Name:	

My Summer Vacation

By Kelly Hashway

Sam tapped his pencil against his blank paper and sighed.

"I'll never be able to write this essay."

"What's wrong?" his mother asked, placing her hand on his shoulder. "You just have to write about what you did over summer vacation."



Bear PREVIEW~

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ı this

Sam scrunched his forehead in thought. He and Eric had entered a bike competition, gone to an amusement park, and took Karate lessons. "I guess I could write about that stuff." He shrugged, still not sure if his essay was going to impress his friends at school.

The next day, the class took turns reading their essays. Sam slunk down in his seat, hoping Mr. Matthews wouldn't notice him. With only ten minutes left before lunch, Sam thought he was safe from having to read his essay.

"Sam, I think we have enough time to hear about your summer vacation," Mr. Matthews said.

Sam gulped as he got up and walked to the front of the room with his paper in his hand. He didn't take his eyes off the essay as he read it.

When he was finished no one clapped or said anything. He slowly raised his eyes to see a bunch of hands in the air.

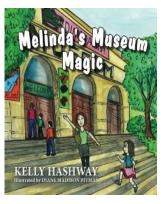


As Sam answered question after question, he smiled. Before he knew it, it was time for lunch. On the way to the cafeteria, the questions continued.

"You're so lucky," Jake said. "I wish I did all that this summer."

Sam smiled. He'd had an amazing summer after all.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *Melinda's Museum Magic*, is now available!

Melinda is taking her first trip to the museum, and her mother promises it will be magical. But when the exhibits start coming to life in ways that only Melinda can see, she'll learn the real magic of the museum.

Hashway, Kelly. Melinda's Museum Magic ISBN: 978-0615814216

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What was the topic of Sam's essay? 1.

2.



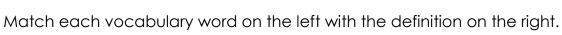
3.

- **a.** take Karate lessons
- **c.** go to a resort
- **b.** go to an amusement park
- d. enter a bike competition
- Why did Sam think he would not have to read his essay in front of the class? 4.
 - a. He was hiding.
- **b.** Class was almost over.
- **c.** It wasn't interesting.
- **d.** He passed his turn.
- 5. How did the class respond to Sam's essay?

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- 1. ____ renovated
- **a.** swallowed hard because of a strong emotion

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4. ____ scrunched

d. a place where people go on vacation

5. _____ slunk

e. to tighten up the muscles of your face or nose

6. ____ gulped

f. made changes or repairs to a house, room, or building

- 7. ____ competition
- **g.** moved in a way that did not attract attention because you were embarrassed or afraid
- Now try this: Find all of the words above in the story and highlight them.

ANSWER KEY

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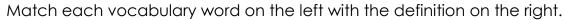
~PREVIEW~

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ANSWER KEY

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♦ Now try this: Find all of the words above in the story and highlight them.