

8th Grade Speech

It should take about **30 minutes** to complete this lesson

What you will need:

- see below

Directions to Students/Supervising Adult:

- Read the following 2 stories, and answer the questions about each story
- Answer the 3 vocabulary riddles

Story 1: Birthday Blues

Davy always wanted a cat. On the morning of his eighth birthday, he woke up and found a cat on his bed wearing a blue bow. Davy hugged the cat and sneezed loudly. He took the cat downstairs for breakfast, but he was sneezing so much he couldn't eat. The rest of the day, Davy kept sneezing and his eyes were red and itchy. Every time he picked up the cat, Davy sneezed. That evening, Davy's mom looked upset. She said, "We need to talk about your cat."

1. Why was the cat wearing a blue bow?
2. Why did Davy keep sneezing and have red, itchy eyes?
3. What do you think Davey's mom is going to say next?
4. Why is this story titled "Birthday Blues"?

Story 2:

Clayton was burning the midnight oil studying for tomorrow's algebra final. At 1:00 AM, Clayton still had 15 pages to review. However, he could no longer keep his eyes open, so he hit the sack. All night Clayton dreamed of numbers and equations. The numbers were after him, trying to invade his house and surround him. Clayton could even hear the numbers hitting the glass of his bedroom windows, ping, ping, pinging as they tried to get inside. Clayton huddled deeper into the blankets, covering his ears, but still the sound of the numbers hitting the glass kept him from sleeping soundly. Finally it was morning. Clayton shut off the alarm and stumbled from bed, dreading to face the day. Then he glanced out the window and saw the ground blanketed in white. Clayton hurriedly looked at the school website hoping and praying to see Heritage High on the list.

1. Did Clayton finish studying for his exam before he went to bed?
2. What does the phrase "hit the sack" mean?
3. Why was Clayton dreading the day ahead?
4. What was actually making the pinging sound on the window?
5. What was Clayton hoping for (what was he checking for on the school website)?
6. How old is Clayton, and what details in the story give you clues about his age?

Vocabulary Activity: Answer these riddles

What has hands but cannot feel?

- a. gorilla

- b. clock
- c. girl

What is black and white and read all over?

- a. newspaper
- b. zebra
- c. rocket

I can travel all day and never leave my house. What am I?

- a. fox
- b. turtle
- c. monkey

Here is how to turn your work in for class credit:

- Email me your answers to the stories and riddles (lgajauskas@d56.org)