Read the short story and answer each question.

The Big Box Problem

When Mia came home from school, she saw a big box in the living room.

"What is that?" she asked.

"It's a surprise!" her brother Jake said. "I made a fort!"

Mia peeked inside. "You used all my blankets!" she shouted.

Jake grinned. "They made the roof really soft."

"But I was going to use them for my doll picnic!"

"It's just for one day," Jake said. "Want to come inside?"

Mia crossed her arms. "Only if I get to hang up my fairy lights."

Jake nodded. "Deal!"

Together, they climbed in and added the lights. The box glowed.

"This is the coziest fort ever," Mia said, smiling.

"And it's a team fort now," Jake replied.



The Big Box Problem

- 1. How did Mia feel when she first saw the box?
- A. Excited to play in the fort
- B. Upset that her blankets were used
- C. Scared of what was inside
- D. Glad her brother made a surprise

- 2. How did Jake feel about the fort?
- A. He thought it was messy
- B. He was proud and excited
- C. He didn't like it
- D. He was worried Mia wouldn't like it

3. Fill in the blank:	
Mia added her li	ghts to the fort to make it cozy.
4. How were Mia's and J of the story?	ake's points of view different at the beginning
5. How did their differen	nt ideas help them work together by the end?

Parent and Teacher Guide

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

Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll read a story about two siblings who see a situation very differently. We'll focus on how each character feels and speaks, and notice how their points of view change throughout the story. As we read aloud, try using different voices for Mia and Jake to show how they feel."

Vocabulary: fort, surprise, picnic, fairy, deal

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever shared a space or toy with a sibling or friend?
- 2. What do we mean by "point of view" in a story?
- 3. How can we tell how a character is feeling when they speak?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What words or actions show how Mia feels when she sees the fort?
- 2. How does Jake try to solve the problem?
- 3. When do you notice a change in how they feel?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. How would you describe Mia's point of view at the start vs. the end?
- 2. Why is it important to understand both characters' points of view?
- 3. How could reading in different voices help you understand the characters better?

Activity Idea

Have students work in pairs to act out the story using simple props (a box, blanket, flashlight). Encourage them to use different voices and facial expressions for Mia and Jake. Then, each pair draws a "thought bubble" for each character showing what they were thinking at the beginning and end of the story.

