

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cast of Characters

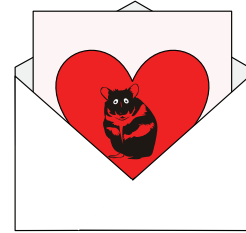
Narrator

Erika, a 3rd grader

Leyla, a 3rd grader

Mrs. Perez, the teacher

Reader's Theater: My Special Valentine



During the Valentine's Party in Mrs. Perez's 3rd grade class, the students are enjoying sharing candy, kind words, and cards.

Erika: Oh my gosh! A few of these cards are the same, but that's fine with me! I love when my Valentine's Day cards have cute animals on them. Doesn't this one look like our 2nd grade teacher's class pet from last year? I miss that furry ball of squeaks!

Leyla: (sadly) Me too. I really wish Mrs. Perez would get a class pet for us this year.

Erika: What if we convinced her to get a pet? We can show her these cute pictures of animals on our Valentine's cards. We could also write her a persuasive letter, and show her why our class deserves an animal in here. We'll list all the advantages of having a class pet! What do you think?

Leyla: That's a really good idea. I'll get some paper and a pencil.

Narrator: The girls created a stack of Valentine's Day cards with animals on them. They set them aside while they came up with three strong reasons for having a class pet. Together, they wrote a persuasive letter.

Leyla: Mrs. Perez, can you come here for a second? I want to show you something from my Valentine's bag.

Mrs. Perez: Look at that hamster! It looks like it is smiling at me in that picture. It's so cute, Leyla!

Narrator: Leyla went through the stack of cards to show Mrs. Perez. While Mrs. Perez smiled and commented on each of the cute animals, Erika put the finishing touches on the persuasive letter.

Erika: Mrs. Perez, we would like to give you this letter. We feel that a class pet would be a wonderful addition to our classroom. In our letter, you will find three strong reasons to support our opinion.

Mrs. Perez: (reading aloud) First, if we had a pet in the classroom, it would help us learn responsibility. The students can have jobs in order to care for the pet. Next, pets give us a new way to learn. We can study the pet's eating and sleeping habits, and also how it changes over time. Last, our classroom would become a more positive place with a pet. Pets make everyone smile and happy, and that is good for learning!

Leyla: What do you think, Mrs. Perez? Can our 3rd grade class have a pet?

Mrs. Perez: Boys and girls, I need your attention! I was going to wait until tomorrow to share the good news, but now seems like a good time to do it. Please gather on the carpet quietly.

Narrator: Mrs. Perez brought out a cage with a small gerbil inside. Since he was introduced on Valentine's Day, the class voted to name the gerbil Valentine.

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Directions: Answer the questions below.

1. Put the events of the drama in the correct order below. Label each event with a number from 1-5. The first event has been done for you.

1 The girls go through their Valentine's Day cards.

____ Erika and Leyla share their letter with Mrs. Perez.

____ Mrs. Perez introduces the class to their new class pet.

____ Erika has an idea to try to persuade their teacher to get a classroom pet.

____ Leyla shows Mrs. Perez the cards with pictures of cute animals on them.

2. The narrator is important to the story because _____

3. Based on Erika and Leyla's actions in the drama, how might they react to Valentine, the gerbil?

4. What words best describes Erika and Leyla? Circle two.

bossy responsible unsure discouraged motivated

5. What words best describes Mrs. Perez? Circle two.

kind harsh hateful understanding careful

6. Draw a scene from the drama in the space below. Then, write one sentence on the lines about what is happening in the scene.
