



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Mother's Day Fiasco

**Directions:** Read the story below and on page 54. Then complete the activity on page 54.

Peter woke up excited on Mother's Day. He wanted to make this Mother's Day the best day his mom ever had. He had been planning the whole thing, every detail of it, for weeks and weeks. But when he looked out of his bedroom window, his heart sank. It was pouring rain—the kind of rain that fills buckets and turns your backyard into a swamp. This was a problem because one of the things that Peter had planned was to take his mom to her favorite miniature golf course. *Oh well,* Peter thought, *we can still go to brunch and maybe to the movies instead.*

When Peter and his mom got to the restaurant, Peter asked the hostess for a table for two.

"Do you have a reservation?" the hostess asked.

Peter looked up at his mom. She smiled. "That means that you call ahead, and they hold a table for you."

"No, I didn't do that. Sorry, Mom."

Peter's mom giggled. "It's O.K. You're only nine."

The hostess took the two of them to a very small table right by the swinging doors that led into the kitchen. Every time one of the doors swung open, which was often, the breeze from it sent their napkins sailing all over the place. Peter and his mom had to keep jumping up to retrieve their napkins. One really strong breeze sent Peter's napkin sailing through the air like a paper airplane until it landed on a man's back. The man had no idea it was there. Peter and his mom began to giggle.

"Oh, brother," Peter's mom laughed. "Who's going to tell him?"

"That's definitely a 'mom job,'" said Peter.

Peter's mom gently reached her hand over toward the man's back as if she were stretching and plucked the napkin off him. Just as she was smoothing it out across her lap, the man turned and looked around. Peter and his mom began giggling again.

After they left the restaurant, Peter's mom drove them to the movies.

They waited in the refreshment line to get a couple bottles of water. Right in front of them was a man who had four young children with him. They were all shouting their orders at him at once.

"Dad, get me popcorn!"

"Dad, don't forget my popcorn gets butter!"

"Dad, I want my own popcorn!"

"Dad, if he gets his own popcorn, I want my own popcorn!"

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(cont.)

**Directions:** Read the story beginning on page 53. Then complete the activity.

The dad paid the guy behind the counter, turned around, and bumped into Peter's mom. Popcorn exploded out of the containers like lava from a volcano. By the time it settled, it was all over the place, including Peter's mom's hair.

"I'm so sorry," the dad said.

Peter's mom burst out laughing. Peter started to laugh, too.

"Don't worry," she said, picking a few pieces out of her hair and popping them into her mouth, "I love popcorn!"

It had stopped raining when Peter and his mom left the movies.

"Hey, Peter," she said, "don't you owe me a round of miniature golf?"

Peter smiled. "Yes, let's go!"

So they made their way to the miniature golf course.

**Activity:** You have probably noticed that this story does not have an ending. Write an ending for this story by adding details that tell what happens next. Make sure that your ending is consistent with the tone of the story as it has been written so far.

[illegible]



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Arlington National Cemetery

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then complete the activity.

Arlington National Cemetery is a national military cemetery located in Arlington, Virginia. The cemetery is 624 acres and is situated directly across from the Potomac River. It was established in 1864, toward the end of the Civil War, and is the final resting place for casualties of war. Currently, there are more than 300,000 graves in the cemetery.

Arlington is divided into 70 different sections. There are sections for fallen soldiers from the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and the Vietnam War. Section 60 is the place where combatants from the Global War on Terror are buried. These would include fallen veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

But soldiers are not the only people who lose their lives during a war. There are others, such as doctors, nurses, and military chaplains. There are sections for these people, too.

Many monuments and memorials are in the cemetery. For instance, there are two memorials in honor of the crews of the space shuttles *Challenger* and *Columbia*. The crew members onboard both of these spacecrafts lost their lives due to spacecraft malfunctioning.

One of the most famous monuments in the cemetery is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Sometimes, when soldiers die in war, they can't be identified. When that happens, they are returned to Arlington and buried close by this monument. Inscribed on the monument are these words:

"Here rests in honored glory  
An American soldier known but to God."

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded every minute of every day.

Several U.S. presidents are also buried at Arlington, including John F. Kennedy. His grave is marked by an eternal flame. This flame was ignited on the day of his funeral and has remained lit every day since.

Because Memorial Day is the day on which we remember and honor all of those people who died in military service to their country, on this holiday, a single American flag is placed on every grave in the cemetery.



**Activity:** Arlington National Cemetery is a very important part of the heritage and culture of the United States. On the back of the page, write down three questions you have about the cemetery. What would you like to investigate further?