

Name: _____

Erupting with Fun

By Kelly Hashway



Darren rolled over in bed, squinting against the light shining in his eyes. "Mom, what are you doing? It's Sunday. Let me sleep."

"This room is a mess," Mom said, pulling a paper out from under a dirty plate of half-eaten chicken wings. "What's this?"

Darren gulped. He'd forgotten all about his science project.

"This says you have a project due tomorrow," Mom said.

Darren kicked the covers off and jumped out of bed. "I totally forgot. Could you write me a note? I'm supposed to go to the new skate park with Kevin today."

Mom shook her head. "No way. You're staying right here and working on your project."

"I don't even know what to do for it. How am I supposed to make a project in one day?"

"You should've thought about that sooner. This paper says you had two weeks to complete the project."

Darren lowered his head. "I'll call Kevin."

"Then meet me in the kitchen. I have an idea for a project."

Darren called Kevin and told him the bad news. When he met his mom in the kitchen, she had food coloring, baking soda, vinegar, and dish detergent on the table.

"It's not a baking project," Darren said.

“You’re making a volcano.” Mom handed him a paper. “I printed the instructions for you off an easy science project website. You’ll need a small mound of dirt, so take this plastic container and get some from the garden.”



A volcano? That almost sounded fun. Darren shrugged and got some dirt from the garden. As he carried it back inside, he looked at the instructions. He’d have to mold the dirt to look like a volcano. The other ingredients his mom had gathered were for the solution that

would erupt from the center of it. It looked easy enough. Maybe he’d be able to meet Kevin at the skate park after all.

“Here.” Mom handed Darren a small cylindrical container. “You need to put this in the center of the volcano. Make sure you don’t get any dirt in it.”

Darren took the container and carefully molded the dirt around it. He checked his instructions. Next he had to add two spoonfuls of baking soda, a spoonful of dish detergent, and a few drops of red food coloring to the container.

“Now for the fun part,” Mom said. “When you add the vinegar, the volcano will erupt, so get ready.”

Darren smiled, excited to see the eruption. He measured an ounce of vinegar and poured it into the container. The mixture bubbled over the top of the volcano.

“Awesome!” Darren said. “This was actually fun.”

“Yeah. Science can be very fun,” Mom said. “Well, I guess you can call Kevin and meet him at the skate park.”

“In a bit. I want to try this again!”

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1. What is the setting of this story?
 - a. at Darren's house, on Sunday evening
 - b. at Darren's house, on Sunday morning
 - c. at Kevin's house, on the weekend
 - d. at the school science fair, on Sunday
2. How did Darren's mother find out about the science project?
 - a. She read it in his school notebook two weeks ago.
 - b. Kevin mentioned it.
 - c. Darren's teacher told her about it.
 - d. She found a scrap of paper in Darren's messy room.

3. Which word best describes Darren? (circle one)

fussy

procrastinator

careful

enthusiastic

Explain why you chose the word circled above.

4. What supplies and ingredients did Darren use to make the volcano?

5. Darren's mother printed instructions for making a volcano from a website. Which choice below tells what she may have typed into the computer when she was searching for ideas?
 - a. fun crafts for kids
 - b. interesting science facts
 - c. simple science activities
 - d. projects for Darren

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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. ___ y l ___ ___ d r i ___ a l

clue: tube-shaped

1. _____

2. g u ___ ___ e d

clue: swallowed quickly and deeply

2. _____

3. ___ o ___ e ___ s

clue: bed sheets

3. _____

4. ___ e t ___ ___ g ___ ___ ___

clue: soap; cleaning material

4. _____

5. ___ e ___ s i ___ e

clue: place to find information on the Internet

5. _____

6. ___ ___ u n ___

clue: pile; lump

6. _____

7. ___ i ___ e ___ a ___

clue: sour-tasting liquid acid used for
baking or cooking

7. _____

ANSWER KEY

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3. Which word best describes Darren? (circle one)

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Explain why you chose the word circled above.

A procrastinator is someone who puts off work until the last minute.

4. What supplies and ingredients did Darren use to make the volcano?

Darren used dirt (soil), a cylindrical container, vinegar, baking soda, dish detergent, and red food coloring.

5. Darren's mother printed instructions for making a volcano from a website. Which choice below tells what she may have typed into the computer when she was searching for ideas?
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 - d. projects for Darren

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1. c y l i n d r i c a l

clue: tube-shaped

1. cylindrical

2. g u l p e d

clue: swallowed quickly and deeply

2. gulped

3. c o v e r s

clue: bed sheets

3. covers

4. d e t e r g e n t

clue: soap; cleaning material

4. detergent

5. w e b s i t e

clue: place to find information on the Internet

5. website

6. m o u n d

clue: pile; lump

6. mound

7. v i n e g a r

clue: sour-tasting liquid acid used for baking or cooking

7. vinegar