Read the short story and answer each question.



The Missing lunchbox

Ella packed her lunchbox carefully. She placed her sandwich, apple, and juice inside before zipping it shut. "I can't wait for lunch!" she said, placing it in her backpack.

At school, Ella hung her backpack in her cubby and hurried to her seat. The morning passed quickly, and soon it was time for lunch. But when Ella opened her backpack, her lunchbox was gone!

"My lunchbox is missing!" she said to her friend Noah.

"Maybe you left it somewhere," Noah suggested.

Ella and Noah searched around the classroom. They checked under desks, near the cubbies, and even by the classroom door. But the lunchbox was nowhere to be found.

Just then, Ms. Lopez, the teacher, walked in. "Ella, I saw a lunchbox in the hallway. Could it be yours?"

Ella ran to the hallway and spotted her lunchbox on the bench. "That's it! I must have dropped it when I walked in."

Relieved, Ella carried her lunchbox to the lunchroom. "Next time, I'll make sure my backpack is zipped all the way!" she said with a smile.



The Missing Lunchbox

1. Where did Ella find her lunchbox?	2. Who helped Ella figure out where her lunchbox might be?
A. Under her desk	A. Her friend Noah
B. In her backpack	B. The janitor
C. In the hallway	C. Her mom
D. In the cafeteria	D. The principal
3. Fill in the blank:	
Ella was excited about eating her	at lunchtime.
4. How did Ella and Noah work together to solve the mystery of the missing lunchbox?	
5. What lesson did Ella learn from this experience?	

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: J Lexile Level: 290L-440L

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Introducing the Text

"Today, we are going to read a story about a girl named Ella who loses something very important to her—her lunchbox! As we read, think about how she solves this problem and what she learns from the experience."

Vocabulary: relieved, cubbies, spotted

Discussion Questions Before Reading

- 1. Have you ever lost something at school? How did you find it?
- 2. What do you do with your lunchbox at school?
- 3. Why do you think it's important to keep track of your belongings?

Discussion Questions During Reading

- 1. Where does Ella first look for her lunchbox?
- 2. How does Noah try to help Ella?
- 3. What does Ms. Lopez tell Ella about the lunchbox?

Discussion Questions After Reading

- 1. How did Ella figure out where her lunchbox was?
- 2. What could she do differently next time?
- 3. Can you think of a time when you had to retrace your steps to find something?

Activity Idea

Have students create a "Lost and Found" poster for Ella's lunchbox. They can draw a picture of it and write a short description of where it was last seen. This will help reinforce sequencing skills and problem-solving strategies.

