

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension Worksheets

CASTLE-BUILDING

Read the following story below. Read aloud then answer the questions that follow.

Notes for reading: Preview the text to be read. Before you start reading, ask yourself, what does the author want me to think or feel? Do I agree with the author? While you read pay close attention to the details presented in the text.

Note, the words printed in **bold** should be read with more force than the other words.

ACTIVITY 2

Castle-Building Worksheet [Download](#)

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension Worksheets

“O **Kitty!**” cried Herbert, in a voice of **anger** and **dismay**, as the blockhouse he was building fell in **sudden** ruin. The playful cat had rubbed **against** his mimic castle, and **tower** and wall went rattling **down** upon the floor. Herbert took up one of the blocks and threw it fiercely at Kitty. **Happily**, it passed over her and did no harm. His hand was reaching for **another** block, when his little sister **Hetty** sprang toward the cat, and caught her up.

“**No, no, no!**” said she, “you shan’t hurt Kitty! She didn’t mean to do it!” Herbert’s **passion** was over quickly, and, sitting down upon the floor, he covered his face with his hands, and began to cry. “What a **baby!**” said Joe, his elder brother, who was reading on the sofa. “Crying over spilled milk does **no** good. Build it up again.”

“No, I **won’t**,” said Herbert, and he went on crying.

“What’s all the trouble here?” exclaimed papa, as he opened the door and came in.

“Kitty just rubbed against Herbert’s castle, and it fell down,” answered Hetty. “But she didn’t mean to do it; she didn’t know it would fall, **did she**, papa?”

“Why, no! And is that **all** the trouble? ... Herbert!” his papa called, and held out his hands. “**Come.**” The little boy got up from the floor, and came slowly, his eyes full of tears, and stood by his father. “There is a better way than **this**, my boy,” said papa. “**If** you had taken that way, your heart would have been light already. I should have heard you **singing** over your blocks instead of **crying**. Shall I show you that **way**?” Herbert nodded his head, and papa sat down on the floor by the pile of blocks, with his little son by his side, and began to lay the foundation for a **new** castle.

Soon, Herbert was as much interested in castle-building as he had been a little while before. He began to sing over his work. All his **trouble** was gone. “This is a **great** deal better than crying, isn’t it?” said papa.

“Crying for **what**?” asked Herbert, forgetting his grief of a few minutes before.

“Because Kitty knocked your castle over.”

“**Oh!**” A shadow flitted across his **face**, but was gone **in** a moment, and he went on building as eagerly as ever.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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“I told **him** not to cry over spilled milk,” said Joe, looking down from his place on the sofa.

“I **wonder** if you didn’t cry when your kite string broke,” retorted Herbert. “Losing a kite is **quite** another thing,” answered Joe, a little dashed. “The kite was gone forever; but your blocks were as good as before, and you had only to build again.”

“I don’t see,” said papa, “that crying was of any more use in **your** case than in **Herbert’s**. Sticks and paper are easily found, and you had only to go to work and **make** another kite.” Joe looked down at his **book**, and went on **reading**. By this time the castle was **finished**.

“It is ever so much nicer than the one kitty knocked down,” said Hetty. And so thought Herbert, as he looked at it proudly from all sides.

“If Kitty knocks that down, I’ll...”

“Build it up again,” said papa, finishing the sentence for his little boy.

“But, papa, Kitty must not knock my castles down. I can’t have it,” spoke out Herbert, knitting his forehead.

“You must watch her, then. Little boys, as well as grown up people, have to be **often** on their guard. If you go into the street, you have to **look** out for the vehicles, so as **not** to be run over, and you **have** to keep out of people’s way. In the house, if you go about **heedlessly**, you will be very apt to **run** against some one. I have seen a careless child **dash** suddenly into a **room** just as the babysitter was leaving it with a tray of dishes in her hands. A crash followed.”

“It was **I**, wasn’t it?” said Hetty.

“**Yes**, I believe it was, and I hope it will **never** happen again.” Papa now left the room, saying, “I don’t want any more of this crying over spilled milk, as Joe says. If your castles get knocked down, build them up again.”

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DISCUSSION AND COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. Retell what happened to Herbert.
2. Compare and contrast Herbert and his brother Joe.
3. Herbert siblings were not pleased with his actions. How did papa show them that they too could have learnt from Herbert's experience? Discuss.
4. What did you learn from this story?

5. Why did Herbert throw a block after Kitty?

6. Why did Herbert cry?

7. What must everyone do when they in the house or on the streets?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension Worksheets

8. According to Joe, what should Herbert have done instead of crying?

9. Joe accused Herbert of crying like a child. When did Herbert acted like a crying child?
