

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Erupting with Fun

By Kelly Hashway



Darren rolled over in bed, squinting against the light shining in his eyes. "Mom, what are you doing? It's Sunday. Let me sleep."

"This room is a mess," Mom said, pulling a paper out from under a dirty



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on your project."

"I don't even know what to do for it. How am I supposed to make a project in one day?"

"You should've thought about that sooner. This paper says you had two weeks to complete the project."

Darren lowered his head. "I'll call Kevin."

"Then meet me in the kitchen. I have an idea for a project."

Darren called Kevin and told him the bad news. When he met his mom in the kitchen, she had food coloring, baking soda, vinegar, and dish detergent on the table.

"It's not a baking project," Darren said.

"You're making a volcano." Mom handed him a paper. "I printed the instructions for you off an easy science project website. You'll need a small mound of dirt, so take this plastic container and get some from the garden."



A volcano? That almost sounded fun. Darren shrugged and got some dirt from the garden. As he carried it back inside, he looked at the instructions. He'd have to mold the dirt to look like a volcano. The other ingredients his mom had gathered were for the solution that



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soda, a spoonful of dish detergent, and a few drops of red food coloring to the container.

"Now for the fun part," Mom said. "When you add the vinegar, the volcano will erupt, so get ready."

Darren smiled, excited to see the eruption. He measured an ounce of vinegar and poured it into the container. The mixture bubbled over the top of the volcano.

"Awesome!" Darren said. "This was actually fun."

"Yeah. Science can be very fun," Mom said. "Well, I guess you can call Kevin and meet him at the skate park."

"In a bit. I want to try this again!"

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1. What is the setting of this story?
  - a. at Darren's house, on Sunday evening
  - b. at Darren's house, on Sunday morning
  - c. at Kevin's house, on the weekend



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tussy      procrastinator      careful      enthusiastic

Explain why you chose the word circled above.

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4. What supplies and ingredients did Darren use to make the volcano?  

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5. Darren's mother printed instructions for making a volcano from a website. Which choice below tells what she may have typed into the computer when she was searching for ideas?

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a. fun crafts for kids       | b. interesting science facts |
| c. simple science activities | d. projects for Darren       |

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



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4. \_\_\_ e t \_\_\_ g \_\_\_

**clue:** soap; cleaning material

5. \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ s i \_\_\_ e

**clue:** place to find information on the Internet

6. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ u n \_\_\_

**clue:** pile; lump

7. \_\_\_ i \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ a \_\_\_

**clue:** sour-tasting liquid acid used for  
baking or cooking

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

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In the story, "Erupting with Fun," Darren builds a volcano for his school science project.

Describe a fun science project you did either at home or in school. Describe



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5. Darren's mother printed instructions for making a volcano from a website. Which choice below tells what she may have typed into the computer when she was searching for ideas?
- a. fun crafts for kids
  - b. interesting science facts
  - c. simple science activities**
  - d. projects for Darren

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**clue:** *pire, lamp*

7. v i n e g a r

**clue:** *sour-tasting liquid acid used for  
baking or cooking*

7. vinegar