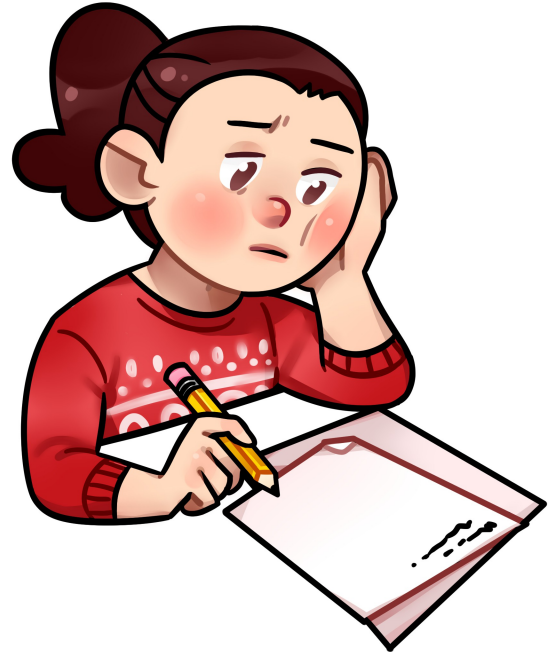


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thanksgiving Essay

by Kelly Hashway

It was the night before Thanksgiving and Leslie was sitting at her desk trying to write her essay for school. The topic was "What I'm thankful for this Thanksgiving" and Leslie didn't know where to begin. Mrs. Calendar had said they should focus on one specific thing and explain why they are thankful for it. But Leslie had a list of things she was thankful for. Her new bike she'd gotten for her birthday. Her mom's new job that let her spend more time at home with Leslie. Her family and friends who cared about her. And the list went on and on. How would she decide which thing she was most thankful for?



"Sweetie, it's time for bed," Mom said, peeking her head in the door.

"But I haven't written my essay yet. I still can't think of what to write about."

Mom smiled. "Well, having a lot to be thankful for is a good thing. Why don't you sleep on it? I bet you'll be able to figure it out after a good night's rest. Besides, all your cousins are coming over in the morning. Tomorrow's Thanksgiving, remember?"

Leslie nodded and said goodnight to her mother. She did get a good night's sleep, but in the morning she still didn't know what to write about. She decided not to think about it and just enjoy the day with her family. That's what holidays were about according to her mother. And Leslie agreed.

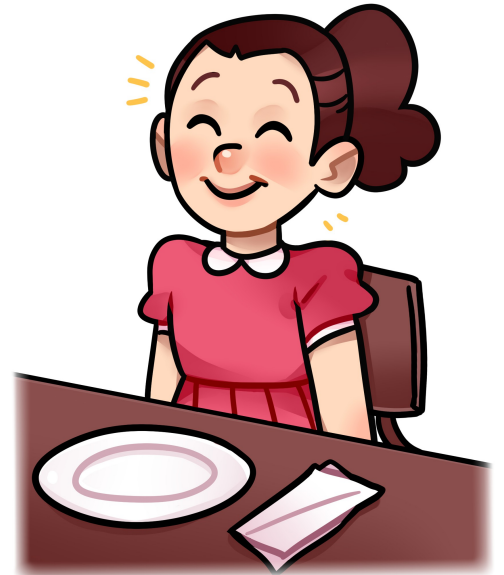
She and her cousins played all day long as delicious smells filled the house. Leslie couldn't imagine a better way to spend the day. And before she knew it, it was time to eat. Everyone took their seats at the dining room table.

"Would anyone like to say what they're thankful for before we carve the turkey?" Mom asked.

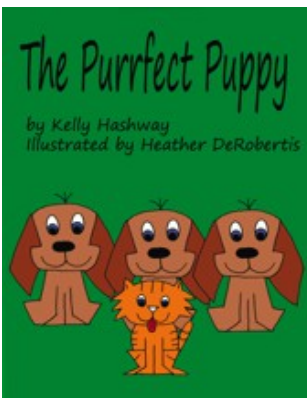
Without hesitating Leslie stood up. "I know what I'm most thankful for this Thanksgiving."

"What's that, honey?" Mom asked.

Leslie looked around the table at her family and all the delicious food her mom had made. "I'm thankful for Thanksgiving because it reminds us of everything we have to be thankful for, like family, good food, and fun." Leslie smiled, happy that she finally had a topic for her essay.



## About the Author



Check out Kelly Hashway's latest book, *The Perfect Puppy!*

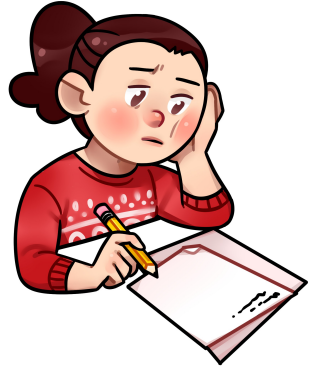
When a stray kitten is raised by a family of dogs, she grows up thinking she is a dog. She fetches, growls, gives paw, and even does her best to bark. She loves her dog family, but when a little girl wants to adopt her and gives her the perfect name, the kitten will have to decide where her home really is.

Hashway, Kelly. *The Perfect Puppy*. ISBN: 978-1466353909

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thanksgiving Essay

by Kelly Hashway



1. What problem does Leslie have in this story?
  - a. Leslie does not know how to write an essay.
  - b. Leslie does not know what to write about.
  - c. Leslie does not have time to write an essay.
  - d. Leslie has to write her essay while everyone is eating Thanksgiving dinner.

2. In her essay, could Leslie write about how she is thankful for everything? Explain.

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3. Is Leslie's birthday probably in the fall, spring, or winter? How do you know?

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4. At Thanksgiving dinner, why did Leslie say she was thankful for Thanksgiving?
  - a. because she couldn't think of anything to be thankful for
  - b. because it reminds her of everything she has to be thankful for
  - c. because her cousins were visiting
  - d. because she was hungry

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thanksgiving Essay

by Kelly Hashway



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. \_\_\_ e e \_\_\_ n g

**hint:** looking quickly

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_ s \_\_\_ a \_\_\_

**hint:** short piece of writing

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ s i \_\_\_ s

**hint:** your parents' siblings' children

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_ e c i \_\_\_ \_\_\_

**hint:** choose

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ r \_\_\_ e

**hint:** cut

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ i \_\_\_ \_\_\_ in \_\_\_

**hint:** pausing for a moment

\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_ h a \_\_\_ f \_\_\_ l

**hint:** grateful

\_\_\_\_\_

8. f \_\_\_ \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ \_\_\_ y

**hint:** after a long time

\_\_\_\_\_



## ANSWER KEY

# Thanksgiving Essay

by Kelly Hashway



1. What problem does Leslie have in this story? **b**
  - a. Leslie didn't know how to write an essay.
  - b. Leslie didn't know what to write about.**
  - c. Leslie didn't have time to write an essay.
  - d. Leslie had to write her essay while everyone was eating Thanksgiving dinner.
  
2. In her essay, could Leslie write about how she is thankful for everything? Explain.  
  
**No, she couldn't write that she was thankful for "everything." She had to choose one, specific thing and explain why she is thankful for it.**
  
3. Is Leslie's birthday probably in the fall, spring, or winter? How do you know?  
  
**Leslie's birthday is probably in the fall. The essay says she got a new bike for her birthday. Since Thanksgiving is in the fall, and the bike is new, her birthday has probably recently passed.**
  
4. At Thanksgiving dinner, why did Leslie say she was thankful for Thanksgiving? **b**
  - a. because she couldn't think of anything to be thankful for
  - b. because it reminds her of everything she has to be thankful for**
  - c. because her cousins were visiting
  - d. because she was hungry

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thanksgiving Essay

by Kelly Hashway

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. **peeking** **pe**eking  
hint: looking quickly
2. **essay** **es**say  
hint: short piece of writing
3. **cousins** **co**usins  
hint: your parents' siblings' children
4. **decide** **de**cide  
hint: choose
5. **carve** **car**ve  
hint: cut
6. **hesitating** **hes**itating  
hint: pausing for a moment
7. **thankful** **than**kful  
hint: grateful
8. **finally** **final**ly  
hint: after a long time