

Name: _____

Mia, Max, and the Missing Earring

by Anita N. Amin



Mia and her twin brother, Max, pulled on their rain coats and galoshes. The storm had finally passed but it was still drizzling outside.

"We're going to check on Mrs. Wilson," Mia told their mom. "To make sure she's safe." Mrs. Wilson lived alone next door.



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"I'm fine." Mrs. Wilson frowned. "But my earring is missing."

"A mystery!" Mia said. "We can help. We're detectives you know. Does it look like the one you're wearing? When did you notice it was missing?"

"And what were you doing before that?" Max asked.

Mrs. Wilson thought for a moment. She tucked her hair behind her ears. "I was watching a movie and eating my popcorn. The thunder and wind were so loud. Then the power went out. That's when I noticed my earring was gone. And yes, it looks just like this one." She touched the pearl earring in her left earlobe.

"Do you mind if we search inside?" Max asked.

Mrs. Wilson invited them in.

Mia and Max checked around the sofa, under the sofa, and under the cushions. They found some squished popcorn, pennies, and a pen.

"I don't know if these are clues or not." Mia frowned.

"So that's where that pen went." Mrs. Wilson put her pen and pennies away. A strand of hair fell over her eyes again. Mrs. Wilson sighed. "I really need a haircut." As she tucked her hair behind her ears, the other earring fell out. She picked it up and put it away.



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As Mia munched on the popcorn, Max closed a cupboard door. "It's not in there," he said.

"It's like it just vanished into thin air," Mrs. Wilson said.

Mia stopped munching. She put her hand back in the bowl. "Maybe not thin air," Mia said slowly, her hand closing around something round and hard. Was that what she thought it was? She pulled her hand out and held it up.

"My earring!" Mrs. Wilson cried.

"It must've fallen into the bowl while you were watching your movie," Max said.

"And you were probably tucking your hair behind your ear," Mia added.

Mrs. Wilson invited Mia and Max to stay and watch the movie. They cuddled up on the sofa and finished the popcorn. And right after that, Mrs. Wilson went and got a haircut!

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1. At the beginning of the story, why do Mia and Max visit their neighbor, Mrs. Wilson?
 - a. They are bringing over a batch of caramel popcorn.
 - b. They want to make sure Mrs. Wilson is okay after the storm.
 - c. Mrs. Wilson wants to show them her new earrings.
 - d. Mrs. Wilson invited them over to watch a movie.



2. Put a check mark () next to all the places Mia and Max look for Mrs. Wilson's earring.



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3. Throughout the story, Mrs. Wilson keeps brushing hair back from her face. Why is this an important clue to what happened to her missing earring?

4. Where do Mia, Max, and Mrs. Wilson find the missing earring at the end of the story?

5. Choose the pair of words that best describes Mrs. Wilson.
 - a. unfriendly and quiet
 - b. kind and puzzled
 - c. forgetful and gloomy
 - d. loud and grumpy

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Draw lines to match the words from the story with their meanings.

- | | | | | |
|----|------------|---|---|---|
| 1. | galoshes | • | • | people who solve mysteries |
| 2. | caramel | • | • | made a sucking sound when walking through mud |
| 3. | detectives | • | • | went away; disappeared |



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- | | | | | |
|----|-----------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 6. | squelched | • | • | made a serious face |
| 7. | frowned | • | • | a sweet, sticky brown syrup |
| 8. | sifted | • | • | lightly raining |

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In the story, "Mia, Max, and the Missing Earring," Mia and Max look for clues to help their neighbor, Mrs. Wilson, find her missing earring.



On the lines below, write about a time when you lost something that was important to you. Describe the item you lost, where you looked for it, and if you found it.



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ANSWER KEY

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- At the beginning of the story, why do Mia and Max visit their neighbor, Mrs. Wilson? **b**
 - They are bringing over a batch of caramel popcorn.
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ANSWER KEY

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Draw lines to match the words from the story with their meanings.

1. galoshes

people who solve mysteries

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8. sifted

lightly raining