

A New Assignment

Read this story to learn more about the Fall Festival.

¹ Impatiently, Tom and Betsy waited along with the other students to discuss their new assignments for the next edition of *The Knightly News*, the school newspaper.

² "Now, I'd like to meet with Tom, Lance, and Betsy," said Ms. Lopez.

³ First addressing Tom, Ms. Lopez explained, "I would like you to cover the Fall Festival from a personal point of view. What do you think?"

⁴ "Gee, that's great!" blurted Tom. "Just tell me what you want and I'll do it."

⁵ "I know you will, Tom. Now just give me a minute to explain, and then Lance can take over."

⁶ "Sure, Ms. Lopez," Tom apologized.

⁷ "Tom, I've been quite pleased with your work lately. You've proven that you can put together a very good piece of writing if you put your mind to it."

⁸ Tom was so surprised, he could barely nod his head. Ms. Lopez continued, "Don't look so shocked. You have some talent, and I want you to use it to the best of your ability on this next assignment."

⁹ Lance continued, "As you know, the Festival is held at this time every year, and the proceeds go to help families in need. I

want you to talk to some of those people. Find out how they feel. Unemployment is running high here since the factory closed. A lot of people are suffering."

¹⁰ "I think I understand. You want me to focus my attention on the people who need our help, not on the Festival itself," Tom said as he looked from Lance to Ms. Lopez.

¹¹ "That's right, Tom," answered Ms. Lopez. "Some of the other reporters will be covering the activities at the fair. From you, I want something different, something special. I'm looking for an honest but thoughtfully written story. I want you to take a deeper look."

¹² "You've got it, Ms. Lopez," answered Tom.

¹³ "Good! Lance, what do you have in mind for Betsy?" asked Ms. Lopez.

¹⁴ "You'll photograph some of the activities going on during the Festival," Lance began, "but the real focus will be the people at the Festival. Use your camera to capture their feelings. Then, I want you to take some shots of the Festival's organizers, because they're the heart of our community. Do you think you can handle it?"

¹⁵ "Are you kidding? It sounds great!" exclaimed Betsy, hugging her notebook.

¹⁶ Smiling, Ms. Lopez said, "Wonderful! Let's make this our best piece ever."



Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. of a person

_____ (Par. 3)

2. said suddenly

_____ (Par. 4)

3. concentrate

_____ (Par. 10)

4. things to do

_____ (Par. 11)

5. Check the sentence in which *running* has the same meaning it does in paragraph 9.

___ Tracy saw the horse running through the wet field.

___ Beth was running the lawn mower.

___ Club attendance was running low due to heavy snow.

Find an antonym (opposite) in the story for each of these words.

6. last _____ (Par. 3)

7. worst _____ (Par. 8)

8. low _____ (Par. 9)

Working with Words

A **prefix** is a group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning. The prefix **mid-** can mean "the middle part." For example, the word *midnight* means "the middle of the night." Add **mid-** to the word below. Use the new word in a sentence.

stream _____

Reading and Thinking

- Tom's school newspaper is named _____.
- Tom and Betsy's next assignment is to cover the _____.
- Check the main idea of paragraph 14.
___ helping families in need
___ photographing activities at the Festival
___ square dancing
- Ms. Lopez praised Tom's work because _____.

Put **F** before the sentences that are facts. Put **O** before the sentences that are opinions.

- ___ Everyone wants to be a reporter on a school newspaper.
- ___ Photography is a fun hobby.
- ___ There are many ways to earn money for special causes.
- Do you think many citizens of Kendall will attend the Fall Festival? Why or why not?

Learning to Study

Beside each word below, write the entry word you would look for in the dictionary.

- foxes _____
- walked _____
- hugged _____
- clearly _____
- steepest _____
- answered _____