

Name: _____

Carnival Fever

by Kelly Hashway

Sophie moaned as her mother read the thermometer. She had a fever, which meant she wasn't going to Michelle's birthday party. Michelle's parents had planned a carnival theme with games. Sophie loved carnival games, but now she was going to miss all the fun because she had a fever.



"I'm sorry, sweetie," her mother said. "Maybe we could play a few games here after you've rested a bit."

Sophie sighed and cuddled further under her blankets. Board games weren't the same as carnival games. She closed her eyes and dreamed of booth after booth of ring toss, dart throw, duck pond, and can knockdown. She won huge stuffed prizes for each game. Sophie was enjoying her dream carnival until she heard her parents and older brother, Gavin, talking.

She opened her eyes to see funny looking displays all over her bedroom. Plastic water bottles covered her desk. Empty soda cans were stacked in a pyramid on her chair. And a piece of cardboard with balloons taped to it rested against her closet door.

"What is all this?" Sophie asked.

"Your very own carnival," her father said.

"Here," Gavin said, handing Sophie a newly sharpened pencil. "Try to pop a balloon."

Sophie looked at the balloons taped to the cardboard. "You made a dart game."

Her parents smiled. "Try it," they said.

Sophie aimed the pencil and popped the blue balloon in the middle. "What do I win?"

"Another game," Gavin said, walking over to the chair with the soda cans. He handed her a pair of rolled up socks. "Let's see your best pitch."

Sophie laughed and tossed the socks at the cans. They all fell on the first try.

"Great!" her father said. "How about a game of ring toss." He handed Sophie a rubber band and pointed to the water bottles on her desk.

Before she could toss the rubber band, the phone rang. Sophie answered it.

"Hi, Sophie. It's Michelle. I heard you're at home sick. I'm sorry you're missing my party. I know how much you love carnival games."

"Yeah," Sophie said, "but my family made me my own carnival right in my room. I'll call you later. Enjoy your party and happy birthday!"

Sophie hung up the phone and tossed the rubber band at the bottles. She loved having her very own carnival.

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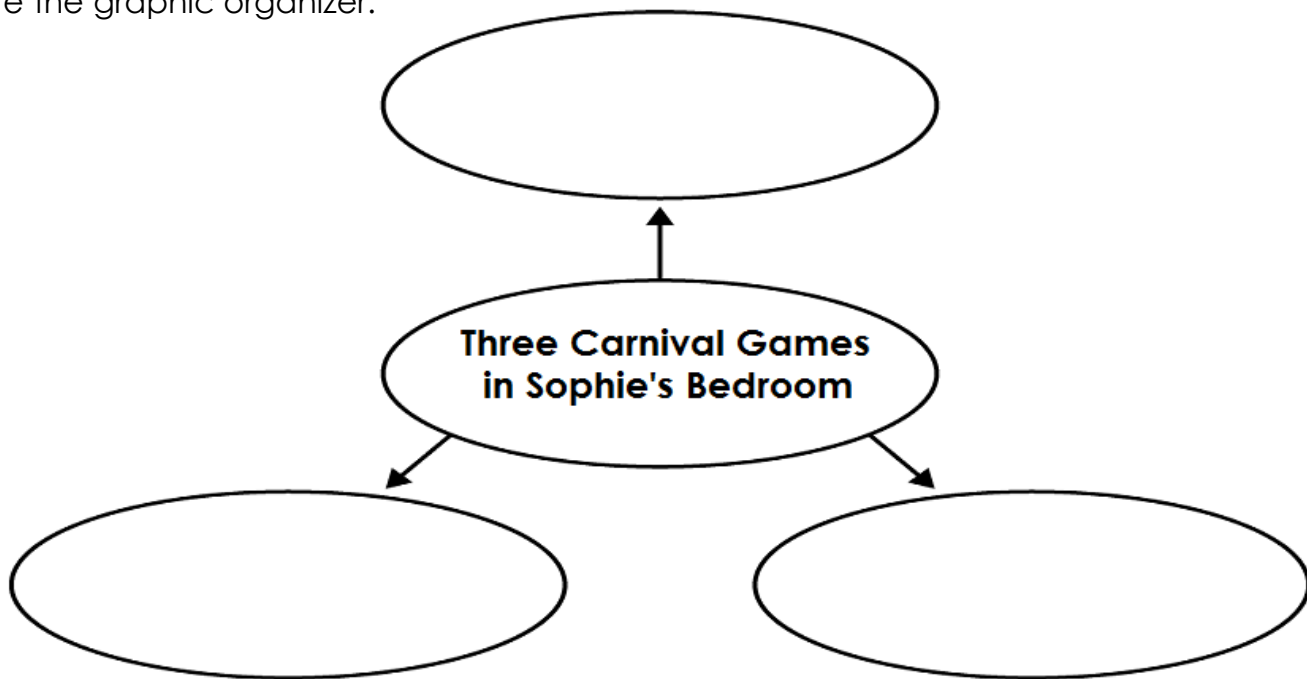
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1. How did Sophie react when her mother told her she could not go to Michelle's birthday party?
 - a. She told her mother she wanted to go to the party instead of stay in bed.
 - b. She told her mother she felt too tired to go anyway.
 - c. She said she would rather go to a carnival than the birthday party.
 - d. She acted disappointed, but she didn't complain.

2. Complete the graphic organizer.



3. Which two words best describe Sophie's family? (circle two)

indifferent

thoughtful

wealthy

creative

Tell why you chose each of the words above. _____

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Carnival Fever

Vocabulary Activity



Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. _ _ _ r _ _

clue: pointed object thrown at a target

1. _____

2. _ _ i _ _ _ _

clue: to throw or toss

2. _____

3. _ _ _ _ t _ _ _ r

clue: male sibling

3. _____

4. _ _ e _ _ _ _

clue: an above-normal body temperature

4. _____

5. _ _ a _ _ _ _ _ a _ _

clue: an outdoor event with games and food

5. _____

6. _ _ _ _ g

clue: past tense of ring

6. _____

7. _ _ _ _ _ o _ _ _ s

clue: rubber bags filled with air

7. _____

ANSWER KEY

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3. Which two words best describe Sophie's family? (circle two)

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Tell why you chose each of the words above.

They are thoughtful because they cared about how she felt about missing the party.
They are creative because they figured out a way to bring the carnival games to Sophie.

ANSWER KEY

Carnival Fever

Vocabulary Activity



Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. d a r t

clue: pointed object thrown at a target

1. dart

2. p i t c h

clue: to throw or toss

2. pitch

3. b r o t h e r

clue: male sibling

3. brother

4. f e v e r

clue: an above-normal body temperature

4. fever

5. c a r n i v a l

clue: an outdoor event with games and food

5. carnival

6. r a n g

clue: past tense of ring

6. rang

7. b a l l o o n s

clue: rubber bags filled with air

7. balloons