

Name: _____

Rules of the Playground

by Kelly Hashway

Maddie stepped onto the playground and looked around. It was much bigger than the playground at her old school. There were swings, basketball hoops, hopscotch, a sandpit, assorted climbing walls, and jungle gyms. But the thing that caught Maddie's eye was the enormous play set.

"Whoa, let's go on that," Maddie said.

"We can't," Ella said.

"Why not? It looks like fun."

Ella shook her head. "We're not old enough. The fourth graders play on there. They don't let anyone else on it. It's the rules of the playground."

Maddie's shoulders sank. She really wanted to play on that, but it was her first day in a new school, and she didn't want to cause trouble.

Ella stared at the play set with a wavy slide, wobbly bridge, and tall tower. "I went on it once. It was over the summer, and none of the fourth graders were here to kick me off. It was amazing."

Maddie wanted to do something to thank Ella for being so nice on Maddie's first day. Getting the fourth graders to let them on the play set was the perfect thing. "Come on. We're going on it." Before Ella could protest, Maddie grabbed her arm and pulled her over to it.

"Hey, what do you think you're doing?" a boy asked from the inside the tower. "Fourth graders only. Go play on the swings or something."

"No, I think we'll play here," Maddie said.

"You can't just come on here," the boy insisted.

"Sure we can. This playground is for everyone."



"You must be new, so I'll explain the rules to you," he said. "Fourth graders play here. The rest of the school can play on anything else."

Maddie looked around. "Anyone else want to play on the big play set?" Just about everyone turned and looked at her. "Come on. Let's challenge these guys in whatever game they're playing." Maddie knew the boy couldn't turn her down, and the other kids jumped at the chance to use the play set.

"I bet third graders can make it up to the tower before the fourth graders! Catch me if you can," Maddie shouted.

They played on every part of the play set and everyone had fun. Before long the fourth graders were laughing with all of the other kids.

"You guys aren't so bad," the boy said to Maddie.

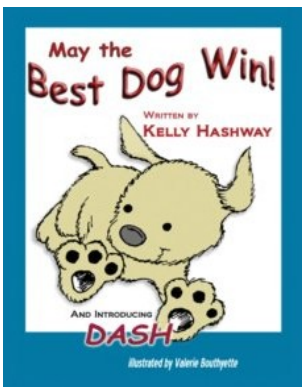
"You guys either," Maddie said. "Same time tomorrow?"

"Yeah," the boy said. "I'm Scott."

"I'm Maddie, and this is Ella. See you tomorrow. And I want a rematch on the race to the tower."

"You got it," Scott said.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

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1. Who probably made the rule about only fourth graders being allowed to use the play set?
 - a. Maddie's teacher
 - b. the school principal
 - c. a fourth grade teacher
 - d. a fourth grade student
2. Which of the items below was not on the school playground?
 - a. climbing rope
 - b. climbing wall
 - c. sandpit
 - d. basketball hoop



3. Which word best describes Scott? (circle one)

generous

afraid

curious

bossy

Explain why you chose this word.

4. Ella had played on the play set before without the fourth graders kicking her off. How was she able to do this?

5. Explain how the Scott's attitude changed during the story.

6. Which sentence best describes Maddie?

- a. She doesn't like 4th graders.
- b. She is shy in front of people she doesn't know.
- c. She doesn't like to be told what she can and can't do.
- d. She is polite and kind to everyone.

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Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| _____ 1. enormous | a. something on a playground made for climbing |
| _____ 2. sank | b. disagree |
| _____ 3. wobbly | c. demanded someone do something |
| _____ 4. protest | d. moved downwards; past tense of sink |
| _____ 5. rematch | e. gigantic |
| _____ 6. jungle gym | f. day after today |
| _____ 7. tomorrow | g. not steady; easily moved back and forth |
| _____ 8. insisted | h. game against the same opponent |

◆ **Now try this:** Find all of the vocabulary words in the story and highlight them.

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In the story, "Rules of the Playground," a fourth grade bully tells Maddie that she can't use the playground play set. Maddie stands up to the bully and he lets her play.

If the 4th grader continued to bully her, what could she have done? Describe two different ways Maddie could have solved her bullying problem without anyone being hurt.

[illegible]

ANSWER KEY

Rules of the Playground

by Kelly Hashway



1. Who probably made the rule about only fourth graders being allowed to use the play set? **b**
- a. Maddie's teacher
 - b. the school principal
 - c. a fourth grade teacher
 - d. **a fourth grade student**

2. Which of the items below was not on the school playground? **a**
- a. **climbing rope**
 - b. climbing wall
 - c. sandpit
 - d. basketball hoop

3. Which word best describes Scott? (circle one)

generous

afraid

curious

bossy

Explain why you chose this word.

Scott is bossy because he feels he can tell the third graders where to play.

4. Ella had played on the play set before without the fourth graders kicking her off. How was she able to do this?

She went during the summer when the fourth graders weren't around.

5. Explain how the Scott's attitude changed during the story.

At first, Scott was acting like a bully and he refused to play with the third graders. At the end of the story, he admitted that he enjoyed playing with Maddie and her friends.

6. Which sentence best describes Maddie?

- a. She doesn't like 4th graders.
- b. She is shy in front of people she doesn't know.
- c. **She doesn't like to be told what she can and can't do.**
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