



Storytelling Contest

Invitational 2019-20

“Mirror, Mirror”

Grades 2 and 3

by Kathryn Lay

Catie ran across the field. Ahead, she could see a tall Ferris Wheel turning. Music from a carousel ride played loudly. Someone laughed. Someone else screamed.

“Wait for us!” her best friend, Joanie, shouted.

Catie turned and waited for the others to catch up.

“Hurry!” she yelled. “The carnival is already opened. We are missing all the fun.”

She waved at her friends Joanie and the twins Kyle and Lyle. They had been waiting for two weeks for the carnival to come to town.

She hadn’t been to a carnival or fair since she was very little. But she remembered the rides and the cotton candy and candy apples. She remembered the carousel horses going up and down and around. She remembered the clowns that made her laugh. And the magician who made her gasp.

And the House of Mirrors. It was scary, and she left crying.

This time, she wasn’t going to be afraid. All her friends wanted to go inside the funhouse. At the end of the funhouse, the House of Mirrors waited.

Catie was the first in line to pay for her ticket.

“Wow, this is so cool,” Joanie said. Kyle and Lyle, who were full of energy, grabbed Catie and Joanie and pulled them through the crowd.

“Whirling Derby first!” they both shouted.

They all squished into one of the big red chairs. Soon they were whirling and twirling around until Catie had to close her eyes.

“That was great,” Kyle said.

“It was really great,” Lyle said.

Catie’s heart pounded. She could see the funhouse at the end of the row of rides. A big plastic clown head blinked yellow eyes from the top of the building.

“Funhouse!” Joanie yelled.

Catie stopped. “Let’s ride the carousel first.”

Kyle frowned. “That’s for babies,” he said.

Lyle nodded. “Scaredy babies.”

But when Catie walked to the painted horses, her friends followed her. Soon they were racing each other on their horses, moving up and down and around.

When they hopped off the horses, Lyle said, “I’m ready for a mirror adventure.”

“A mirror adventure,” Kyle said.

Catie followed them to the colorful funhouse. She swallowed hard as they walked up the steps.

Inside there were stairs that shook and walkways that moved up and down. They laughed at the wavy mirrors that made them look tall and stretched or short and wide.

Wild noises came from silly looking masks.

Then suddenly, Catie saw the entrance to the room of mirrors. These were not silly mirrors. Soon the friends would separate and walk through the rows.

“Last one out buys the cotton candy!” Joanie yelled. She walked through the doorway.

Catie saw her friend’s reflection, and then she was gone. The twins followed her.

Catie took a deep breath. She could turn around and go back through the funhouse. Then everyone would know she was afraid.

“Okay, here I go,” she said.

She opened and stepped through the glass door. All around her, she saw herself. All of the mirror-Caties looked afraid.

She turned and bumped into a mirror. She turned again and bumped into another mirror.

Catie closed her eyes and felt around the glass until she found the way to the next row.

She pretended she was at home and it was dark in the hall. She imagined feeling the wall until she found the bathroom door.

“Hey, this way!” A voice called.

Catie opened her eyes and saw Kyle wave at her. She took a step forward, holding out her hand. Another mirror.

Her stomach felt like a dozen butterflies were flying inside. Her throat started to hurt. She chewed on her bottom lip.

“I won’t cry,” she said.

She could hear her friends laughing in the House of Mirrors. Sometimes she saw one of the twins moving past a mirror.

She stared at herself in the mirror in front of her. She turned in a circle and watched all the other Caties turn. She stuck her tongue out at them.

Then she bowed.

She giggled. It was silly seeing so many of herself.

“Okay everyone, let’s get out of here!” she said. “Follow me.”

She turned and moved her hand forward. She touched a mirror. Then she reached out to another Catie. There was a path in front of her. That Catie was further down the row.

“Okay, Catie,” she said. “We are on our way.”

When she touched another mirror, she did a little dance at her reflection.

“We dance pretty well,” she said with a smile. The mirror Catie smiled back.

Soon she was weaving in and out. Whenever she touched a mirror in her way, she would make a silly face. She laughed at herself and all the reflections around her.

Suddenly, she stepped through an empty spot and saw sunlight. She walked down the metal steps to where her friends waited.

“Are you okay?” Joanie asked.

Kyle and Lyle were beeping the nose of a fake clown that held a sign saying, “Come back soon!”

Catie grinned at her friends. “That was the best ever. Let’s do it again.”

She grabbed Joanie’s arm. This time, they were going to stay together. She would show them that the house of mirrors wasn’t scary at all. They could make all the other Caties, Joanies, Kyles and Lyles do silly things.