equipment

- 5** Why did the author **most likely** write this article?
- A** to teach readers how to prevent fires
 - B** to make readers want to be firefighters
 - C** to give readers information about firefighters
 - D** to show readers how to use fire equipment

Amanda, Ellen, Benji, and George have been assigned to work together on a science project. The project is due next week, and they still have not decided on a topic. They are meeting for the sixth week in a row in Amanda's very messy room. Her mother has just made a discovery that might help their science project. Ellen, who doesn't eat bread, has been hiding pieces of bread in Amanda's room each week for the six weeks they have been meeting.

Science Friction

by David Lubar

1 She went to various clothes heaps in my room and revealed the slices of bread, which ranged from slightly moldy to totally overgrown.

2 Benji picked up the pieces and laid them out on my desk. If the bread hadn't been buried in my wardrobe like some sort of ancient Egyptian funeral offering, I probably would have found it pretty fascinating.

3 "I'm sorry," Ellen said again. "I'll explain to your mom that this was my fault. And I'll help you clean your room. Okay? If there's one thing I'm really good at, it's straightening up." She looked at me like she expected me to turn her down.

4 She seemed really sorry. "Sure. You can help. That would be wonderful."

5 "I'll help too," Benji said.

6 George nodded.

7 "Thanks," I said as we tackled the top layer. "This is great. But we still don't have a project."

8 "Sure we do."

9 I was so shocked by the voice, I just stared at George.

10 "We do?" Benji asked.

11 George nodded and pointed at the bread.

12 "Mold!" Ellen said. "We have a whole display of the stages of mold growth."

13 “Yeah,” I said. George was right. We had pieces of bread for each week.
“But is that enough?” It was hard to imagine a whole project from some
slices of moldy bread. Then I realized it wasn’t just about mold growth.

14 “Look,” I said, flipping a piece over.

15 Ellen nodded. “Mayonnaise. It’s acidic.”

16 “Yup. We have an example of mold
inhibition too. We just have to figure out a way
to display it so you can see both sides.”

inhibition = prevention

17 “Great,” Ellen said. “But what if it’s still not enough?”

18 “Oh, there might be some more . . .” Benji said.

19 “What do you mean?” I asked.

20 “Promise you won’t kill me?”

21 “No.”

22 “Promise you won’t make it slow and painful?”

23 “No.”

24 He shrugged. “I sorta don’t like turkey a whole lot.”

25 “Oh, please don’t tell me you’ve been stashing meat in my room.”

26 He nodded.

27 “Where?” I sniffed and looked around.

28 Benji pointed at the top of my bookcase.

29 “You slimeball,” I said as I climbed a chair to take a look. Oh, yuck.
There were five piles of turkey in various stages of decomposition, neatly
laid out from left to right. It was absolutely disgusting. It was also pretty
fascinating. And I guess I was relieved to know the smell wasn’t coming
from my clothes.

30 I looked over at George. “What about you? Is there anything you don’t
like?”

31 He lifted a stack of books to reveal baby carrots.

32 We got back to work. At five, I asked Ellen, “Don’t you have a piano
lesson?”

33 “It won’t hurt me to miss one.” She flipped open her cell phone and made a call.

34 Right after that, George left. I figured he had some sort of appointment he couldn’t cancel. But I was grateful he’d helped for as long as he could.

35 There was still plenty to do. The rest of us kept working.

36 Just as we were finishing, George returned, holding a beautiful display case with sections for the bread, turkey, and carrots. It even had mirrors in it to show both sides of the specimens.

specimens = examples

37 “Wow,” I said, “that’s perfect. Did you build it?”

38 He nodded.

39 “You’re a genius with your hands,” I said.

40 He smiled.

41 Ellen patted him on the shoulder. “And you don’t waste time talking unless you have something to say.”

42 “I’ll do the captions,” Benji said. He started coming up with these awful puns that made everyone groan, like, “Spore score and seven weeks ago,” “Rot and roll,” and “Bacterial Girl.” But we laughed too. And I knew Ms. Adler had a great sense of humor, so I figured it wouldn’t hurt to use Benji’s titles.

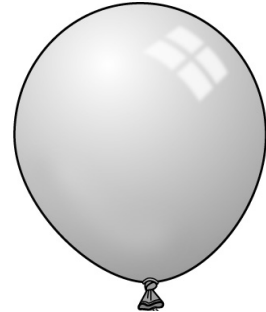
43 Ellen, who had beautiful handwriting, lettered the signs. I typed a report to go along with the display. As we all finished up the project together, I realized I’d discovered an important scientific principle. It had nothing to do with mold, but everything to do with chemistry. Some elements combined quickly. Others combined slowly. And some didn’t combine at all unless you mixed them together under high heat and intense pressure.

How does George behave as a member of the group? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

Why is the setting of the story important? Use **two** details from the story to support your response.

Balloon Volleyball

by Wendy Toy



It's a rainy, gloomy day again and there's nothing to do. You don't feel like sitting quietly but you're not allowed to make a lot of noise. What can you do for fun? Try balloon volleyball.

Items needed for this game:

- a balloon (or two, in case the first one bursts)
- some string or yarn
- two chairs
- at least two people and a room

Set up the room. If you're in the living room, or a family room, be sure to move all the furniture out of the way. Get two chairs and set them in the middle, outer edges of the room. They should be at the same place you would put a volleyball net. Turn them so that the seat is facing the wall, not the "playing" space. Tie the string or yarn onto the top of one chair, and run the rest of the string to the other chair. Now tie it on this chair at the same place as the first chair. You can decide the "out-of-bounds" lines, if you want to have them, but they really are not necessary in this game.

Blow up the balloon. Choose sides. You will play this game on your knees (at least until they start hurting and you want to stand). Each side must get the balloon over the string in three hits. If it does not get over, the other side gets the balloon and a point. This game becomes more difficult because you must play without talking.

You can also add other rules to make it more difficult; for example, you can only use your left hand or only your right hand to hit the balloon.

Continue playing until one side gets 10 points. You can make your game longer or shorter by changing the number of points it takes to win.

This is a fun way to get your energy out, have fun, and not make too much noise on a rainy, stay-in-the-house day!

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- 1** What is the purpose of the chairs in this game?
- A** to mark the out-of-bounds area
 - B** to hold the string up as the net
 - C** so the players can rest during breaks
 - D** so people can sit and watch the game

- 2** If the balloon does **not** go over the net, the other side
- A** gets a point
 - B** wins the game
 - C** must stop talking
 - D** pops the balloon

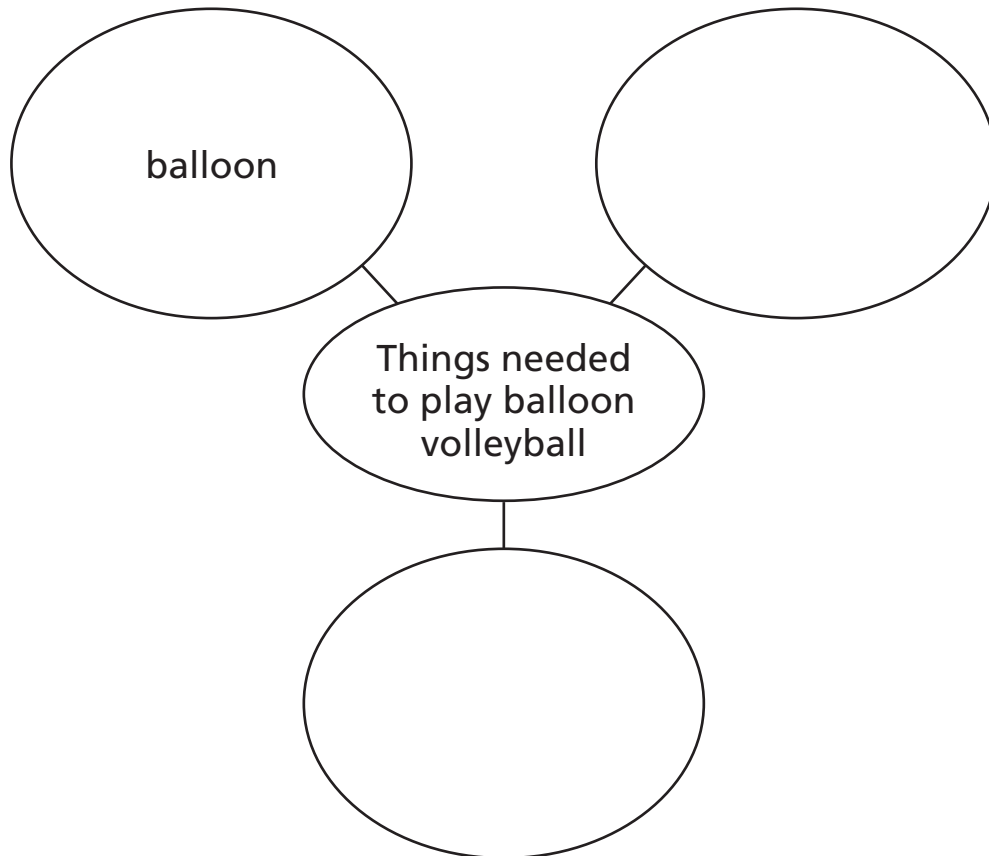
- 3** Which rule of balloon volleyball is **most** important to win the game?
- A** Both sides play on their knees.
 - B** Decide which areas are out-of-bounds.
 - C** Have two balloons in case one bursts.
 - D** Get the balloon over the string in three hits.

- 4** What is the **most likely** reason for using a balloon in this game?
- A** It does not break things.
 - B** It can be filled with air easily.
 - C** It does not take up much room.
 - D** It can be hit a lot before it bursts.

5 The article says that balloon volleyball is a good way “to get your energy out.” This phrase **most likely** means that the game is

- A boring
- B lively
- C noisy
- D silly

6 Complete the web below with **two** things you need to play balloon volleyball. One oval has been filled in for you.



As Cheerful as Cheerful Can Be

by Mary E. Furlong
illustrated by Mary Sullivan

Miss Dinsmore lived all alone in a little gray house with a white front door.

“It’s a nice little house,” Miss Dinsmore said. “But I wish it looked more cheerful. Maybe I should paint it a bright, pretty color. Then it will be as cheerful as cheerful can be.”

Miss Dinsmore went to the paint store. She saw lots of cheerful colors there—pink and blue and red and yellow and green. It was hard to choose.

“I know what to do,” Miss Dinsmore said at last. “I’ll paint picture after picture of my house with all of these cheerful colors. Then I’ll choose the one I like best.”

Miss Dinsmore set up her painting easel in the front yard and painted picture after picture of her little house. She painted a pink house. She painted a blue house. She painted a red one and a yellow one and a green one. She painted one with flower boxes under the windows. She painted doors and shutters in every color of the rainbow. She took each picture she painted into the house and hung it on the wall.

shutters = window covers

“All of my picture houses are pretty,” said Miss Dinsmore. “But I still can’t decide which color will make my house look as cheerful as cheerful can be.”

And she went on painting pictures.

One day, a neighbor came by while Miss Dinsmore was painting. “What a pretty picture,” the neighbor said. “I like pictures of houses.”

“You do?” said Miss Dinsmore. “I’ve painted picture after picture of my little house. Come inside and have a look at them.”

Miss Dinsmore’s neighbor liked the pictures. “I’ll tell the whole town,” she said. “Everyone will want to see your pictures.”

It was true. Lots of people came to the little gray house to see the pictures. Miss Dinsmore served them tea.

“What pretty pictures,” everyone said. “And what a nice little house you have.”

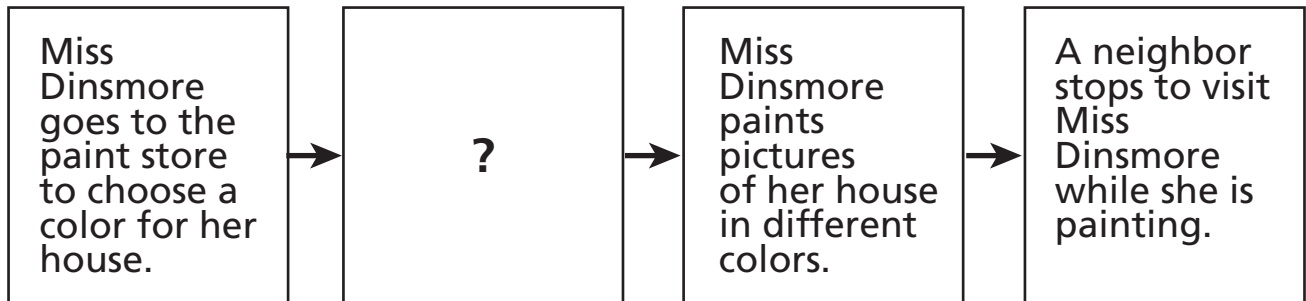
“It *is* a nice little house,” said Miss Dinsmore. “But I wish it looked more cheer—”

She stopped and looked around. Her little gray house was full of people looking at pictures, drinking tea, talking, laughing, and having fun. Miss Dinsmore smiled. “It’s a nice little house,” she said again. “And it’s a cheerful little house, too—especially when good friends come to visit me. It’s as cheerful as cheerful can be.”

- 1 What is Miss Dinsmore's **main** problem in the story?
- A She is too cheerful.
 - B She has too many visitors.
 - C She needs help painting her house.
 - D She wants her house to be more cheerful.

- 2 What is **one** part of Miss Dinsmore's plan to make her house look more cheerful?
- A She paints her front door.
 - B She tells the town about her pictures.
 - C She paints pictures of her house in different colors.
 - D She invites her neighbors to visit her house.

- 3 The chart below shows events from the story.



Which sentence belongs in the empty box?

- A Miss Dinsmore sets up her painting easel in the yard.
 - B Miss Dinsmore's friends come to her house.
 - C Miss Dinsmore hangs the pictures on the walls.
 - D Miss Dinsmore's neighbor tells the town about the pictures.
- 4 At the end of the story, Miss Dinsmore says her house is cheerful. The word "cheerful" means full of
- A color
 - B happiness
 - C courage
 - D people