

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

# Rumors Running Wild

by Kelly Hashway

Michelle watched everyone crowd around Paige to admire her new leather jacket. Michelle had been Paige's best friend since kindergarten, but now everyone wanted to be Paige's friend. Paige's dad had gotten a promotion and bought her expensive gifts. Everyone always wanted to see what the latest gift was.



Michelle walked past the crowd and slumped onto her chair.

"Everything okay, Michelle?" Mrs. Tisley asked.

Michelle nodded, but as soon as Mrs. Tisley walked away



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something to Paige, but it was worse. Allison went straight to Lexi, the class gossip. Michelle's stomach lurched.

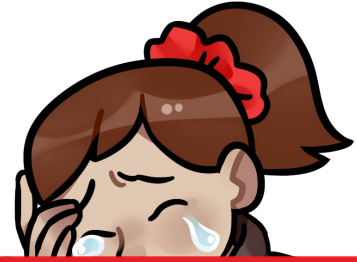
By lunchtime, kids were calling Paige a snob. Michelle walked into the cafeteria and saw Paige sitting by herself. Michelle's heart raced as she walked over to her.

"Can I sit with you?"

"I'm surprised you want to. No one else does." Tears streamed down Paige's face.

Michelle had to do something. It was her fault Paige was upset. She took a deep breath and turned to face the rest of the cafeteria.

"Listen up!" Michelle yelled. The room quieted. "Paige



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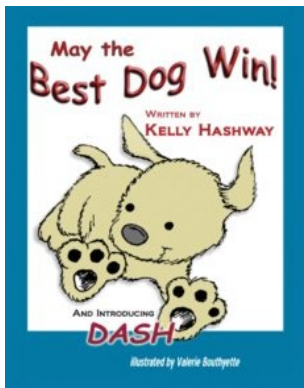
me. I liked being the popular one for once. But I shouldn't have let it come between us. You've always been my best friend."

"And I always will be." Michelle sat down again. "That is if you'll forgive me for spreading that rumor."

Paige hugged Michelle. "Only if you'll forgive me for ignoring you."

Michelle smiled. "It's a deal."

## About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. Paige and Michelle...
- a. had been best friends for many years.
  - b. never get along well.
  - c. often spread rumors about each other.
  - d. have very few friends.



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4. How did Michelle feel after rumors about Paige had spread around the class?  
(Circle the best answer.)

glad

confused

clever

guilty

Explain why you chose the word above.

5. After rumors about Paige had spread around the class, how did Michelle fix the problem?
- a. She promised to sit by Michelle in the cafeteria every day.
  - b. She said she will never listen to gossip again.
  - c. She told her friends to ignore Paige so the problem would go away.
  - d. She made an announcement to the class and apologized for her behavior.

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Read each sentence and choose the best definition for each underlined word.

1. Michelle watched everyone crowd around Paige and admire her new jacket.

- a. look at and enjoy
- b. show off
- c. touch
- d. ask questions about



2. Allison got up and stormed across the room.



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4. I mumbled something about her because I was upset.

- a. said something quietly
- b. made up a lie
- c. became angry
- d. invented a rumor

5. I liked being the popular one for once.

- a. person who is not liked
- b. person that is liked by many
- c. person who dresses nicely
- d. person that many people don't know

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In the story, "Rumors Running Wild," Michelle makes a comment about her friend Paige that is not true. Their classmates spread the rumor and Paige becomes upset.

Write a paragraph in which you explain the difference between a fact and a rumor. Also, describe how rumors are spread and tell how to prevent them.

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## ANSWER KEY

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- d. **She made an announcement to the class and apologized for her behavior.**

## ANSWER KEY

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Read each sentence and choose the best definition for each underlined word.

1. Michelle watched everyone crowd around Paige and admire her new jacket. **a**

a. **look at and enjoy**

b. show off



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