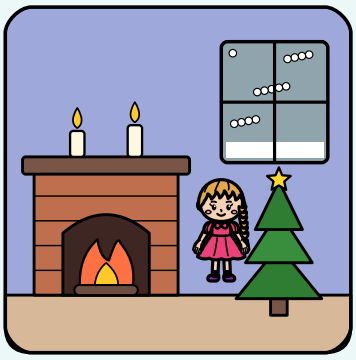
The Christmas Eve Blizzard

Name: _____ Date: _____



By noon on Christmas Eve, the snow was falling so thick that Maya could not see the mailbox at the end of the driveway. The radio announced that the roads were closed. Aunt Rosa, Uncle Ben and the cousins could not drive over for dinner.

Maya slumped against the window. "Christmas is ruined," she said.

Then the lights flickered and went out. The furnace stopped humming, and the house grew quiet and cold. Mom lit candles while Dad built a fire in the fireplace.

Around five o'clock, someone knocked on the door. It was Mr. Hayes, their elderly neighbor, holding a flashlight. His house had no fireplace, and he was shivering. "Come in!" Dad said right away.

That evening, the four of them toasted bread and cooked hot dogs over the fire. Mr. Hayes told stories about the blizzard of 1978, when the snow drifted higher than the roof of his car. Maya taught him a card game, and he beat her twice.

When the power came back on just before midnight, Maya was almost disappointed. It had not been the Christmas she planned, but it was one she would always remember.

1 WHY? **Why couldn't Aunt Rosa's family come to dinner?**

The roads were closed. They were sick. Their car was broken.

2 WHO? **Who knocked on the door?**

Uncle Ben Mr. Hayes a mail carrier

3 WORD: **Maya "slumped" against the window. She felt...**

disappointed excited angry

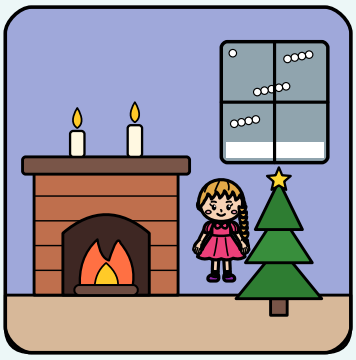
4 HOW? **How did Maya's feelings change from the beginning to the end of the story?**

_____

_____

The Christmas Eve Blizzard

Answer Key



By noon on Christmas Eve, the snow was falling so thick that Maya could not see the mailbox at the end of the driveway. The radio announced that the roads were closed. Aunt Rosa, Uncle Ben and the cousins could not drive over for dinner.

Maya slumped against the window. "Christmas is ruined," she said.

Then the lights flickered and went out. The furnace stopped humming, and the house grew quiet and cold. Mom lit candles while Dad built a fire in the fireplace.

Around five o'clock, someone knocked on the door. It was Mr. Hayes, their elderly neighbor, holding a flashlight. His house had no fireplace, and he was shivering. "Come in!" Dad said right away.

That evening, the four of them toasted bread and cooked hot dogs over the fire. Mr. Hayes told stories about the blizzard of 1978, when the snow drifted higher than the roof of his car. Maya taught him a card game, and he beat her twice.

When the power came back on just before midnight, Maya was almost disappointed. It had not been the Christmas she planned, but it was one she would always remember.

1 WHY? **Why couldn't Aunt Rosa's family come to dinner?**

- **The roads were closed.**
- They were sick.
- Their car was broken.

2 WHO? **Who knocked on the door?**

- Uncle Ben
- **Mr. Hayes**
- a mail carrier

3 WORD: **Maya "slumped" against the window. She felt...**

- **disappointed**
- excited
- angry

4 HOW? **How did Maya's feelings change from the beginning to the end of the story?**

At first she thought Christmas was ruined. At the end she was glad it happened.