Hats on Top of Hats

By Neal Levin

Ludwig van Bear was taking his daily walk downtown when he heard thunder. He looked up. The sky was dark.

said, shaking his fur.

"Well, you've come to the right shop." A rabbit hopped over the counter to greet him. "What you need is an umbrella."

"An umbrella," said Ludwig. "What a wonderful idea. I'll buy one."

"You can't," the rabbit said. "We don't sell them. But we do have the next best thing. Hats."

Indeed, they did! Ludwig looked around the store. There were hats everywhere. Nothing but hats.

hats, yellow hats, green hats, dirty hats, clean hats, neat hats, sloppy hats, puffy hats, floppy hats, fancy hats, frilly hats, funny hats, silly hats.

So many wonderful hats!

"I'll take this one," Ludwig said, picking up a blue and purple polka-dotted hat with a wide brim. "This should keep me dry." Ludwig put it on his head. It fit perfectly. "There's only one problem," he said.

"What's that?" asked the rabbit.

"It's such a beautiful hat. I don't

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want it to get ruined in the rain."

"That's not a problem," the rabbit told him. "Not if you put another hat on top of it."

"Good idea," Ludwig said. He picked up a yellow cowboy hat with peacock feathers. He put the cowboy hat on top of the polka-dotted hat. "Oh, no!" Ludwig cried.
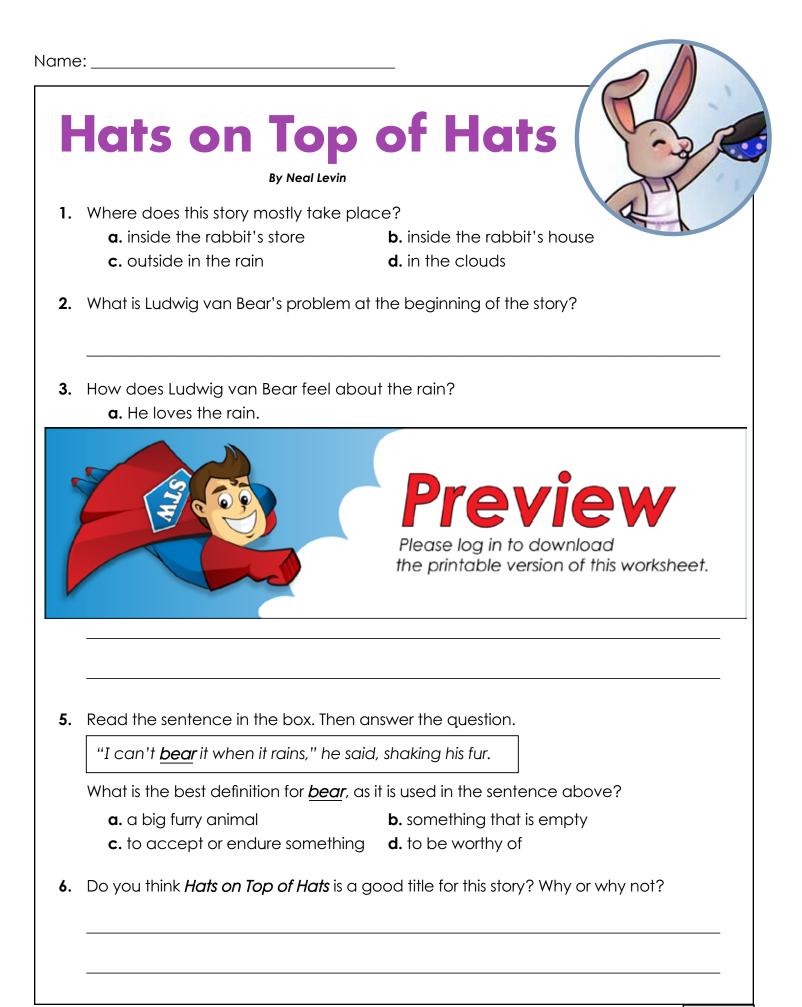
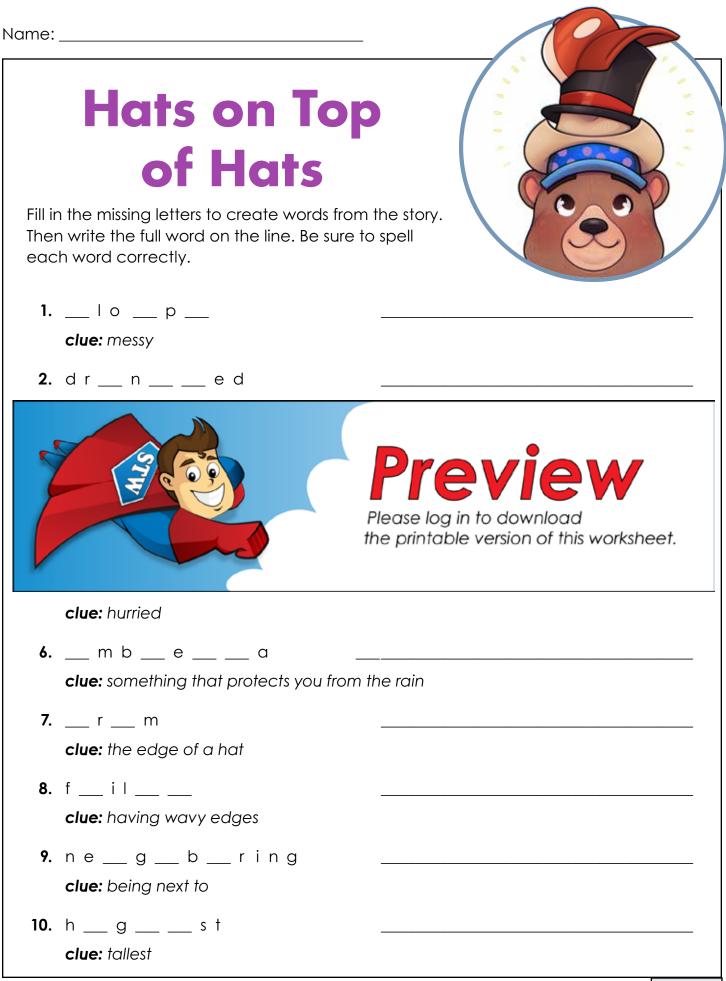"Are you sure?" the rabbit asked.

Ludwig opened the door and stepped outside. "Aaahhhh!" he yelled. "My polka-dotted hat is dry and my cowboy hat is dry, but my top hat is getting wet. I need more hats!"

The rabbit hopped outside and asked, "How many hats do you want?"

"All of them," Ludwig said. "Put them all on my head, one on top of another."

and kept piling more hats on top of the hats. Then he hopped onto the roofs of the taller, neighboring buildings and stacked more hats on top of hats on top of hats, all towering on Ludwig's head. Soon Ludwig was wearing the tallest pile of hats ever seen.

"Yahoo!" Ludwig yelled. "My plan worked. The highest hat is even higher than the clouds. Now no rain can fall on them. Finally, I will stay dry and my hats will, as well."

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Name: _____

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1. Where does this story mostly take place?
   a. inside the rabbit's store   **b.** inside the rabbit's house
   c. outside in the rain   **d.** in the clouds

2. What is Ludwig van Bear's problem at the beginning of the story?

   _____

3. How does Ludwig van Bear feel about the rain?
   a. He loves the rain.

_____

_____

5. Read the sentence in the box. Then answer the question.

   > *"I can't **bear** it when it rains," he said, shaking his fur.*

   What is the best definition for **bear**, as it is used in the sentence above?
   a. a big furry animal   **b.** something that is empty
   c. to accept or endure something   **d.** to be worthy of

6. Do you think *Hats on Top of Hats* is a good title for this story? Why or why not?

   _____

   _____

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Name: _____

Hats on Top of Hats

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

1. __ l o __ p __   _____

    clue: *messy*

2. d r __ n __ __ e d   _____

clue: *hurried*

6. __ m b __ e __ __ a   _____

    clue: *something that protects you from the rain*

7. __ r __ m   _____

    clue: *the edge of a hat*

8. f __ i l __ __   _____

    clue: *having wavy edges*

9. n e __ g __ b __ r i n g   _____

    clue: *being next to*

10. h __ g __ __ s t   _____

    clue: *tallest*

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Name: _____

Hats on Top of Hats

In the story, "Hats on Top of Hats," Ludwig van Bear has a problem. He comes up with a plan to solve the problem.

Write about a time when you had a problem. How did you plan to solve the problem? Did your plan work? Explain on the lines below.

_____

_____

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

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Hats on Top of Hats

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1. Where does this story mostly take place?

    a. inside the rabbit's store   **b.** inside the rabbit's house

    c. outside in the rain   **d.** in the clouds

2. What is Ludwig van Bear's problem at the beginning of the story?

6. Do you think *Hats on Top of Hats* is a good title for this story? Why or why not?

    Answers will vary.

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Hats on Top of Hats

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

1. __s__ l o __p__ p __y__   __sloppy_____

clue: messy

10. h __i__ g __h__ __e__ s t   __highest_____

clue: tallest

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