Point of View

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story. Imagine someone else telling it. Circle how the sentence would change.

READ THIS FIRST

The Closed Garage Door

I woke up on my tenth birthday and raced downstairs. I expected balloons, or at least a "Happy birthday, Inés!" Instead, Mamá was reading the newspaper, and Papá was searching for his car keys. Last year, Papá had made pancakes shaped like the number nine.

"Good morning," Mamá said. That was all.

I ate my cereal slowly. I poked at it until it turned soggy. Nobody said a word about my birthday. Maybe they were too busy. Maybe they had simply forgotten. My chest felt tight, and I stared into my bowl.

After breakfast, my brother Mateo came in from the garage. He had a smudge of yellow paint on his nose. When he saw me, he quickly shut the garage door behind him.

"What were you doing in there?" I asked.

"Nothing," he said. "Looking for my soccer ball." But his soccer ball was sitting right by the front door. I decided he was just being strange, as usual.

All morning, I heard whispers and the buzz of a drill. Whenever I walked into the kitchen, everyone stopped talking. Once, I heard Mateo laugh, and Papá said, "Shh!" Papá said he was "fixing the shelves." Mamá told me to go read in my room. I sat on my bed with a book, but I read the same page four times. I felt like a guest in my own house.

At lunchtime, Mamá called me to the backyard. I trudged outside, expecting to pull weeds in the garden. Instead, my whole family was standing beside a wooden bench under the lemon tree. It was painted bright yellow, and my name was carved on the back.

"Happy birthday!" they shouted.

I looked at the bench, and then at Mateo's yellow nose. Finally, I understood.

Mateo grinned. "Do you know how hard it is to keep a secret from you?" he asked.

I had been so busy feeling forgotten that I had missed every clue.

1. If this story were told in third person, how might "I woke up on my tenth birthday and raced downstairs" change?

   I woke up on her tenth birthday and raced downstairs.

   Inés woke up on her tenth birthday and raced downstairs.

   We woke up on our tenth birthday and raced downstairs.

   Inés woke up on my tenth birthday and raced downstairs.

2. If this story were told in third person, how might "I ate my cereal slowly" change?

   Inés ate my cereal slowly.

   I ate her cereal slowly.

   Inés ate her cereal slowly.

   She ate my cereal slowly.

3. If this story were told in third person, how might "My chest felt tight, and I stared into my bowl" change?

   My chest felt tight, and she stared into her bowl.

   Our chests felt tight, and we stared into our bowl.

   Her chest felt tight, and I stared into my bowl.

   Her chest felt tight, and she stared into her bowl.

4. If this story were told in third person, how might "I looked at the bench, and then at Mateo's yellow nose" change?

   Inés looked at the bench, and then at Mateo's yellow nose.

   Inés looked at the bench, and then at my yellow nose.

   She looked at the bench, and then at my yellow nose.

   We looked at the bench, and then at Mateo's yellow nose.

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

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