Read the short story and answer each question.



The Penguin Parade

Luca zipped up his red coat. "Are we really going to see penguins today?" he asked his dad.

Dad smiled. "Yes, at the icy shore!"

But when they arrived, something strange was happening...

The penguins were wearing bow ties and sunglasses.

"Hello!" said one penguin. "Welcome to our parade!"

Luca blinked. "Penguins don't talk!"

"This is no ordinary day," the penguin said with a wink. "Follow us!"

Luca and his dad watched as the penguins marched in lines, juggled snowballs, and slid on their bellies to music.

After the show, a penguin gave Luca a snowflake sticker.

"Best parade ever," he whispered.

As they walked home, he looked back. The penguins were gone—but the sticker sparkled in his hand.



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The Penguin Parade

- 1. What shows this story is fiction?
- A. The penguins wear sunglasses and talk
- B. Luca visits a zoo
- C. There is snow at the shore
- D. Luca brings a sticker

- 2. What do the penguins do at the parade?
- A. Swim in the ocean
- B. Fly over the mountains
- C. Juggle snowballs and slide to music
- D. Sit quietly and watch people

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One penguin gave Luca a _____ at the end of the parade.

4. What clues show that this is a made-up story and not a real one?

5. How would a nonfiction book about penguins be different from this story?

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: H Lexile Level: 200L-350L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Fantasy (Fiction)

Introducing the Text

"Today's story is about a boy named Luca who sees a very unusual penguin parade. As you listen, pay close attention to the parts that tell us this story is fiction. We'll also talk about how it would be different from a nonfiction book that teaches us real facts."

Vocabulary: parade, penguin, sticker, sunglasses, whispered

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What do you already know about penguins?
- 2. Have you ever been to a parade? What was it like?
- 3. How can you tell when a story is real or made-up?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What do the penguins do that real penguins can't?
- 2. How does the author make the story feel fun and pretend?
- What makes Luca surprised?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. Could this story really happen? Why or why not?
- 2. What would you expect to learn in a nonfiction penguin book?
- 3. Why do you think the author wanted to write a story like this?

Activity Idea

Let students design their own "fiction penguin" and draw it doing something silly—like painting, driving, or skating in a race. Then have them write one sentence about what makes their penguin part of a fiction story. Create a class display called "Penguins That Could Only Happen in Stories!"

