

Name:

Fiction: Context Clues – Q1:8

Date:

As you answer this week's questions, highlight your evidence in the text.

A Ghost in the Attic

Thump. Thump. Thump.

Jason rubbed his eyes and stared at his dark ceiling. Was he dreaming, or had those **ominous** sounds come from the attic? A loud clatter, like dishes shaking, sounded overhead. He turned on his light. His family had just moved in. What if the house was haunted? He hadn't seen a ghost when he and Beth had been up there earlier. But that didn't prove anything. Ghosts can turn themselves invisible.

Scratch. Scratch. Scratch. Something scraped against the attic floor.

Mom had given them permission to play in the attic while she and Dad unpacked. There wasn't much in that **cavernous** space. They'd built a fort out of old chairs and a sheet that the previous owners had left behind. What if the ghost was angry that it had been left behind, too?

Jason wished he was back in their apartment in the city. All his friends lived within walking distance, and his building had cool **amenities** like a pool and a movie room. Plus, you never hear about haunted apartment buildings. Ghosts only haunt houses, especially houses like theirs: big, old and in the middle of nowhere.

Oww. Yeowww.

Jason jumped out of bed and sprinted to his sister's room. Beth was standing in her doorway in her robe.

"Did you hear that?" asked Jason.

Beth twirled and untwirled the tie of her bathrobe around her finger. "Um, I didn't hear anything."

"You didn't? Then why are you standing in your doorway wearing a robe?" asked Jason suspiciously.

"I..." Beth paused, looked up at the ceiling and then down at the floor. "...was hungry. Just heading down to the kitchen for some leftover pizza from dinner."

Creak, crick, creak.

"This house is haunted!" insisted Jason. "Hear that?"

"That? That's nothing. Old houses just make noises, sometimes," said Beth.

"Yeah, but these aren't those kind of noises. These sound like a ghost who's not happy we're here."

Beth shook her head. "There's no such thing as--"

Crash!

"That's it! I'm going downstairs to get Mom and Dad."

"No, don't!" Beth grabbed her brother by the arm. "I wanted to wait until morning to tell them."

"To tell them what?" Jason quizzed his sister.

"Well, you're right. There is something up there," Beth confirmed. "Come on, I'll show you."

Beth led Jason to the attic steps. He **apprehensively** followed her up the dark stairs. If only their flashlights weren't still packed away. He was glad when she switched on the attic light as she opened the door. A chair from their fort had fallen over, and a little dish was upside-down on the floor. The white sheet they had used for was moving across the floor, as if it had a life of its own. Not seeming surprised, Beth grabbed the sheet and yanked it. Under it was a tiny white kitten with black circles around its eyes.

"This is what's been scaring you," she told Jason, with a smile.

The kitten walked right up Jason and nuzzled its head against his ankle.

"I think he likes you," said Beth. "I found him crying in a box out by the recycling bin when I took out the pizza boxes after dinner. He must have been dumped by someone who didn't want him."

"Do you think we can keep him?" asked Jason.

"I'm going to beg," said Beth. "Our apartment had that no-pets policy. Now that we live here, I think Mom and Dad will say yes. They were so tired from unpacking all day I thought I'd wait until morning to ask."

Jason picked up the kitten, and sat down on the rocking chair. *Creak, crick, creak,* went the rocking chair as Jason rocked with the kitten curled up on his lap.

"He seems right at home," said Jason, "I think we should call him Ghost."

Fiction: Context Clues – Q1:8

| Monday | Tuesday |
|---|--|
| <p>What does the word ominous mean in the story?</p> <hr/> | <p>What does the word cavernous mean in the story?</p> <hr/> |
| <p>What time of day does this story take place? How do you know?</p> <hr/> | <p>What is Jason's problem in this story?</p> <hr/> |
| <p>Why do you think the author uses sound effects, or onomatopoeias, in this story?</p> <hr/> | <p>How does his problem get solved?</p> <hr/> |
| <p>Why does Jason suddenly wish he was back in his old apartment?</p> <hr/> | <p>When Jason hears "Oww. Yeowww," how does he feel? How do you know?</p> <hr/> |
| Wednesday | Thursday |
| <p>What does the word amenities mean in the story?</p> <hr/> | <p>What does the word apprehensively mean in the story?</p> <hr/> |
| <p>How can you tell Beth isn't being honest when she says she is heading down to the kitchen for some leftover pizza?</p> <hr/> | <p>How did Jason feel when he saw the kitten in the attic?</p> <hr/> |
| <p>Why is Beth so calm when she hears the noises in the attic?</p> <hr/> | <p>According to the story, what is one reason why their parents might allow them to keep the kitten?</p> <hr/> |
| <p>Why does Beth decide to show Jason what has been making all the noise?</p> <hr/> | <p>Why might Jason think Ghost is a good name for the kitten?</p> <hr/> |

More of My Thinking

| Monday | Tuesday |
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| Wednesday | Thursday |
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My Progress

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
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| ____ out of 4 correct I need more help with... | ____ out of 4 correct I need more help with... | ____ out of 4 correct I need more help with... | ____ out of 4 correct I need more help with... |
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Answer Key - Fiction: Context Clues – Q1:8

| Monday | Tuesday |
|---|--|
| <p>What does the word ominous mean in the story?</p> <p>threatening; scary</p> | <p>What does the word cavernous mean in the story?</p> <p>like a cave, large</p> |
| <p>What time of day does this story take place? How do you know?</p> <p>Nighttime (he was dreaming, he was in bed)</p> | <p>What is Jason’s problem in this story?</p> <p>He hears scary noises coming from the attic.</p> |
| <p>Why do you think the author uses sound effects, or onomatopoeias, in this story?</p> <p>The author wants the reader to hear the sounds in their head.</p> | <p>How does his problem get solved?</p> <p>He learns there is a cat in the attic.</p> |
| <p>Why does Jason suddenly wish he was back in his old apartment?</p> <p>He misses his friends and thinks ghosts don’t haunt apartments.</p> | <p>When Jason hears “Oww. Yeowww,” how does he feel? How do you know?</p> <p>He is scared. I know this because he jumped out of bed and ran to his sister.</p> |
| Wednesday | Thursday |
| <p>What does the word amenities mean in the story?</p> <p>A feature that can be used for fun (comfort or pleasure).</p> | <p>What does the word apprehensively mean in the story?</p> <p>nervously</p> |
| <p>How can you tell Beth isn’t being honest when she says she is heading down to the kitchen for some leftover pizza?</p> <p>She paused and looked up at the ceiling and down at the floor.</p> | <p>How did Jason feel when he saw the kitten in the attic?</p> <p>relieved</p> |
| <p>Why is Beth so calm when she hears the noises in the attic?</p> <p>She knows what is making the noise.</p> | <p>According to the story, what is one reason why their parents might allow them to keep the kitten?</p> <p>Accept all reasonable answers. They no longer have a no-pets policy where they live.</p> |
| <p>Why does Beth decide to show Jason what has been making all the noise?</p> <p>She doesn’t want him to tell their parents.</p> | <p>Why might Jason think Ghost is a good name for the kitten?</p> <p>He thought the kitten was a ghost, or because the kitten is white like a ghost.</p> |