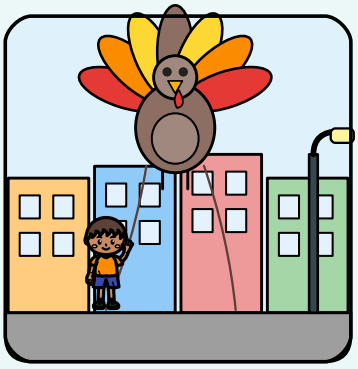
Holding the Ropes

Name: _____ Date: _____



Ethan had watched the Thanksgiving parade in his town every year, but this year he was going to be in it. His mom's bakery was sponsoring a giant balloon shaped like a turkey, and Ethan was one of twelve handlers chosen to hold its ropes.

At practice, the balloon captain, Mr. Alvarez, explained the rules. "Watch me, not the crowd," he said. "If I raise my arm, you pull down together. Wind is the balloon's biggest enemy."

On parade morning, the sky was bright blue, but strong gusts whipped down Main Street. The turkey balloon was three stories tall. Ethan gripped his rope with both gloved hands. The crowd cheered and waved, and for a moment Ethan forgot the rule and grinned at his friends on the curb.

Suddenly a gust swung the balloon toward a lamppost. Ethan's rope jerked upward. He turned and saw Mr. Alvarez's arm shoot into the air. "Pull!" Ethan dug in his heels and pulled with the others. Slowly, the turkey sank lower and drifted safely past the post.

After the parade, Mr. Alvarez shook Ethan's hand. "Good teamwork," he said. Ethan had learned that keeping your eyes on your job matters most when things go wrong.

1 WHY? **Why did Mr. Alvarez say wind is the balloon's biggest enemy?**

Gusts can push the balloon into things. Wind makes the balloon cold.

2 **Number the events in order from 1 to 3.**

- ☐ The handlers pulled the balloon down.
- ☐ Mr. Alvarez explained the rules.
- ☐ A gust swung the balloon toward a lamppost.

3 WORD: **Ethan "gripped" his rope. He...**

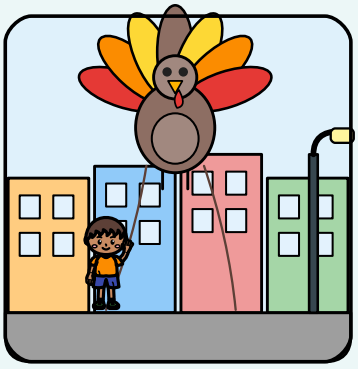
held it tightly let it go cut it

4 WHAT? **What lesson did Ethan learn?**

_____

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Answer Key



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1 WHY? **Why did Mr. Alvarez say wind is the balloon's biggest enemy?**

- (Gusts can push the balloon into things.)
- Wind makes the balloon cold.

2 **Number the events in order from 1 to 3.**

- 3 The handlers pulled the balloon down.
- 1 Mr. Alvarez explained the rules.
- 2 A gust swung the balloon toward a lamppost.

3 WORD: **Ethan "gripped" his rope. He...**

- (held it tightly)
- let it go
- cut it

4 WHAT? **What lesson did Ethan learn?**

Keep your eyes on your job, especially when things go wrong.