The Mysterious Package

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **prediction** is a smart guess about what will happen next. Use **clues** from the story plus what you already **know**.

Clues + what I know = my prediction. Then read on to check!

The Mysterious Package



On Saturday morning, a delivery truck stopped outside the Garcia house. The driver carried a big cardboard box up the steps. It had holes poked in the lid and a label that said THIS SIDE UP. HANDLE WITH CARE.

Sofia and her brother Mateo raced to the door. "Is it for us?" Mateo asked. Dad looked at the label and smiled a secret smile. "It's from Grandpa's farm," he said. "Let's put it in the kitchen."

As Dad set the box down, it wiggled. Sofia jumped back. Then they heard a soft sound from inside: peep, peep, peep.

Mateo pressed his ear to the box. "It feels warm," he whispered. Dad brought out a large tub filled with wood shavings, a small water dish and a special lamp that glowed red. "We're going to need these," he said.

Sofia remembered something. Last spring, when they visited Grandpa, he had shown them his hens sitting on their nests. "Grandpa promised we could help raise some one day," she said slowly.

Stop here and make a prediction before you read the last paragraph.

Dad lifted the lid. Inside, six fluffy yellow chicks blinked up at them. Mateo gasped. "They're ours?" "For now," Dad laughed. "When they grow up, they'll go back to Grandpa's farm. Until then, you two are in charge."

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Which clue suggests something alive is in the box?

(a) The holes in the lid
(b) The colour of the box
(c) The delivery truck

2. What sound came from the box?

(a) Meow
(b) Peep, peep, peep
(c) Woof

3. Why did Dad bring out a lamp that glowed red?

(a) To read a book
(b) To keep the animals warm
(c) To decorate the kitchen

4. What was in the box?

(a) Six fluffy chicks
(b) A puppy
(c) Kittens

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Before reading the last paragraph, what did you predict? Which clues helped you?**

2. **Was your prediction right? If not, which clue did you miss?**

3. **Predict what Sofia and Mateo will need to do to take care of the chicks.**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

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2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Before reading the last paragraph, what did you predict? Which clues helped you?**
   I predicted baby chicks because of the peeping sound, the holes for air, the warm lamp and Grandpa's hens.
2. **Was your prediction right? If not, which clue did you miss?**
   Answers will vary. The peeping, the warm box and Grandpa's farm all pointed to chicks.
3. **Predict what Sofia and Mateo will need to do to take care of the chicks.**
   They will need to give the chicks food and water every day, keep the lamp on to keep them warm, and clean the tub.