

Name: _____



Pickles for Nickels

by Neal Levin

Hamlin emptied his piggy bank and wanted a snack. Luckily, Boris had set up a pickle stand.

"How much are the pickles?" Hamlin asked.

"Five cents a piece or ten for a dollar," Boris told him.

"Ten for a dollar? That sounds like a good deal," Hamlin said.

"It's a very good deal," Boris said.

"I'll take ten." Hamlin counted out twenty nickels to make one dollar.

Boris gave him ten pickles. "Here you go. Ten for a dollar."

"Wait a minute." Hamlin thought something seemed odd. "If pickles are five cents apiece,

Name: _____

I should get twenty pickles for a dollar. You only gave me ten for a dollar, and you said that was a very good deal."

"It was a very good deal," Boris said. "A very good deal for me." Then he put up a sign. "Now they're on sale, though. Two for one."

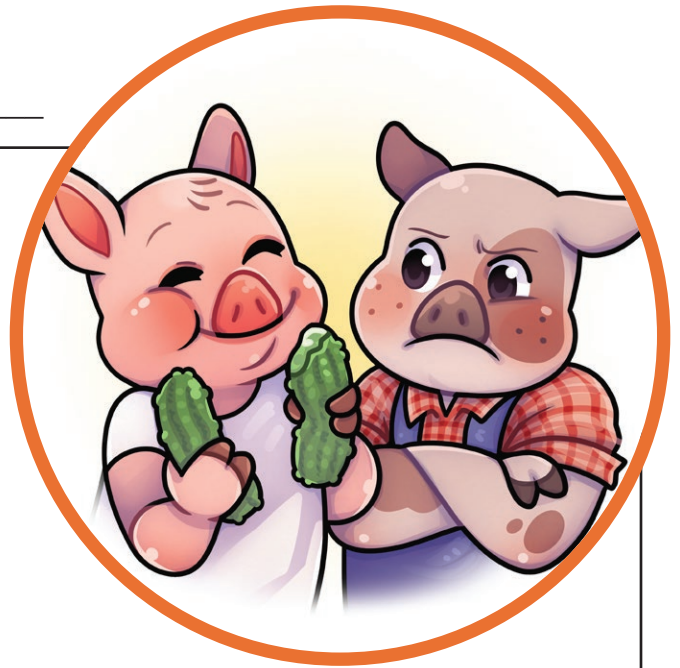
Hamlin thought about that. Two pickles for the price of one meant if he bought one pickle for a nickel, he'd get a second pickle for free. "I'll take two pickles," he said. He handed over a nickel.

"That will be four nickels," Boris told him.

Hamlin grunted. "You said two for one."

"Two nickels for one pickle," Boris said. "Four nickels for two pickles. Or ten for a dollar." He put up another sign. "But now everything's half off."

Hamlin thought that sounded good. Half off meant half price. Even if they'd been ten for a dollar, now they'd be twenty for a



dollar. They were back to five cents apiece.

"Okay," Hamlin said. "Give me a pickle half off." He handed over another nickel.

Boris put a pickle on the counter. Then he took out a knife and sliced it down the middle. He handed Hamlin half a pickle.

"What's this?"

"It's a pickle with half off," Boris said.

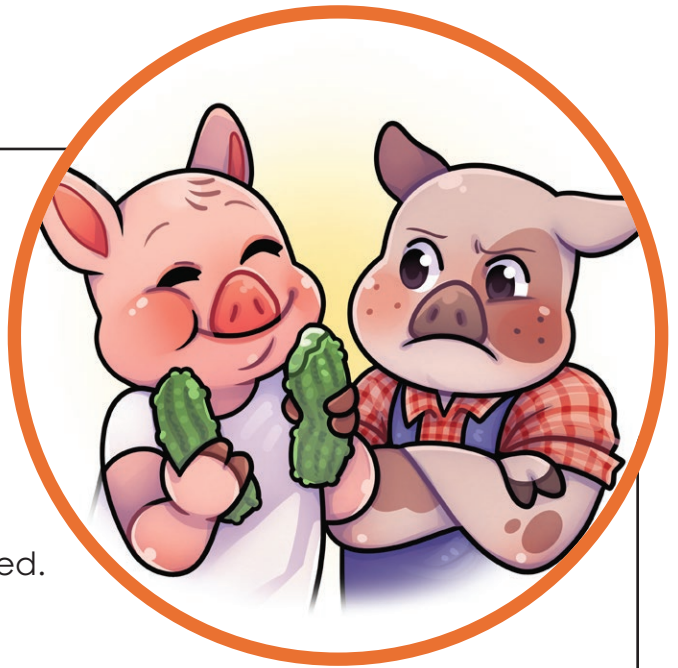
"Pickles are supposed to be five cents apiece," Hamlin squealed. "I gave you five cents, but you only gave me part of a pickle."

"That's a piece," Boris said. "Pickles are five cents a piece or ten for a dollar. You should buy some. It's a very good deal."

Name: _____

Pickles for Nickels

by Neal Levin



1. What is the lesson the author teaches?
 - a. Always bring more money than you need.
 - b. Pickles should only cost 5¢ each.
 - c. You should try to buy food on sale.
 - d. Words can have different meanings.
2. Reread the following sentences from the article. Then say how Hamlin feels based on the underlined words.

Hamlin grunted. "You said two for one."

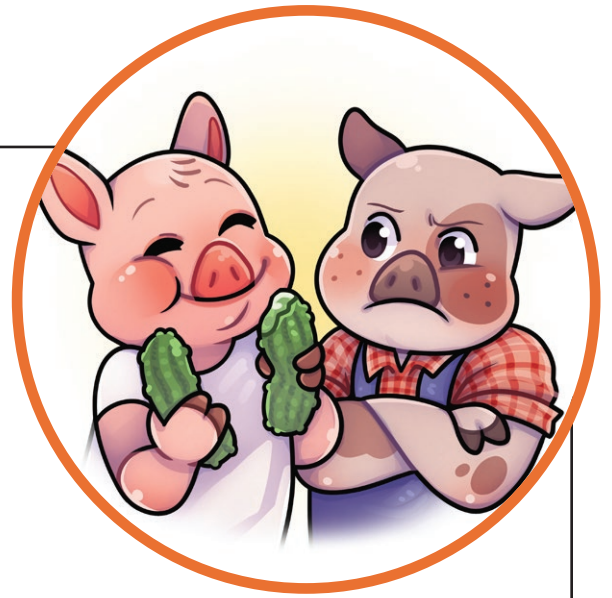
"Pickles are supposed to be five cents apiece," Hamlin squealed.

3. Boris says many things that he means one way, but that Hamlin thinks he means another way. Fill in the table for each thing Boris says.

What Boris says	What Hamlin thinks he means	What Boris means
a nickel a piece	"apiece," or one nickel for each pickle	"a piece," or one nickel for a piece of a pickle
a very good deal	a good deal for Hamlin	
two for one		two nickels for one pickle
half off		

Name: _____

Pickles for Nickels



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.

1. n i _ _ k _ _ _

clue: equal to 5¢

2. g _ _ _ n _ _ e d

clue: let out a deep, low sound

3. s _ _ l e

clue: when a price is lower

4. o _ _ _

clue: strange or not right

5. _ _ _ n t s

clue: there are 100 in a dollar

6. s _ _ _ c e _ _

clue: cut through smoothly

7. s q _ _ _ l e d

clue: let out a high, shrill sound

8. _ p _ _ _ c e

clue: each

9. d e _ _ _

clue: a trade; a good price

10. s i _ _ _

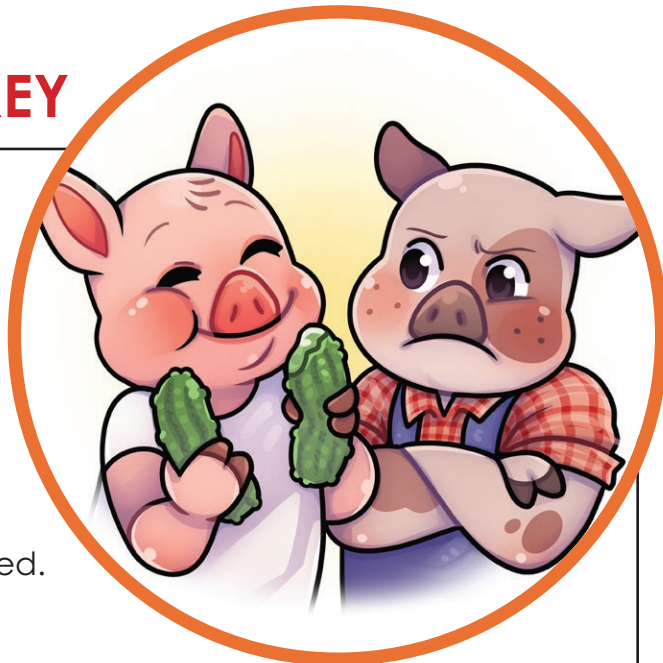
clue: something that tells information, like a price

[illegible]

ANSWER KEY

Pickles for Nickels

by Neal Levin



- What is the lesson the author teaches?
 - Always bring more money than you need.
 - Pickles should only cost 5¢ each.
 - You should try to buy food on sale.
 - Words can have different meanings.**
- Reread the following sentences from the article. Then say how Hamlin feels based on the underlined words.

Hamlin grunted. "You said two for one."

"Pickles are supposed to be five cents apiece," Hamlin squealed.

Accept variations of angry or upset.

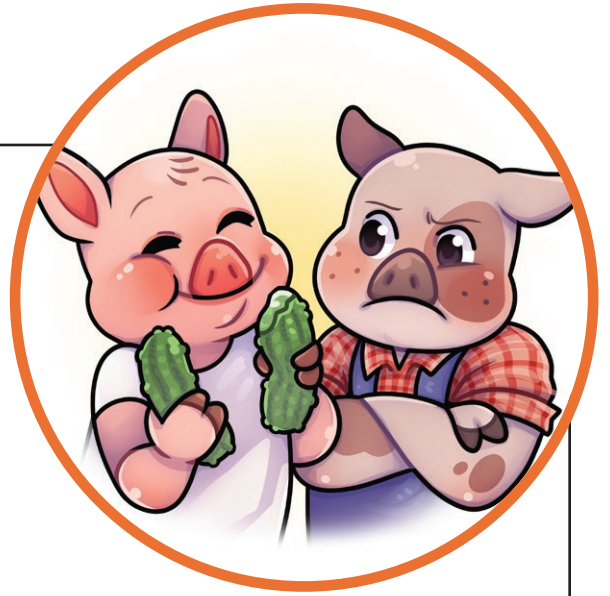
- Boris says many things that he means one way, but that Hamlin thinks he means another way. Fill in the table for each thing Boris says.

What Boris says	What Hamlin thinks he means	What Boris means
a nickel a piece	"apiece," or one nickel for each pickle	"a piece," or one nickel for a piece of a pickle
a very good deal	a good deal for Hamlin	a good deal for Boris
two for one	two pickles for one nickel	two nickels for one pickle
half off	half off the price OR two pickles for one nickel	a pickle with half cut off OR two nickels for one pickle

ANSWER KEY

Pickles for Nickels

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.



1. n i c k e l

clue: equal to 5¢

nickel

2. g r u n t e d

clue: let out a deep, low sound

grunted

3. s a l e

clue: when a price is lower

sale

4. o d d

clue: strange or not right

odd

5. c e n t s

clue: there are 100 in a dollar

cents

6. s l i c e d

clue: cut through smoothly

sliced

7. s q u e a l e d

clue: let out a high, shrill sound

squealed

8. a p i e c e

clue: each

apiece

9. d e a l

clue: a trade; a good price

deal

10. s i g n

clue: something that tells information, like a price

sign