

## Meet Mark and Martha



walking

ice

cream

Martha

store

again

lemonade

idea

sometimes

cones

could

already

It was a hot summer day. Mark and Martha were walking home from the ice cream store. They were w\_\_\_\_\_ing slowly, licking their drippy ic\_\_\_\_r\_\_\_\_m cones. Summer vacation had started three weeks before, and already Mark and M\_\_\_\_rtha felt bored. Every day as they walked out of the ice cream \_\_\_\_\_ore, one of the children would say to the other, "What shall we do today?"

Mark posed the question this afternoon. Martha just groaned. "Here we go agai\_\_\_\_," she said. But after thinking for a moment, she had a suggestion. "We could open up a lemonade stand!"

"No!" Mark replied. "Why bother? We'd just drink up all the lemon\_\_\_\_\_ before we sold any of it!"

"That was part of my id\_\_\_\_," Martha muttered. Mark was always so practical. He annoyed Martha s\_\_\_\_met\_\_\_\_mes.

The children walked on, licking their ice cream c\_\_\_\_nes and squinting against the sun. Then Martha tried again. "We c\_\_\_\_ld draw funny pictures of each other!"

"No! We've done that too many times alr\_\_\_\_dy," Mark told her.

"Hmm," Martha said. "We could catch bugs and put them in jars!"



jar

catching

ago

first

licked

answer

Mark

still

sidewalk

thought

replied

sprinklers

water

started

house

Mark looked at Martha as he crunched the last of his chocolate marshmallow ice cream cone. "No! That's cruel. How would you like to be kept in a jar?"



"You used to think that catching bugs was fun," Martha snorted.

"That was a long time ago, when we were in the first grade."



Martha licked her sticky fingers and didn't bother to answer Mark. They had stopped in front of his house now. Martha was feeling rather cross with Mark, but she did still want to think of something to do. She scuffed her sandal back and forth on the sidewalk a few times. Finally she thought of another idea. "Why don't we play in the sprinklers?"

"No!" Mark replied for the fourth time. "My father says that we can't turn the sprinklers on again. We're wasting too much water."

"Well, if you don't want to do anything, I'm going home to read. I'll see you later," said Martha. She started off towards her house without even looking back at Mark.



Martha

looked

Mark's

something

glasses

reading

frowned

because

about

teeth

tease

Martha

vacation

summer

2.

hot

Just as Martha opened her front door, Mark shouted, "Hey, Mar\_\_\_\_a, I've got an idea. Let's go to the library."

Martha stopped and l\_\_\_\_ked around. She was silent for a moment, deciding whether or not she liked Mark'\_\_ idea. "All right," she nodded finally. "But wait a minute while I get somethi\_\_\_\_," she called. Then she turned and ran into the house.

A few minutes later Martha came back out frowning. She had on her glasses. "Don't say anything about my glass\_\_\_\_," Martha warned Mark before he could open his mouth. "I have to be able to see what I'm r\_\_\_\_ding, don't I?"



Martha fr\_\_\_\_ned some more and waited for Mark to answer back. She was surprised, bec\_\_\_\_se for the first time in the four years that she had lived next door to Mark, he didn't tease her abou\_\_ her glasses. Maybe it was because Mark was going to get braces on his t\_\_\_\_th pretty soon, and he didn't want Martha to t\_\_\_\_se him about his braces. Mark just walked along beside her, looking down at the sidewalk and kicking rocks. M\_\_\_\_tha felt happy.

A **vacation** is time off from school or work. If you are on vaca\_\_\_\_\_, you do not have to do the things you ordinarily do.

Mark and Martha have finished school for the year so they are on \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ vacation. summer

Which months are the months of summer?

- \_\_ 1. September, October, and November
- \_\_ 2. June, July, and August
- \_\_ 3. March, April, and May

It is \_\_\_\_\_ hot \_\_\_\_\_ where Mark and Martha live. cool

Mark and Martha feel bored because they

2.

- 1. have too much to do.
- 2. can't think of anything to do.
- 3. wish they were back in school.

To **pose** a question is to ask it. What question did the children pose every day?

3.

- 1. "What time is it?"
- 2. "What kind of ice cream did you get?"
- 3. "What shall we do today?"

1.

Can you find four things that Martha suggested to do?

4.

5.

6.

- 1. catch insects and put them in jars
- 2. go ice skating
- 3. build a raft
- 4. sell lemonade
- 5. draw pictures of each other
- 6. run through the sprinklers
- 7. watch television
- 8. ride bikes to the park

Martha began to get cross with Mark. What do you think made her angry?

1.

- 1. Mark didn't like any of her suggestions.
- 2. Mark kept teasing her about her glasses.
- 3. Mark's ice cream cone was bigger than hers.

no

Did either Mark or Martha seem to be in a very good mood today? \_\_\_\_\_

squint

When you **squint**, you narrow your eyes so that they are partly closed. Mark and Martha had to s\_\_\_\_\_int because

1.

- 1. the sun was so bright.
- 2. it was raining hard.
- 3. they were very tired.