

Name: _____

Shh! It's a Secret!

by Kelly Hashway

"Don't tell anyone," Jennifer said. "It's a secret."

Reagan sighed. Jennifer wanted everything to be a secret. She thought it made her mysterious if people didn't know much about her. Maybe Jennifer was right. She had quickly become the most popular girl in school. But Reagan



was getting tired of her friend Lena.

"Hey, c

Reagan and



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"Nothing," Jennifer said.

Reagan shifted in her seat and crumpled her napkin in her hand. "Well—"

"Reagan! You can't tell her," Jennifer said. "It's a secret. You can't tell other people's secrets."

"But she should know this. It's about—"

Jennifer narrowed her eyes at Reagan. "If you can't keep a secret, I'll have to find another friend who can."

"It's just that this isn't really a secret," Reagan said.

"Anything can be a secret. It's more fun that way."

"How is keeping secrets fun?" Lena asked.

Jennifer smirked. "It's fun when everyone wants to know what your secret is."

"Well, it's not fun for the people who don't know the secret." Lena got up and walked away.

Reagan stood up. "I'll keep your secret because I'm your friend," she told Jennifer, "but I don't want to know any more secrets. Don't tell me anything I can't tell Lena. She's one of my best friends, and I don't like making her feel left out." Reagan turned and walked off after Lena.

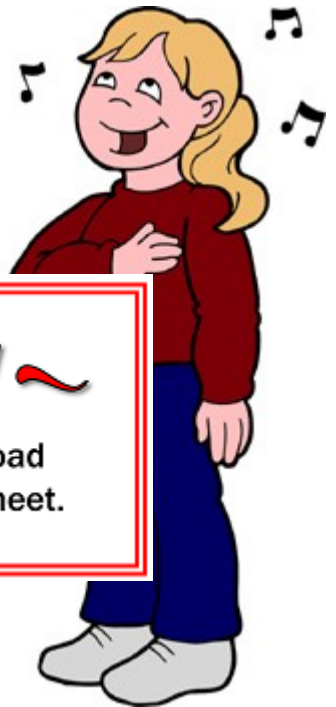
"Wait!" Jennifer said. "You can tell Lena that tryouts for the play are being moved up to Thursday. She should know since she's

going out for

Reagan

Lena's your fr

"You're right," Jennifer said. "Let's go find her and tell her about tryouts right now."



PREVIEW

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About the the Author

Kelly Hashway

Kelly Hashway is a children's book author. You may enjoy reading her latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, which will be available in Spring 2011.

Name: _____



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1. What does Reagan do when she becomes frustrated with Jennifer's secrets?
 - a. She tells the secret to her best friend Lena.
 - b. She tells their teacher.
 - c. She tells Jennifer she is not good at keeping secrets.
 - d. She says she doesn't want to know any more secrets.

2. What was Jennifer's secret?



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3. Why did _____

4. How did Lena probably feel when she walked away from the table?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. relieved | b. lonely |
| c. aggravated | d. indifferent |

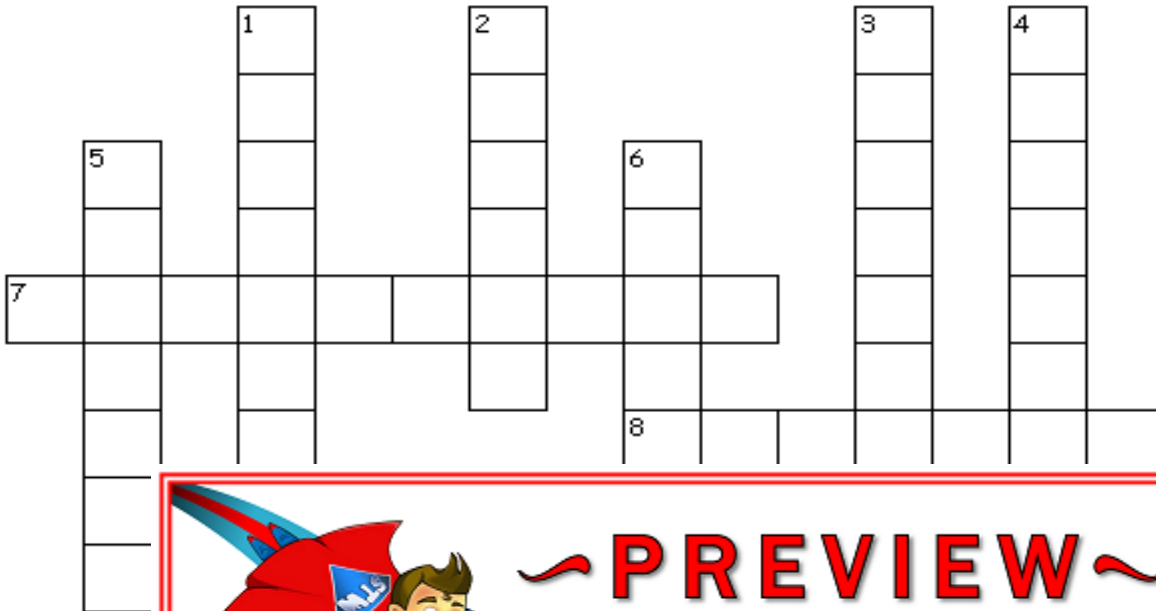
Challenge: On a sheet of white paper, draw a comic strip in which Jennifer and Reagan tell Lena the secret. Be sure your pictures are detailed and the words are neatly written.

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Shh! It's a Secret!

Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle



PREVIEW

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Use words from the story, "Shh! It's a Secret!" to complete the crossword.

Across

- 7. unknown, secretive
- 8. smiled in a smug way
- 9. most important role in a play

Down

- 1. large room for eating
- 2. cloth for wiping hands and fingers when eating
- 3. liked by others
- 4. crushed and wrinkled
- 5. auditions
- 6. day before Friday

ANSWER KEY



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- a. She tells the secret to her best friend Lena.
 - b. She tells their teacher.
 - c. She tells Jennifer she is not good at keeping secrets.
 - d. **She says she doesn't want to know any more secrets.**

2. What was Jennifer's secret?

Tryouts



~ PREVIEW ~

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3. Why did

Lena walk

4. How did Lena probably feel when she walked away from the table? **c**
- a. relieved
 - b. lonely
 - c. **aggravated**
 - d. indifferent

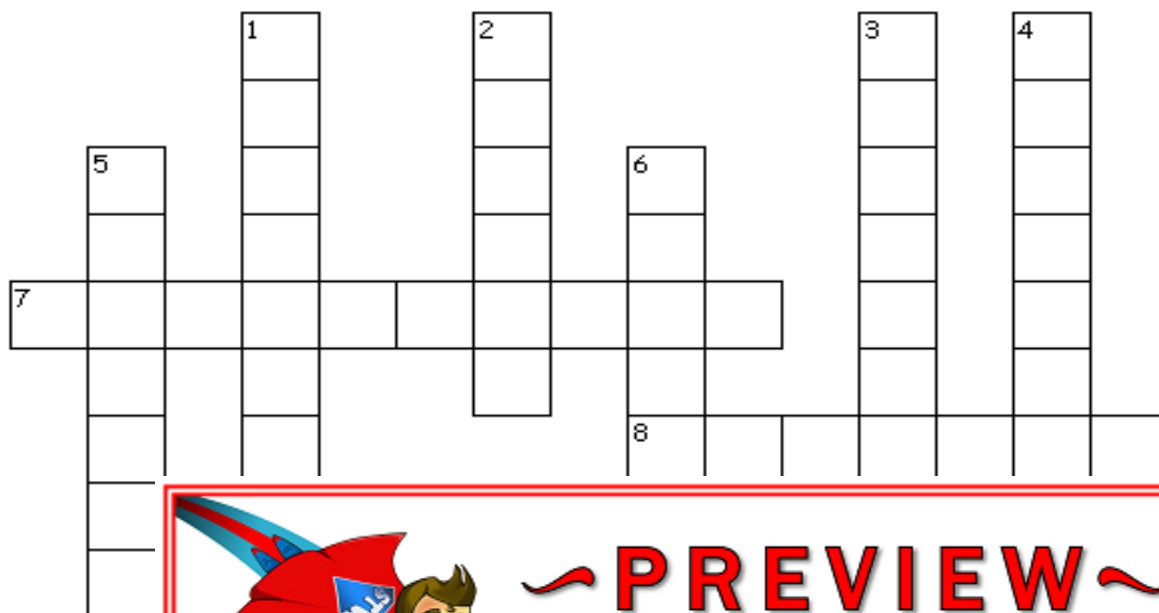
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ANSWER KEY



Shh! It's a Secret!

Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle



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Use words from the story, 'Shh! It's a Secret', to complete the crossword.

Across

7. unknown, secretive (**mysterious**)
8. smiled in a smug way (**smirked**)
9. most important role in a play (**lead**)

Down

1. large room for eating (**cafeteria**)
2. cloth for wiping hands and fingers when eating (**napkin**)
3. liked by others (**popular**)
4. crushed and wrinkled (**crumpled**)
5. auditions (**tryouts**)
6. day before Friday (**Thursday**)