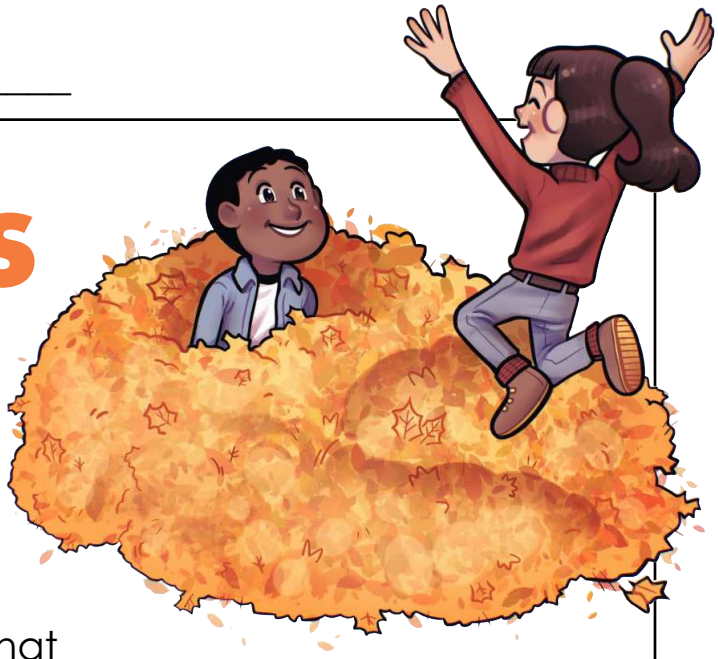
Name: _____

Leaf Races



By Kelly Hashway

Kendall sighed as she dragged the rake across the fallen leaves. "I'm never going to finish this."

"Hey," Eli called over the fence. "What are you doing?"

"Raking."

"Can I help?" Eli climbed the fence and hopped over.

"But now we have to rake all those leaves again." Kendall shook her head. They'd never finish if he kept doing that.

"Just try it." Eli raked the leaves into another pile, but bigger this time. He set the rakes aside and took Kendall's hand. "Ready? Go!"

Kendall allowed him to pull her along, and they jumped onto the pile. "Hey, that was kind of fun." She looked around. "Only, we're creating more work for ourselves."

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Eli smiled. "Okay, then let's try leaf races."

"What's a leaf race?"

Eli handed Kendall a rake and led her back to the fence. "First one to the other side of the yard wins. You have to drag the rake along the ground to rake leaves while you run. If you pick up your rake at any point, you have to start over. Got it?"

Kendall nodded and put her rake flush on the ground. "Ready."

"On your mark. Get set. Go!"

They took off across the yard, their rakes trailing behind them. Eli reached the other side first and hooted in delight. "Yeah! I won!"

"Okay, I want a rematch. It was my first time."

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"Hey, [illegible]!" Eli called, running after her.

They raced back and forth until the yard was clear.

"We're done already?" Kendall said, trying to catch her breath.

"Yup. See, I told you leaves were fun."

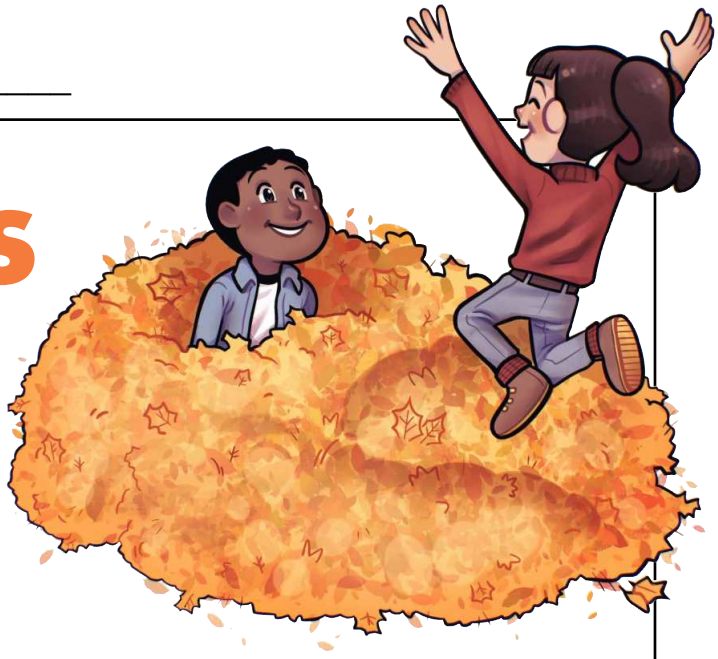
"Want to dump some out of the bags and jump in them again?" Kendall asked.

"We'll have to rake them afterward."

Kendall shrugged. "I don't mind."

Name: _____

Leaf Races



By Kelly Hashway

1. When does this story most likely take place?
   - **a.** in Kendall's backyard
   - **b.** in Eli's backyard
   - **c.** before winter has begun
   - **d.** after winter has ended

2. Why did Eli help Kendall rake leaves?

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_____

_____

_____

4. After they had raked and bagged all of the leaves, what did Kendall and Eli decide to do?

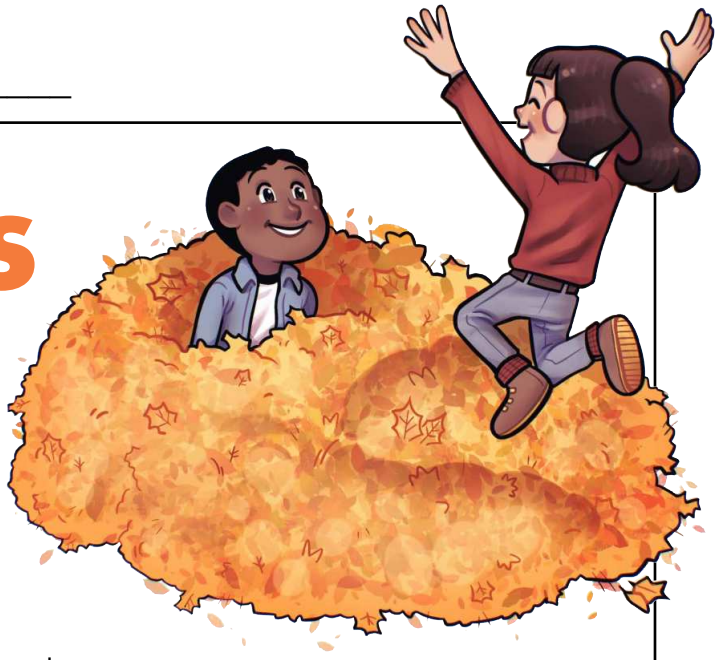
_____

_____

5. What lesson can be learned from this story?
   - **a.** If you help others with their work, they will help you someday.
   - **b.** Chores can be fun if you make them into a game.
   - **c.** When you do your chores quickly, you have more time for fun activities.
   - **d.** Hard jobs become easier if you use the right tools.

Name: _____

Leaf Races



By Kelly Hashway

Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

1. _____ rake

a. cheered

2. _____ [illegible]

b. picked up and moved

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5. _____ scooped

e. feeling of enjoyment or pleasure

6. _____ trailing

f. small building for storing outdoor yard tools

7. _____ hooted

g. tool for moving leaves or soil

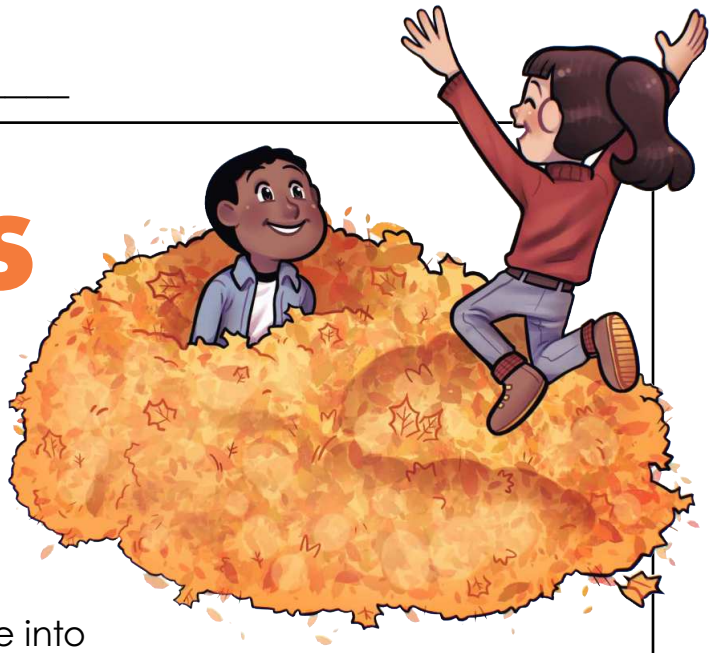
8. _____ delight

h. barrier made of wood, plastic, or metal for marking the edge of a yard

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

Name: _____

Leaf Races



By Kelly Hashway

In the story, "Leaf Races," Kendall does not enjoy raking leaves until Eli shows her how to make a game of it.

Describe another chore that could be made into a game. Tell how you would play the game and list the rules.

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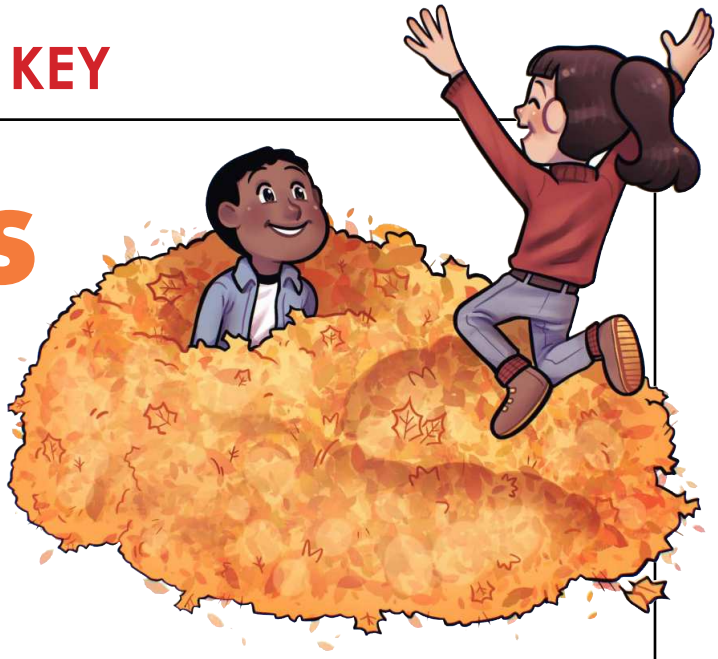
ANSWER KEY

Leaf Races



By Kelly Hashway

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the other side. The rake must touch the ground at all times so they pick up leaves. The first player to the other side of the yard wins.

4. After they had raked and bagged all of the leaves, what did Kendall and Eli decide to do?

They dumped some leaves out of the bags so they could jump in them again.

5. What lesson can be learned from this story?
   - **a.** If you help others with their work, they will help you someday.
   - **b. Chores can be fun if you make them into a game.**
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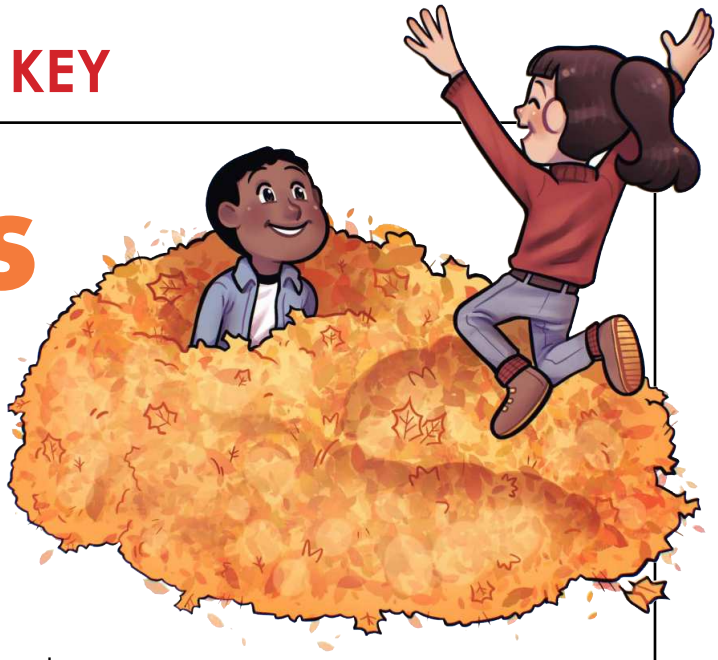
ANSWER KEY

Leaf Races



By Kelly Hashway

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