



Just Right
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BOOK
#5



NEXT-DOOR DETECTIVE AGENCY

The Case of the Lost
Lucky Coin

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Just Right Reader, 909 Lake Carolyn Parkway, Suite 875, Irving, TX 75039

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1

An Unlucky Disappearance

Dante took the paper Mrs. Kent gave him. He read it quickly.



"Yes!" he said to Olivia. "We were given the best job. We're at the snack table!"

The whole town was at the park today. It was the perfect day for a picnic. It was held every year to honor people in the military.

Olivia loved this day. Her grandpa always grilled hot dogs. There was a softball game. There was a special **ceremony** too.

"The snack table is perfect," said Olivia. "The whole park is **visible** from there."

Dante nodded. "We're real detectives now. We need to watch for anything unusual."

Olivia laughed. "I just want to find the lucky coin!"

Every year, the mayor told a story. It was about a soldier in World War II. His mom had given him a coin. She said it would give him good luck. It did. It kept him safe.



That same coin was hidden somewhere in the park. One lucky person found it. The coin gave the person good luck all year. They were **responsible** for hiding the coin the following year.

Last year, their friend Harrison found it. He hit a **triple** during the softball game. He slid into third base. He found the coin under the base.

"The coin works," Dante said. "Harrison won the school raffle. Plus, now he finds quarters all over town!"

Olivia really hoped to find the coin this year.

So she watched Harrison closely. He spent a lot of time near the photo booth. Was the coin hidden there?

"Do you know what I think?" said Dante.

Olivia turned. "What?"

"I think part of our job is to taste everything," Dante said. He grabbed a **pastry**.

Olivia laughed. "I'll start with a cookie," she said.



She looked around the park. Everyone looked happy. Everyone was having fun.

Then, Harrison walked up. He had a piece of paper in his hand. He didn't look happy or like he was having fun.



"Can you come with me for a minute?" he asked them.

He led them to a bench. Then he held out the piece of paper. "Read this."

Olivia took it. She read it out loud. "Want to CART home this valuable coin? Let me be **FRANK**. You'll need great detective skills to find it."

She looked up at Harrison. "What does this mean?"

Harrison took a deep breath. "The coin is missing. I need your help to find it."

2

Reading the Signs

"How is that **possible**?" Olivia said. She was confused. "I thought you were the one to hide it."

"I did," Harrison said. "I hid it at the photo booth." His face drooped. "But it's not there anymore. Someone took it."

She looked at the note again. "This note is **interesting**. It doesn't really make sense."

"Please help me find the coin," Harrison said. "I'm supposed to be lucky. This doesn't feel lucky at all!"

"We'll try," Dante said. "But somebody has to watch the snack table."

Harrison nodded. "I'll do it. I'm hungry anyway."



"I'm hungry too," Dante said.

Olivia looked at him with surprise. "You just ate a bunch of snacks!"

He shrugged. "Can we stop by your grandpa's hot dog cart? It won't take long. I promise."

Olivia looked across the park at her grandpa's cart.

"That's it!" She held up the note. "Want to CART home this valuable coin? Let me be FRANK," she reread. "A 'frank' is another word for a hot dog!"

Dante grinned. "Good job! Let's go!"

They raced to the cart. Olivia read her grandpa the note.

"No coin here," he said. "But I did get this note in the tip jar."

He handed her the note. He gave Dante a plate with a **trio** of hot dogs.

Olivia read the note to Dante. "This MONUMENTAL coin has been lucky for almost FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS. Read the SIGNS if you want good luck too."

Dante chewed on his hot dog. Then, he asked, "Didn't Abe Lincoln say 'four score and seven years ago'? He's Todd's favorite president."

Olivia looked at the note again. Suddenly, she stood up. "I think I know where the coin is."

3

A Little More Luck

Olivia took off. Dante tried to keep up with her. Finally, they made it to the entrance to the park.

Olivia pointed to the street signs. "Monument and Lincoln," she said. "I think this is where the note was pointing us."





Dante had a side ache. He'd eaten too much.
"Great," he said, out of breath. "But where's the coin?"

"Right here," said a deep voice behind him.

They turned. Dante's older brother Todd sat on a nearby bench. His sudden appearance surprised them both.

They watched him toss a coin into the air. The lucky coin.

Dante's eyes grew large. "It was you?" Dante said. "You took the coin?"

Todd shrugged. "I saw Harrison hide it."

"But why hide it again?" Olivia asked. "And write the clues?"

"Because I knew you could find it," he said. "You have become great detectives. You are **capable** of solving lots of mysteries. And you've helped a lot of people lately. You deserve good luck."

He handed the coin to Olivia. "Good work," he said.

"I should have known it was you," said Dante. "You love Abe Lincoln!"



Todd nodded. "I think 'Honest Abe' would be proud. Now, let's go tell the mayor we have the coin." He slung his arms around their shoulders. "And get a few hot dogs to celebrate!"

Dante groaned. "I can't eat anymore."

"But what about Harrison?" Olivia asked. "He was so upset about the coin being lost."

Todd grinned. "He's a good actor." He waved at Harrison. Harrison waved back. He had a cookie in one hand and a cupcake in the other.

Olivia stopped. "Wait. Harrison knew you'd found it?" she asked, surprised.

Todd nodded. "He wanted the Next-Door Detective Agency to solve the case. You had to earn it." He paused. "You two are really good at this, you know."

Olivia grinned at Dante. "Thanks," she said.

"Ready for a year of good luck?" asked Todd.

Dante grinned at his big brother. "I'm already pretty lucky," he said. "I have an **incredible** brother. And I have the *best* best friend in the world."

Olivia looked at the coin in her hand. Her heart swelled. Dante was right. They were already lucky.

But maybe a little more luck wouldn't hurt.



Glossary

capable

having the skills to do what is needed

ceremony

a formal event that honors someone or something

frank

to be honest, another word for hot dog

pastry

a baked snack that is usually sweet

Set 55

Phonics Skills

Prefixes, Roots, and Suffixes

Word Part	Meaning	Example in Text
bi-	two	bicycle
tri-	three	triple
-able/-ible	capable of	responsible
inter-	between or together	interesting
-ance/-ence	action or quality of	appearance



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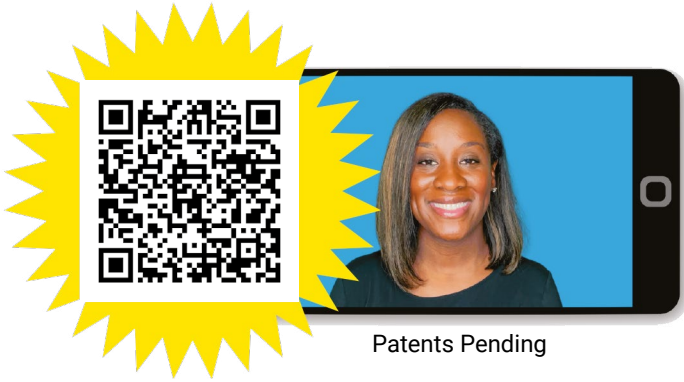
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