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



"What are you doing?" Paige asked. "I thought you lost."

"I did, but I have to get past this level. Brian beat it last week." Alec's fingers were blurs again, and he didn't take his eyes from the screen.

"Can't you take a break? It's nice out. We could shoot hoops or ride bikes."

"Nah. I've got to get past this level."

"Can I help?" Paige asked, putting the ball down and sitting next to Alec. She wasn't really into video games, but it was better than being bored.

Alec paused the game. "Really?"

"Why not. It might be fun. But after we win, can we go outside?"

Alec shrugged. "Okay." He handed Paige a controller and explained how the game worked.

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Paige wasn't very good, and they didn't make it past the level Alec wanted to beat. But they laughed and had fun anyway. After the game ended for the third time, Alec stood up.

"Let's go outside."

"But we didn't beat the level," Paige said.

"It doesn't matter," Alec said.

"What will you tell Brian?"

"That my sister is awful at video games, but she's good at basketball." Alec grabbed the basketball and passed it to Paige.

"Yeah, my thumbs don't move as fast as yours, but I have a great jump shot."

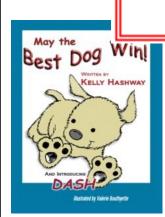
"Okay, your turn to teach me. I want to have a great jump shot, too."

Paige gave Alec a few pointers and his shooting got better. Sweaty and out of breath, Alec turned to Paige and smiled. "Don't tell Brian, but this beats playing video games any day."



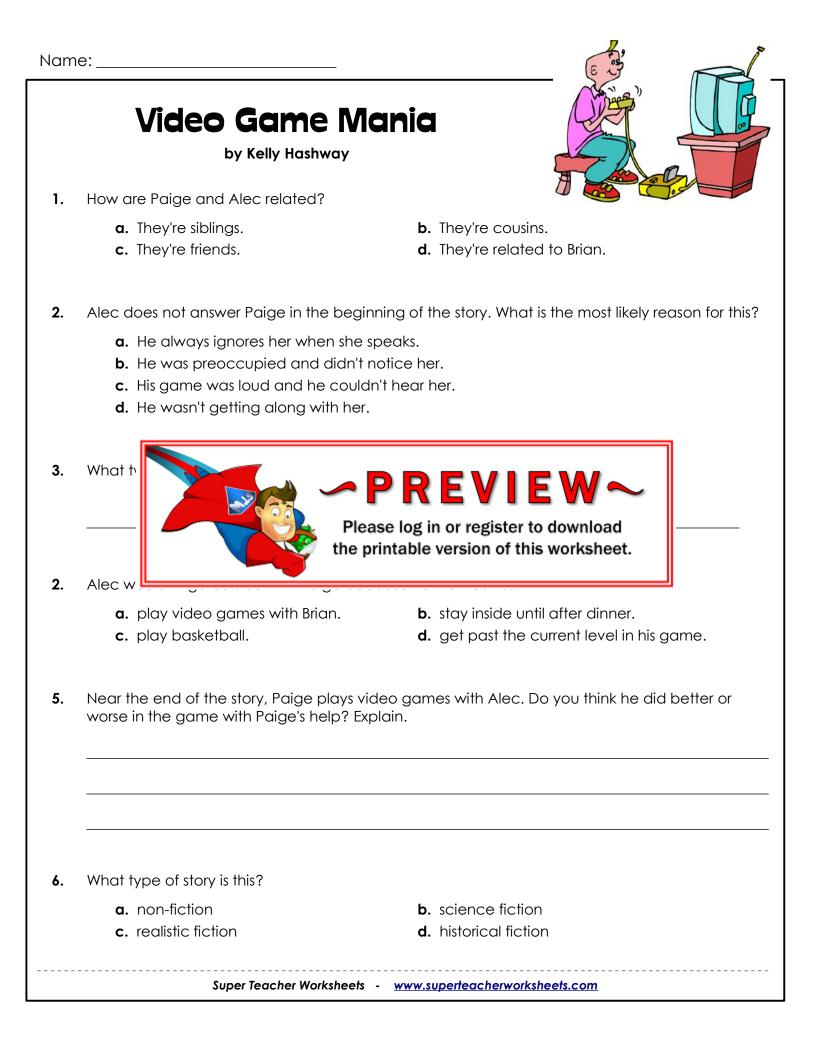
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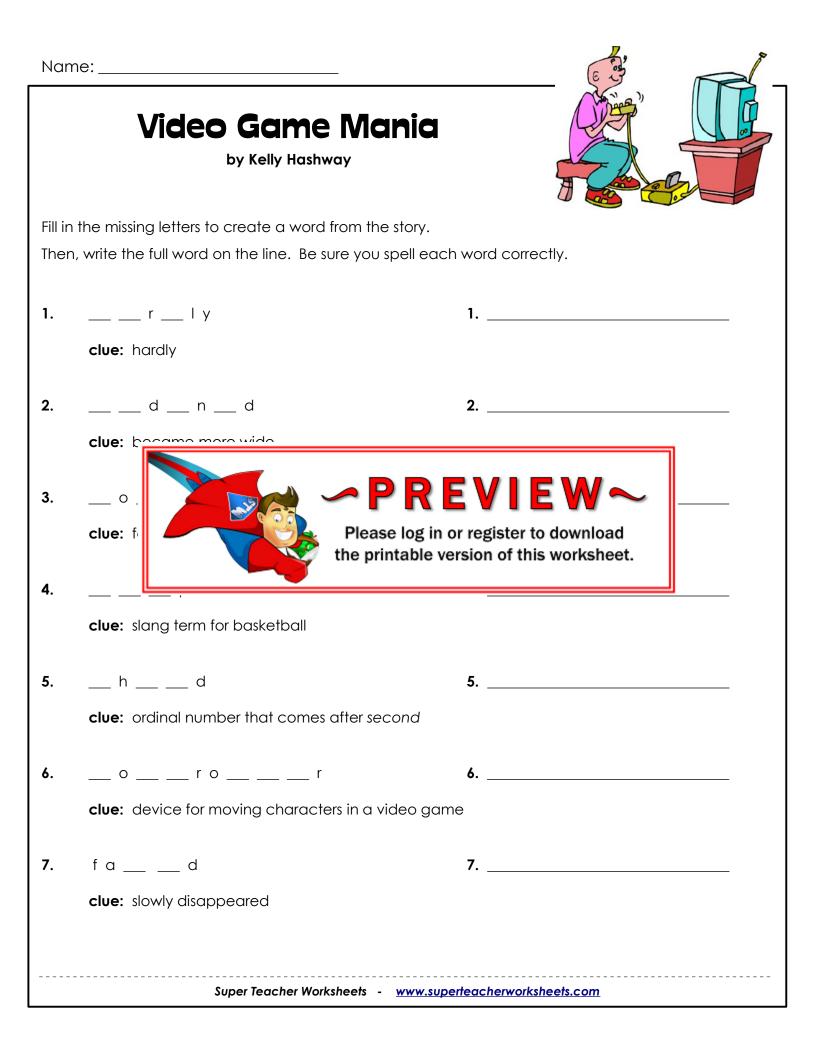
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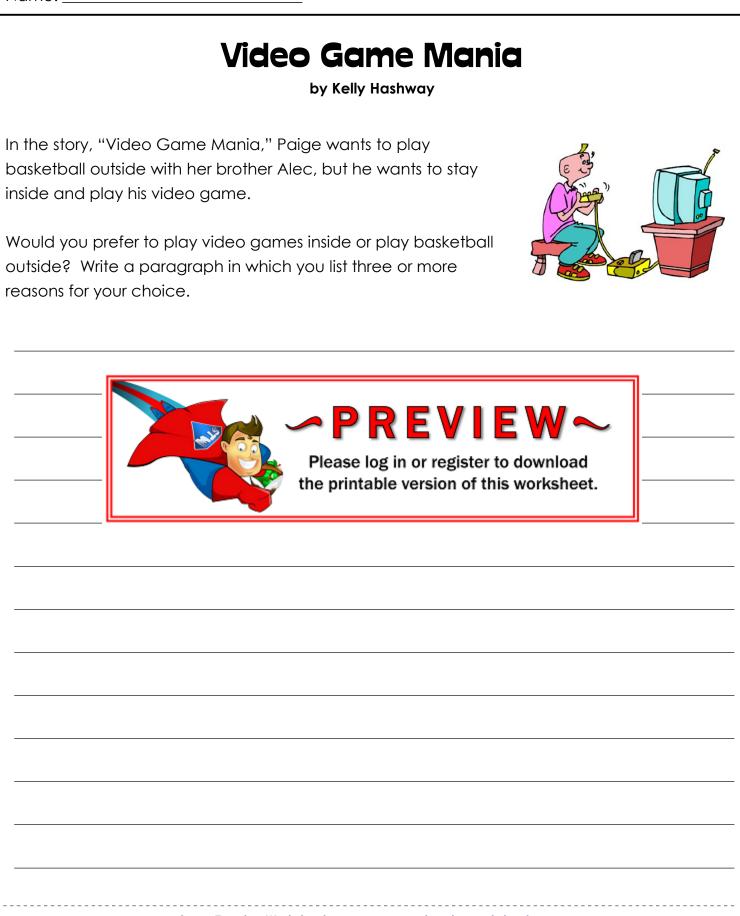


Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

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