

Name: _____

Wailing Well

by Kelly Hashway

"I dare you!" Eric said.

Charlie couldn't pass up a dare. She was the toughest kid in the fifth grade. She wasn't going to let a little thing like fear ruin her reputation.

"No problem." Charlie shoved her hands in her pockets before anyone could notice they were shaking. So what if there was a kid-hungry troll living in the well on the abandoned lot? She could take a quick peek and run before it climbed up to eat her—right?

"You don't have to do this," Alyson said.

"Yeah, *Charlotte*. We'll understand if you're too scared," Eric taunted.

Charlie hated being called Charlotte. It sounded so girly. "I'm not scared of a silly story."

She pushed through the crowd of kids and marched to the abandoned lot. Her palms were sweaty. No one went near the "Wailing Well." A stray cat had jumped on the edge of it and something pulled it into the well. It happened so fast that no one saw what did it. But now a horrible wailing came from the well. Charlie wasn't sure who had come up with the troll theory, but she hoped that was all it was—a theory.

Wailing came from the well and Charlie froze.

"Scared?" Eric yelled.

Charlie was scared, but she wouldn't admit it, especially to Eric. "You're the one that's scared. Why else would you dare people to look in the well? You're too chicken to do it yourself!"

"Look with her, Eric," Alyson said.

"Yeah," the other kids said.



"Fine." Eric walked over to Charlie. He gulped, and for the first time, Charlie realized he wasn't so tough. He put on a good show, but he was all talk. She wondered if he thought the same about her.

Charlie grabbed Eric's sleeve and charged at the well. Something hairy moved inside. Yellow eyes glowed up at her. The wailing was replaced by a scratching sound, like nails on rock. The creature was climbing up to get them!

Eric screamed and ran back to the bus stop. The sun peeked out from behind the clouds, and Charlie squinted at the creature. She cranked the bucket, lowering it into the well. She heard a soft thump and cranked the bucket back up.

"Are you crazy?" Eric yelled.

Charlie pulled a gray kitten out of the bucket. "The cat didn't get pulled into the well. It fell. It got hurt, too. That's why it was wailing."

"What are you going to do with it?" Alyson asked.

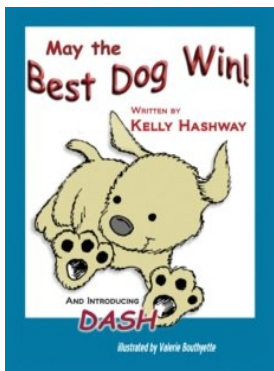
"Bring it to the vet," Charlie said. "I'll put up some fliers, and if no one claims it, I'll keep it." She scratched the top of the kitten's head and it purred.

"What will you name it?" Alyson asked.

"Troll," Charlie and Eric both said.

About the the Author

Kelly Hashway



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. Where does this story mostly take place?
- a. on an abandoned lot near Charlie's school
 - b. on an abandoned lot near Charlie's bus stop
 - c. on an abandoned lot near a river
 - d. on abandoned farm land

2. This story is titled, "Wailing Well." Define the word wailing.

3. How are Eric and Alyson different in the way they treat Charlie?

4. How did Charlie rescue the kitten from the well?
- a. She climbed down to get it.
 - b. She called the fire department.
 - c. She lowered a bucket into the well so the kitten could climb in.
 - d. She made cat sounds so it would climb to the top.

5. What type of story is this?
- a. science fiction
 - b. historical fiction
 - c. mystery
 - d. non-fiction

Name: _____

Wailing Well

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Match each vocabulary word from the story "Wailing Well" to its definition.

- | | | |
|-------|---------------|---|
| _____ | 1. cranked | a. stopped moving |
| _____ | 2. troll | b. teased |
| _____ | 3. stray | c. beliefs about the way someone acts |
| _____ | 4. froze | d. short, mythical, ugly creature |
| _____ | 5. reputation | e. afraid |
| _____ | 6. taunted | f. part of a shirt that covers the arms |
| _____ | 7. chicken | g. parcel of land |
| _____ | 8. abandoned | h. turned; rotated a handle |
| _____ | 9. lot | i. animal without a home |
| _____ | 10. sleeve | j. remained empty and unused |

ANSWER KEY

Wailing Well

by Kelly Hashway



1. Where does this story mostly take place? **b**
- a. on an abandoned lot near Charlie's school
 - b. **on an abandoned lot near Charlie's bus stop**
 - c. on an abandoned lot near a river
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2. This story is titled, "Wailing Well." Define the word wailing.

wailing - crying loudly, as if suffering

3. How are Eric and Alyson different in the way they treat Charlie?

Eric taunted her and dared her to do something she wasn't comfortable doing. Alyson told Charlie she didn't have to do it, and she dared Eric to walk up to the well with Charlie.

4. How did Charlie rescue the kitten from the well? **c**

- a. She climbed down to get it.
- b. She called the fire department.
- c. **She lowered a bucket into the well so the kitten could climb in.**
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Name

Date

On grade level: 5.RL.3

Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

Pre-reqs:

4.RL.3

Describe **in depth** a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

3.RL.3

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events

Directions: Read the attached passage "Wailing Well" by Kelly Hashway. Use the information from the passage to answer the questions that follow. **7-12 pts. Close to Proficient (and give student the post), Far to Go likely=3-5, Intervention= 2 or less**

1. Use details from the story to describe the setting. **Pre-req skill= 2 pts. (1 for each statement)**

The story takes place near a well on an abandoned lot. It likely happened in present day since the kids were wanting to take the cat to a vet.

2. From details in the text, how would you describe Charlie's character? **Pre-req skill= We want specific details from the text. 4 specific things = 4 pts.**

Charlie is a tough girl. She is a bit of a tomboy because she doesn't like the name Charlotte because it sounds girly. She is concerned about her reputation. Charlie is brave because she is the only one who will go near the well. She is caring /compassionate because she is going to take care of the kitten.

3. Compare and Contrast the two main characters of the passage. Include specific details from the text. **Current Standard= Specific details from the text. 6 pts- Includes a comparison and a contrast and specific details from the text to support their thinking. At least one must be an inference.**

According to the text, Charlie and Eric are both fifth graders. Charlie is a girl but Eric is a boy. Eric and Charlie both act tough on the outside but are actually scared. For example, Charlie has sweaty hands but still goes to the well whereas, Eric ran back to the bus stop and didn't want to go to the well but he teased Charlie about being scared. Charlie is brave and takes action but Eric runs away. They both wanted to name the cat "Troll".

Name

Date

Directions: Read the attached passage "Wailing Well" by Kelly Hashway. Use the information from the passage to answer the questions that follow.

1. Use details from the story to describe the setting.
(4.RL.3)

2. From details in the text, how would you describe Charlie's character?
(3.RL.3)

3. Compare and Contrast the two main characters of the passage. Include specific details from the text. (5.RL.5)

Unit 1-MA Pre-Assessment

Name

Date

Directions: Read the attached passage “Wailing Well” by Kelly Hashway. Use the information from the passage to answer the questions that follow.

1. Use details from the story to describe the setting.
(4.RL.3)

2. From details in the text, how would you describe Charlie’s character?
(3.RL.3)

3. Compare and Contrast the two main characters of the passage. Include specific details from the text. (5.RL.5)

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Name _____ Date _____

READING

Directions: Read the following passage. Use information from the passage to answer the questions that follow.

Christie's Sacrifice

"Christie's Sacrifice" is a story narrated by Anna, a girl recovering from cancer. As a part of Anna's treatment, she has lost her hair. Read about how her best friend, Christie, supports Anna through the obstacles she faces.

From behind the chair, I watch Christie's face in the mirror, and I'm trying not to cry. Amazingly, Christie seems perfectly calm. "Are you sure about this?" I ask. "You can change your mind, and I'll totally understand. No matter what, I'm proud of you." But Christie shakes her head and says firmly, "I'm ready." I hold my breath and close my eyes while the blades turn toward her neck. And then it's all over.

Now you're probably wondering why I'm telling you such a scary story. Maybe I better give you a little background. First, you should know that Christie and I are not in a nightmare. We're just in a barbershop. Second, you should know that Christie is a very committed person. When she makes up her mind to do something, she never backs down, even after thinking about the consequences. And in my opinion, there are major consequences to chopping off all of your hair.

Third, I've been really sick the last few years. I'll spare you the details because you don't need to know all the awful things that cancer does to your body. But let's just say that being a kid with cancer is not fun. This time, though, I think I've beaten it for good. I feel like my old self again. Except for one small detail: my hair. After what I've been through, having no hair shouldn't seem like a hardship. But give me a break. It's kind of hard to ignore. I'm lucky to have some cool hats and a good wig, but I still feel different from everyone else.

Which brings me to the fourth and final piece of background information you need to understand this story. Christie has the most wonderful hair I have ever seen. Horses and supermodels might come close, but not quite. Unlike the rest of humankind, Christie has never had a bad hair day. So why are we in a barbershop? Why is her beautiful braid no longer hanging down her back but lying in a plastic bag? Because this haircut is Christie's way of showing me that I'm not alone. Her neck is bare and white, but her smile is huge as her eyes meet mine in the barbershop mirror. "Now we can grow our hair out together!" she says. Later, all that beautiful hair will be donated to help underprivileged children who suffer from hair loss but cannot afford to buy a wig. Right now, though, Christie and I don't feel like we've lost a thing.

LANGUAGE

(L.2c Comma to set off words)

4. Add commas to the sentences below if needed.

Yes thank you.	Ashley is your answer yes?
It's true that cats are mammals isn't it?	Hot dogs are my favorite food for lunch.
Is that you Steve?	No you can't have that.
Thank you for my gift Mom.	Joe are you in there?
Can Ana come over to play?	Don't stay up to too late okay?

WRITING

Narrative Task

Prompt: Write a real or imagined narrative about how you or someone else would respond to a challenge. (W.3)

You will:

- establish a situation (W.3)
- use description and pacing to develop experiences and events (W.3b description and pacing)
- develop and organize your writing for the task, purpose, and audience (W.4)
- utilize appropriate transitional words and phrases (W.3)

WRITING (CONT.)

Step 1: Use the graphic organizer or the back of this page to create a plan for your narrative. (W.5 planning)

Story Sequence B

Title:	
Characters	Setting

Events 1.	
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2.	
----	--

3.	
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4.	
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Peer reviewed by: _____

Step 2: Write your narrative, on separate sheets of notebook paper. Attach to this assessment.