

Name: _____

Video Game Mania

by Kelly Hashway

Paige's eyes widened as she watched Alec's thumbs on the video game controller. His fingers moved so quickly Paige could barely keep up.

"How do you do that? Don't your hands cramp?"

Her brother didn't answer. He was too wrapped up in his video game.

"Want to do something?" Paige asked, trying to spin a basketball on her finger. "I'm bored."

The screen flashed as Alec's game ended. Paige couldn't help smiling. Sure Alec had lost, but that meant he could play with her now. Alec restarted the game, and Paige's smile faded.

"What are you doing?" Paige asked. "I thought you lost."

"I did, but I have to get past this level. Brian beat it last week." Alec's fingers were blurs again, and he didn't take his eyes from the screen.

"Can't you take a break? It's nice out. We could shoot hoops or ride bikes."

"Nah. I've got to get past this level."

"Can I help?" Paige asked, putting the ball down and sitting next to Alec. She wasn't really into video games, but it was better than being bored.

Alec paused the game. "Really?"

"Why not. It might be fun. But after we win, can we go outside?"

Alec shrugged. "Okay." He handed Paige a controller and explained how the game worked.



Paige wasn't very good, and they didn't make it past the level Alec wanted to beat. But they laughed and had fun anyway. After the game ended for the third time, Alec stood up.

"Let's go outside."

"But we didn't beat the level," Paige said.

"It doesn't matter," Alec said.

"What will you tell Brian?"

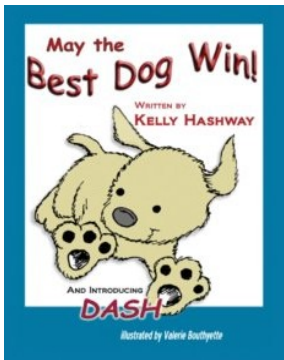
"That my sister is awful at video games, but she's good at basketball." Alec grabbed the basketball and passed it to Paige.

"Yeah, my thumbs don't move as fast as yours, but I have a great jump shot."

"Okay, your turn to teach me. I want to have a great jump shot, too."

Paige gave Alec a few pointers and his shooting got better. Sweaty and out of breath, Alec turned to Paige and smiled. "Don't tell Brian, but this beats playing video games any day."

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

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1. How are Paige and Alec related?
 - a. They're siblings.
 - b. They're cousins.
 - c. They're friends.
 - d. They're related to Brian.

2. Alec does not answer Paige in the beginning of the story. What is the most likely reason for this?
 - a. He always ignores her when she speaks.
 - b. He was preoccupied and didn't notice her.
 - c. His game was loud and he couldn't hear her.
 - d. He wasn't getting along with her.

3. What two activities did Paige suggest she and Alec could do outside?

_____ or _____

2. Alec wouldn't go outside with Paige because he wanted to...
 - a. play video games with Brian.
 - b. stay inside until after dinner.
 - c. play basketball.
 - d. get past the current level in his game.

5. Near the end of the story, Paige plays video games with Alec. Do you think he did better or worse in the game with Paige's help? Explain.

6. What type of story is this?
 - a. non-fiction
 - b. science fiction
 - c. realistic fiction
 - d. historical fiction

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.

Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ___ r ___ l y

clue: hardly

1. _____

2. ___ d ___ n ___ d

clue: became more wide

2. _____

3. ___ o ___ d

clue: feeling of having nothing to do

3. _____

4. ___ p s

clue: slang term for basketball

4. _____

5. ___ h ___ d

clue: ordinal number that comes after *second*

5. _____

6. ___ o ___ r o ___ r

clue: device for moving characters in a video game

6. _____

7. f a ___ d

clue: slowly disappeared

7. _____

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In the story, "Video Game Mania," Paige wants to play basketball outside with her brother Alec, but he wants to stay inside and play his video game.



Would you prefer to play video games inside or play basketball outside? Write a paragraph in which you list three or more reasons for your choice.
