

Name: _____

Rulers and Droolers

by Cynthia Sherwood

My friend Julia and I were jumping rope outside our two houses. It was a sunshiny afternoon. Robins hopping, daffodils blooming, breezes blowing, bushes sneezing.

Wait a minute! Bushes don't sneeze. Besides, I'd know that sneeze anywhere. It belonged to Ripley McDougal. Whenever we played, he spied on us, but his allergies always gave him away.

"Ripley, get out of there!" I ordered.

I walked to the bushes, hands on my hips, as Ripley untangled himself from the prickly branches.

He climbed out and screamed "AAAAH-EEEE," chopping the air with his hands and kicking his leg out to the front like some kind of crazy Karate Kid.

I crossed my arms and glared at him.

"Go home, Ripley! Leave us alone." He kicked to the side. "You can't make me. It's a free country."

Julia grabbed her jump rope and turned to leave. "I've got to do homework. See ya, Laney."

I tried skipping rope, but Ripley kept running in front and blocking me, doing his funky Kung Fu moves. He was working so hard at it, a bubble of spit appeared at the corner of his mouth.

"Girls rule! Boys drool!" I shouted.

It sounded good, so I yelled it again. "Girls rule! Boys drool!"

Then, since three's a charm, I yelled it a third time. "Girls rule! Boys drool!"

Ripley stopped kicking and stared at me like I'd grown a second head.

That's what it felt like, too. My head seemed to weigh a hundred pounds. I reached up and touched something hard and pointy.

"It's a crown! You're wearing a gold crown!" Ripley yelled.

He started to say something else, but I couldn't understand a word because of all the liquid pouring from his mouth. He lifted his shirt to wipe it off and got the fabric soaking wet. Slobber spilled down, puddling at his feet.

My head pounded. I pulled at the crown, but it was like it was super-glued onto me.



Ripley tried to speak, but instead let loose another river.

It finally hit me.

"Hey, I really do rule! And you really do drool, which is totally disgusting."

Ripley stepped back into the bushes. Smart thinking because they looked like they hadn't been watered for a while.

I sat down to tug at my crown, but it was no use. I scooted closer to Ripley, staying away from the muddy puddle he'd made. I leaned my head toward him. "Get it off of me! It's way too heavy."

Ripley yanked and yanked, but my crown didn't budge. It hurt so much I started screaming.

Julia ran outside, holding her baby brother Elliott. "What's going on?" she asked, her eyes bouncing between Ripley and me.

Elliott reached up and touched my crown with a big toothless smile.

Julia frowned. "Laney, does this have anything to do with that rude thing you say about boys?"

I hung my head, my crown pulling at my neck. "Yes," I admitted. "And guess what? Three times really is the charm."

"Well, then you better undo it three times unless you want to be known as the weirdo princess girl," Julia said.

Ripley nodded, splashing me.

"Okay, okay. Girls DON'T rule. Boys DON'T drool."

Nothing happened.

"Two more

"Girls don't

And just like
looked complete

"I'm sorry I was mean," I told him. "But why do you always spy on us?"

"Because I want to play with you. There aren't any boys my age on this block."

"Oh." I'd never thought about that. Playing with Ripley would be better than being spied on. I handed him my jump rope. "Here, count how many times you can jump in a row."

I gave a karate kick to see what it felt like. Kind of fun, I thought, as my hands chopped through the air. Maybe Ripley could give me lessons.



head of a crown. Ripley

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1. What are the names of the two main characters in this story?
 - a. Julia and Laney
 - b. Julia and Ripley
 - c. Laney and Ripley
 - d. Laney and Elliott

2. What two things happened when the main character yelled "Girls Rule! Boys Drool!" three times?

3. What type of story is this?

- a. Fantasy
- b. Mystery
- c. Fairytale
- d. Science Fiction



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Explain why you chose the answer above.

4. Why was Ripley spying on the girls at the beginning of the story?

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The words below are scrambled words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Check back in the story to make sure each word is spelled correctly.



1.

d	l	a
e	g	r

Clue: stared at in an angry way

2.

r	o	w
n	c	

Clue: item worn on the head of a king or queen

3.

m	o
l	b

Clue: flow

PREVIEW
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4.

e	y	
k	a	d

Clue: pulled; tugged

5.

q	i	u
i	l	d

Clue: one of the states of matter; material that can be poured

6.

f	c	a
r	b	i

Clue: cloth

Name: _____

Rulers and Droolers

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Stories in which magical things happen are called fantasy stories. In the story, "Rulers and Droolers," Laney says something rude about boys and magical things happen.



In the space below, tell which parts of this story could happen in real life, and which ones could not.



~ PREVIEW ~

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ANSWER KEY

Rulers and Droolers

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1. What are the names of the two main characters in this story? **c**
 - a. Julia and Laney
 - b. Julia and Ripley
 - c. Laney and Ripley**
 - d. Laney and Elliott
2. What two things happened when the main character yelled "Girls Rule! Boys Drool!" three times?

Ripley began drooling uncontrollably. A crown appeared on Laney's head that would not come off.

3. What type of story is this?

- a.
- b.
- c.**



Explain why you chose the answer above.

This story is fantasy because there are magical events in it.

4. Why was Ripley spying on the girls at the beginning of the story?

Ripley wanted to play with the girls because there weren't any boys his age around.

ANSWER KEY

Rulers and Droolers

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The words below are scrambled words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Check back in the story to make sure each word is spelled correctly.



1.

d	l	a
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glared

Clue: stared at in an angry way

2.

r	o	w
n	c	

crown

Clue: item worn on the head of a king or queen

3.

m	o
l	b

Clue: flow



PREVIEW

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4.

e	y	n
k	a	d

yanked

Clue: pulled; tugged

5.

q	i	u
i	l	d

liquid

Clue: one of the states of matter; material that can be poured

6.

f	c	a
r	b	i

fabric

Clue: cloth

ANSWER KEY

Rulers and Droolers

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Stories in which with magical things happen are called fantasy stories. In the story, "Rulers and Droolers," Laney says something rude about boys and magical things happen.



In the space below, tell which parts of this story could happen in real life, and which ones could not.

Answers will vary.

For things that could really happen, students might mention:

- Two girls playing with a jump rope
- A boy could be showing off his karate moves.
- A girl might say, "Girls Rule. Boys Drool."

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PREVIEW

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For things that c

- A crown could not magically appear attached to someone's head.
- A boy would not magically start drooling.
- Magic words do not really work.