Read the short story and answer each question.



The Case of the Missing Crayon

Tara loved her blue crayon. She used it every day.

One morning, it was gone.

She checked her desk. Not there.

She looked in her backpack. Still no crayon.

Tara made a list of places to look.

She searched the rug. She peeked under her chair. She even looked in the book bin.

Then she saw a scribble on the whiteboard. Blue.

"Hmm..." Tara looked closer.

Her friend Max walked over. "Sorry," he said. "I used your crayon. I forgot to put it back."

Tara smiled. "That's okay. Mystery solved!"



The Case of the Missing Crayon

 What did Tara lose? A. Her crayon 	2. How did Tara solve the mystery?
B. Her book	 A. She followed the blue scribble
C. Her lunch	B. She asked her teacher
D. Her backpack	C. She found it under her desk
	D. She saw it in her lunchbox
3. Fill in the blank:	
Tara made a of p	places to search.
·	
4. How did Tara figure out w crayon?	vhat happened to her
	hat happened to her

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: G Lexile Level: 165L-305L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Mystery

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a mystery about a girl who's trying to find something very special. As we read, think about how Tara solves the problem and what lesson she learns along the way."

Vocabulary: crayon, mystery, list, scribble, search

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What do you do when you lose something?
- Why might it be helpful to make a list when searching?
- 3. What kinds of clues help solve mysteries?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. Where did Tara look for her crayon?
- What clue helped her solve the mystery?
- 3. How did Max help at the end?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What did Tara do that was smart?
- 2. How did she show kindness at the end?
- 3. What lesson can you learn from Tara's story?

Activity Idea

Let students create their own "classroom mystery" story where an item goes missing. They can write or draw clues, make a list of places to look, and share how the problem is solved. Display them as mini mystery books!

