



Storytelling Contest
Fall/Winter District 2016-17

“Letters and Gnomes”

Daniel walked behind the principal at Carson Elementary. He wanted to turn and run back home.

It was the second week of school, and he was the new kid in class.

“I know you will love it here at Carson,” the principal said. She smiled at him. “Here is your classroom. Mr. Anderson is expecting you.”

She opened the door and walked into the room.

Daniel peeked into the room. A classroom full of strangers turned to look at him.

A tall man standing in front of a map waved them inside. “Come in Mrs. Ott. And this must be our new student, Daniel Gibbs.”

Daniel felt his face get warm. He looked away from all the eyes staring at him.

“This will be your desk,” the teacher said, pointing at a desk on the front row.

Daniel groaned. Why did it have to be in the front?

He never raised his hand when the teacher asked a question. He found a chair in a corner of the cafeteria to eat. He shook his head at recess when anyone asked if he wanted to play.

Daniel couldn't wait to get home. He wanted new friends, but it scared him. They were all strangers.

The next morning, he ran out the front door and nearly fell over a small garden gnome. It looked like one of the Snow White dwarfs and held a big letter "L" in its hands.

Daniel wondered where it came from.

At school the other kids in class smiled at him. He stared at his desk.

"They probably think I'm just the weird new kid," he said as he ran home after school.

The next morning, two gnomes were on the porch. They held the letters E and T.

Daniel laughed at their silly faces. He asked his parents, but they didn't know anything about the gnomes either.

Every morning there were more. Daniel lined them up on the porch and watched the letters become words.

By day 5, there were 9 gnomes with the letters "l", "e", "t", "s", "b", "e", "f", "r", "i", and "e."

Daniel piled the little plastic gnomes on the corner of the porch. Was someone playing a joke on him?

He went to school and sat at his desk. He didn't talk to anyone. Even when some of the kids invited him to play a game, he pretended he didn't hear. When the teacher looked his way, he slid down in his seat. At lunch, some of his classmates sat at his table, but he kept to himself at the end of the table.

On Saturday morning, Daniel stared at his mushy cereal.

“It’s Saturday,” his mother said. “You should find someone to play with today.”

Daniel stirred his cereal until the flakes looked like swirling leaves. “I’m the new kid, remember? I don’t know anyone to play with yet.”

His mother sat down beside him with a cup of coffee. “You’ve been at school all week. Aren’t the kids friendly?”

Daniel shrugged. “Yeah, I guess. I just don’t know them. They aren’t my friends like I had back home.”

“This is home now,” his mother said. “We all need new friends. Go to the park or to the library. I bet you will see someone from school. You can invite them back here for snacks.”

Daniel finished his cereal and then walked out the front door.

He almost fell over the three gnomes staring at him from the porch.

“More letters?” He said. He looked at the gnomes holding an “n”, a “d”, and an “s.”

Daniel piled them with the others. He went to the park and sat under a tree, far from the playground.

On Sunday, he walked past the front door and heard a noise.

“I’ll catch whoever it is now,” he said. He opened the front door and shouted, “AH HAH!”

There were no gnomes with letters. There weren’t any gnomes at all.

A crowd of kids stood on the porch. They had their hands behind their back.

One by one, they pulled out one of the gnomes.

Daniel looked at the letters. He looked at them again. Then he saw the words.

LETS BE FRIENDS.

Daniel grinned. His new friends smiled back. Daniel turned and yelled into the house, “Mom! Can I invite some new friends to play in the back yard?” His mother shouted back, “Oh yes, that would be great.”

Daniel waved his classmates inside. He led them to the kitchen. He hoped his Mom had snacks enough for 14 kids.

SAMPLE STORY AND EVALUATION SHEET



Storytelling

EVALUATION SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the instructions for evaluating the performances of the storytelling contestants. The following criteria are of equal importance to evaluating contestants. Terminology used is only intended to help the judge identify criteria for determining a winner. Please make your comments using language understandable to the contestant. Students and instructors appreciate constructive narrative comments. Please do not confer with other judges before ranking students. Judges' decisions are an individual responsibility.

Speaker Number _____

Speaker Name _____

Round Prelims

Section _____

Finals

Yes No **Did the contestant communicate effectively with the audience?**

Yes No **Did the contestant command attention?**

Yes No **Did the contestant tell the story with ease?**

Yes No **Did the contestant exhibit enthusiasm?**

Yes No **Did the contestant utilize facial expressions, vocal variety and characterization?**

Yes No **Did the contestant make good eye contact?**

Yes No **Did the contestant use good posture?**

Yes No **Did the contestant speak clearly?**

Yes No **Did the contestant use gestures effectively?**

CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS FOR THE CONTESTANT:

Judge's signature _____