Name: _____

Saving a Seat

By Neal Levin

Oliver sat by himself on the playground, munching away on his cucumber sandwich.

Patrick came along, carrying a paper lunch sack. "Is this seat taken?" he said.

his elbow."

"Really?" Oliver said. "I have a friend who can balance a basketball on his elbow."

"That's nothing," Patrick said, peeling a hard-boiled egg. "I have a friend who can spin a basketball on the tip of his finger and another one on the top of his head. At the same time."

"Is that so?" Oliver said. "I'm friends with someone who can play the piano at the same time as the guitar."

"I'm friends with someone who can play the piano and guitar blindfolded. And someone who can count to a gazillion backwards," said Patrick. "I have tons of friends."

"I bet I have more," said Oliver. "I have so many friends I can't even name them all."

"I have the most friends in the whole wide universe." Patrick spread his arms apart as far as he could reach.

Oliver looked around. "If you have so many friends, where are they all?"

Patrick shrugged. "If you have so many friends, why do you always eat lunch by yourself?"

Oliver wiped his lips with a napkin. "I told you. I happen to be saving a seat for my friend right now."

"Well, I happen to be sitting in that seat," said Patrick. "So you know what that means?"

"What?" said Oliver.

"I must be your friend." Patrick smiled.

Preview

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Name: _____

Saving a Seat

By Neal Levin

1. What was the author's purpose?

- **a.** to teach you that bragging is bad
- **b.** to describe how kids play and eat lunch
- **c.** to tell the story of how two boys became friends
- **d.** to show the best way to make friends

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_____

4. When you exaggerate (*ex-aj-ur-ate*), you brag about something by saying it is bigger or better than it really is. Which of the following is an *exaggeration*?

- **a.** Kids can have a lot of fun at the playground.
- **b.** He can count backwards from a gazillion.
- **c.** I ate a sandwich for lunch.
- **d.** My friend is good at playing piano.

5. Do you think Oliver and Patrick were being honest about what their friends can do? Why or why not?

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Saving a Seat

By Neal Levin

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

Preview

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4. _____ d o f d l b i l n

clue: *something to cover your eyes*

5. _____ l a n i i z g o l

clue: *a big number that isn't real*

6. _____ e n g p e l i

clue: *removing the skin or shell from something*

7. _____ a k r b a s d c w

clue: *in the opposite direction or order*

8. _____ v r u e i n e s

clue: *all of space; everything we know that exists*

Name: _____

Saving a Seat

By Neal Levin

In the story, *Saving a Seat*, you read about two boys named Oliver and Patrick. They meet while having lunch on a playground. After talking for a while, they become friends.

Think of a time that you made a friend. Where did you meet your friend? What

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ANSWER KEY

Saving a Seat

By Neal Levin

1. What was the author's purpose?

a. to teach you that bragging is bad

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the printable version of this worksheet.

basketball but you can't count to a gazillion backwards.

ANSWER KEY

Saving a Seat

By Neal Levin

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

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clue: *all of space; everything we know that exists*