

Name: _____

Leaf Races

By Kelly Hashway

Kendall sighed as she dragged the rake across the fallen leaves.

"I'm never going to finish this."

"Hey," Eli called over the fence. "What are you doing?"

"Raking."

"Cool. You want help?" Eli climbed the fence and hopped over.

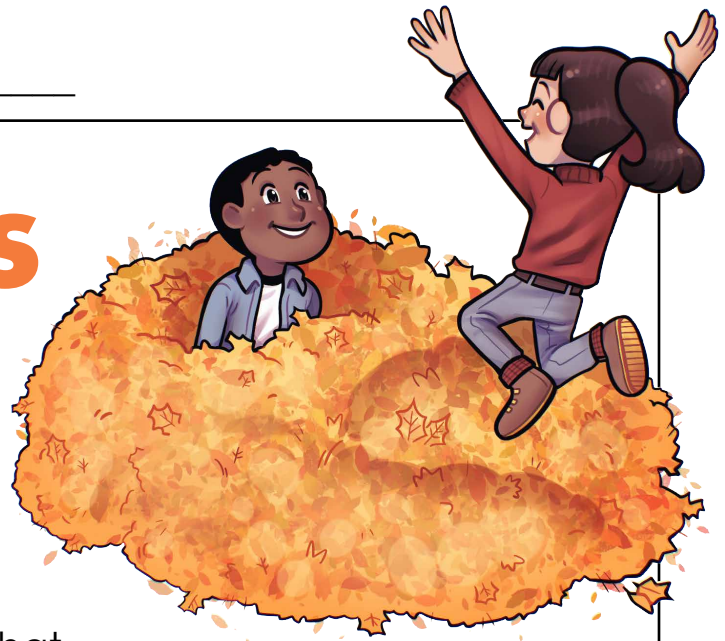
"Really?" Kendall couldn't imagine anyone volunteering for something so boring.

"Yeah. Leaves are almost as much fun as snow." Eli grabbed another rake from the shed and started making a pile. "Check this out." He ran and jumped right in the center of the pile. "Try it."

"But now we have to rake all those leaves again." Kendall shook her head. They'd never finish if he kept doing that.

"Just try it." Eli raked the leaves into another pile, but bigger this time. He set the rakes aside and took Kendall's hand. "Ready? Go!"

Kendall allowed him to pull her along, and they jumped onto the pile. "Hey, that was kind of fun." She looked around. "Only, we're creating more work for ourselves."



Eli smiled. "Okay, then let's try leaf races."

"What's a leaf race?"

Eli handed Kendall a rake and led her back to the fence. "First one to the other side of the yard wins. You have to drag the rake along the ground to rake leaves while you run. If you pick up your rake at any point, you have to start over. Got it?"

Kendall nodded and put her rake flush on the ground. "Ready."

"On your mark. Get set. Go!"

They took off across the yard, their rakes trailing behind them. Eli reached the other side first and hooted in delight. "Yeah! I won!"

"Okay, I want a rematch. It was my first time."

Eli held open a big garbage bag, and they scooped their piles into it. Then they raced back down to the fence for a rematch.

"This time I get to start the race," Kendall said.

"Go ahead, but I'm still going to win."

Kendall yelled a quick, "Ready, set, go!" and took off.

"Hey, no fair!" Eli called, running after her.

They raced back and forth until the yard was clear.

"We're done already?" Kendall said, trying to catch her breath.

"Yup. See, I told you leaves were fun."

"Want to dump some out of the bags and jump in them again?" Kendall asked.

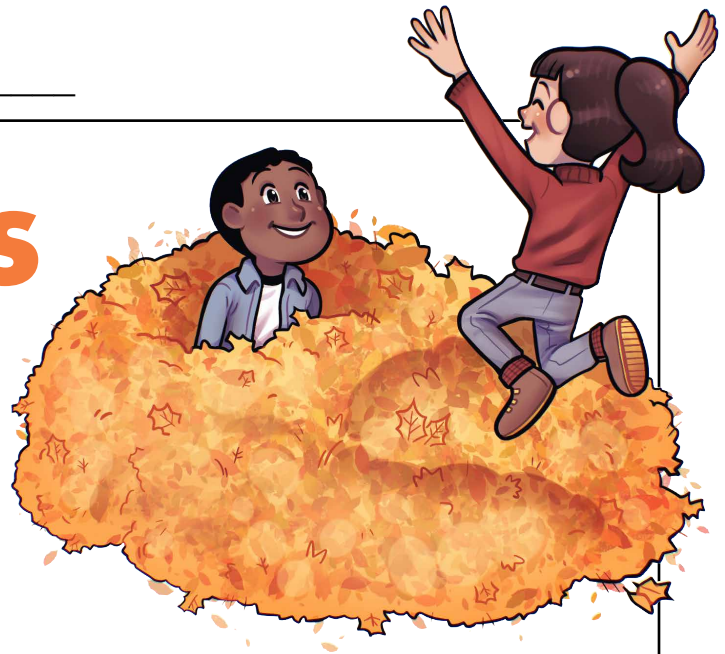
"We'll have to rake them afterward."

Kendall shrugged. "I don't mind."

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1. When does this story most likely take place?
 - a. in Kendall's backyard
 - b. in Eli's backyard
 - c. before winter has begun
 - d. after winter has ended

2. Why did Eli help Kendall rake leaves?
 - a. Kendall asked for help.
 - b. Eli didn't have any other friends to play with.
 - c. Kendall's mother asked Eli to help.
 - d. Eli thinks raking leaves is fun.

3. Explain how to play the leaf race game. What are the rules of the game?

4. After they had raked and bagged all of the leaves, what did Kendall and Eli decide to do?

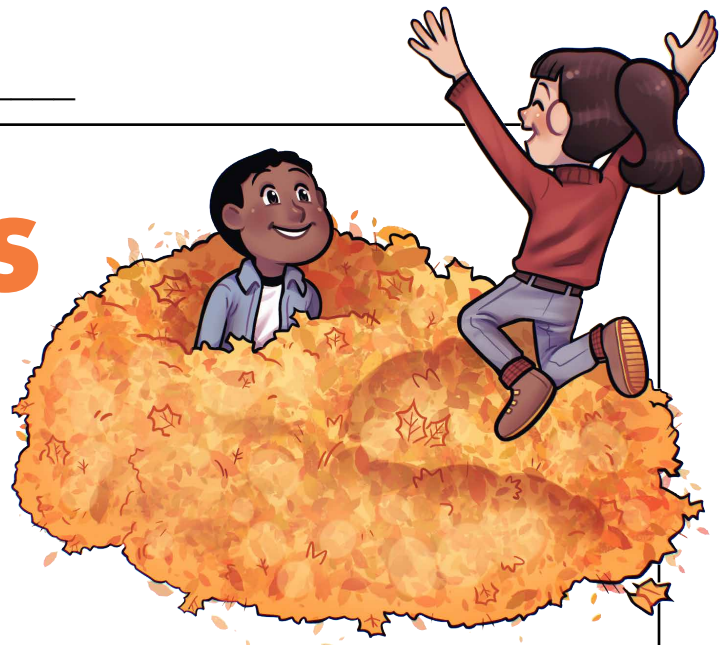
5. What lesson can be learned from this story?
 - a. If you help others with their work, they will help you someday.
 - b. Chores can be fun if you make them into a game.
 - c. When you do your chores quickly, you have more time for fun activities.
 - d. Hard jobs become easier if you use the right tools.

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.



- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. _____ rake | a. cheered |
| 2. _____ shed | b. picked up and moved |
| 3. _____ fence | c. dragging along the ground |
| 4. _____ rematch | d. a game played for the second time |
| 5. _____ scooped | e. feeling of enjoyment or pleasure |
| 6. _____ trailing | f. small building for storing outdoor yard tools |
| 7. _____ hooted | g. tool for moving leaves or soil |
| 8. _____ delight | h. barrier made of wood, plastic, or metal for marking the edge of a yard |

Now try this: Find each of the words above in the story and highlight them.

