Name: _____ Date: _____

The Hamster Who Went Out

Reading level 6 · 212 words

Peanut was gone again. His cage was empty. The little door was open.

It was the third day. We looked under the desks. We looked behind the books.

Peanut was not in the room. Mia felt sad. “He could be lost,” she said.

But at lunch, he was back. He was in his cage. He was fast asleep.

“How does he do it?” asked Leo. “Who opens the door?” Nobody knew.

Mia would be a detective. The next day, she came early. She looked for clues.

The cage was empty. But on the floor was a white line. It was chalk dust.

Mia went along the line. It went out the door. It went down the hall.

There were tiny paw prints. They led to the music room. The door was open a crack.

Mia peeked in. A big drum sat on its side. It had a hole in the end.

Mia tiptoed close. She looked in the hole. There was Peanut, fast asleep!

It was warm and dark in the drum. “A good place to nap,” she whispered.

Mia took Peanut back to his cage. She told the class the secret. They all laughed.

Our teacher fixed the latch. Now Peanut naps in his cage. The drum is just for music.

Questions

1. What is missing every morning?

A. The chalk
B. The class hamster
C. A drum

2. What does Mia find on the floor?

A. A key
B. A note
C. Chalk dust and paw prints

3. Where does Peanut sleep?

A. In a drum
B. In a desk
C. In a sock

4. Why does the teacher fix the latch?

A. To hide the drum

B. So Peanut stays safe in his cage

C. To stop the class

5. What does clues mean here?

A. A kind of hat

B. A loud noise

C. Things that help solve a mystery

Words to know

latch: a small lock

clues: things that help solve a mystery

peeked: took a quick look

tiptoed: walked on your toes

Answer key: The Hamster Who Went Out

1. B. The class hamster
2. C. Chalk dust and paw prints
3. A. In a drum
4. B. So Peanut stays safe in his cage
5. C. Things that help solve a mystery