Jelly

The Footprints in the Hall

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. What can a footprint show you?
2. Where might these prints lead?
3. What would you look at first?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



It had rained before school.
Small pools lay beside the gate.
Ben stepped around them slowly.
His shoes stayed clean and dry.



Mina held the front door open.

Max wiped his feet on the mat.

The three friends went inside.

Their classroom was down the hall.



Ben saw a spot on the floor.

It was dark and wet.

A second spot lay beyond it.

Then he saw a whole row.



Each spot looked like a shoe.
The mud was thick at the edges.
One print had three thin lines.
Mina bent down to look.



"Who walked here?" Max asked.

Ben looked at his own shoes.

The sides were clean and blue.

He had wiped both feet well.



Mina held up one white shoe.

There was no mud on it.

Max looked down at his shoes.

One lace was dark with rain.



"Was it you?" Ben asked Max.

Max shook his head at once.

"My lace got wet outside."

He showed Ben his clean sole.



Mina looked along the hall.
The prints went past their door.
A boy with boots stood nearby.
He was hanging up his coat.



"Did you come from the yard?"
Mina asked the boy by the hooks.
He pointed to the front door.
His boots had come from home.



The boy showed them one boot.
Its bottom had a row of dots.
The muddy prints had thin lines.
Ben looked at the two marks.



Ms. Lee came out of the room.
She saw the friends by the prints.
"Stay on the dry side," she said.
"The floor may be slippery."



Ben told her about the boy.

"We thought he left the prints."

Ms. Lee looked down the hall.

"What can the marks tell us?"



Mina moved to the dry wall.
She pointed at the nearest print.
One end was wide and round.
The other end was short and square.



Max lifted his own shoe.
He pointed to the front of it.
"The wide end is for the toes."
Ben looked again at the mud.



The wide ends faced the yard.

They did not face their room.

Mina pointed to the next print.

Its wide end faced the same way.



"So the person walked out."

Ben looked toward the yard door.

They had all been looking inside.

Now they looked the other way.



By the classroom, the mud was dark.
Near the yard, the marks grew faint.
The last one was hard to see.
Max found it beside the mat.



"Why do they get lighter?" he asked.

Ms. Lee looked at the last mark.

"Think about what stays on a shoe."

Mina looked from mark to mark.



Each step left some mud behind.

Less mud stayed on the shoe.

Ben pointed back to the dark end.

"Where did the first print start?"



The friends walked back on dry tiles.
The darkest print was near a cart.
Beside it stood two brown pots.
A little soil lay on the floor.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. How were the boot marks different?
2. Which end of a print showed the toes?
3. Which way did the prints face?
4. Where was the darkest print?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. What might the soil tell the friends?
2. Who might have used the cart?
3. How could they check the shoe marks?
4. Share a prediction with a partner.



One pot stood on a low tray.
Its tray had a crack on one side.
Wet soil lay beside a wheel.
Ben showed the spill to Ms. Lee.



"Who moved the cart here?" Mina asked.

Ms. Lee looked through the yard door.

Mr. Kim stood under the roof.

He was carrying an empty tray.



Ms. Lee waved from the doorway.

Mr. Kim came to the dry mat.

He saw the spill by the cart.

"I came back for that," he said.



He had carried a pot inside.
A little wet soil had fallen.
He had stepped in it by the cart.
Then he went out for a tray.



Mr. Kim lifted one brown shoe.
Its sole had three thin lines.
Max pointed to the nearest print.
"Those lines match," he said.



"That is why they face the yard."
Ben showed him the lighter marks.
Mr. Kim looked down the hall.
He nodded at the last print.



Mina turned to the boy with boots.
He was still beside the hooks.
"The marks were not from you."
The boy smiled and picked up his bag.



Ms. Lee put up a yellow sign.
It stood near the muddy tiles.
The friends stayed on the dry side.
Mr. Kim brought a mop and bucket.



First he put a tray under the pot.
Then he swept the spilled soil up.
He wiped the dark prints away.
The pale ones came off too.



Ben watched from the classroom door.
Soon the hall looked clean again.
They waited for the tiles to dry.
Ms. Lee moved the sign at last.



In class, Mina took some paper.

She drew a wide round toe.

Max drew a short square heel.

Ben drew an arrow by the toe.

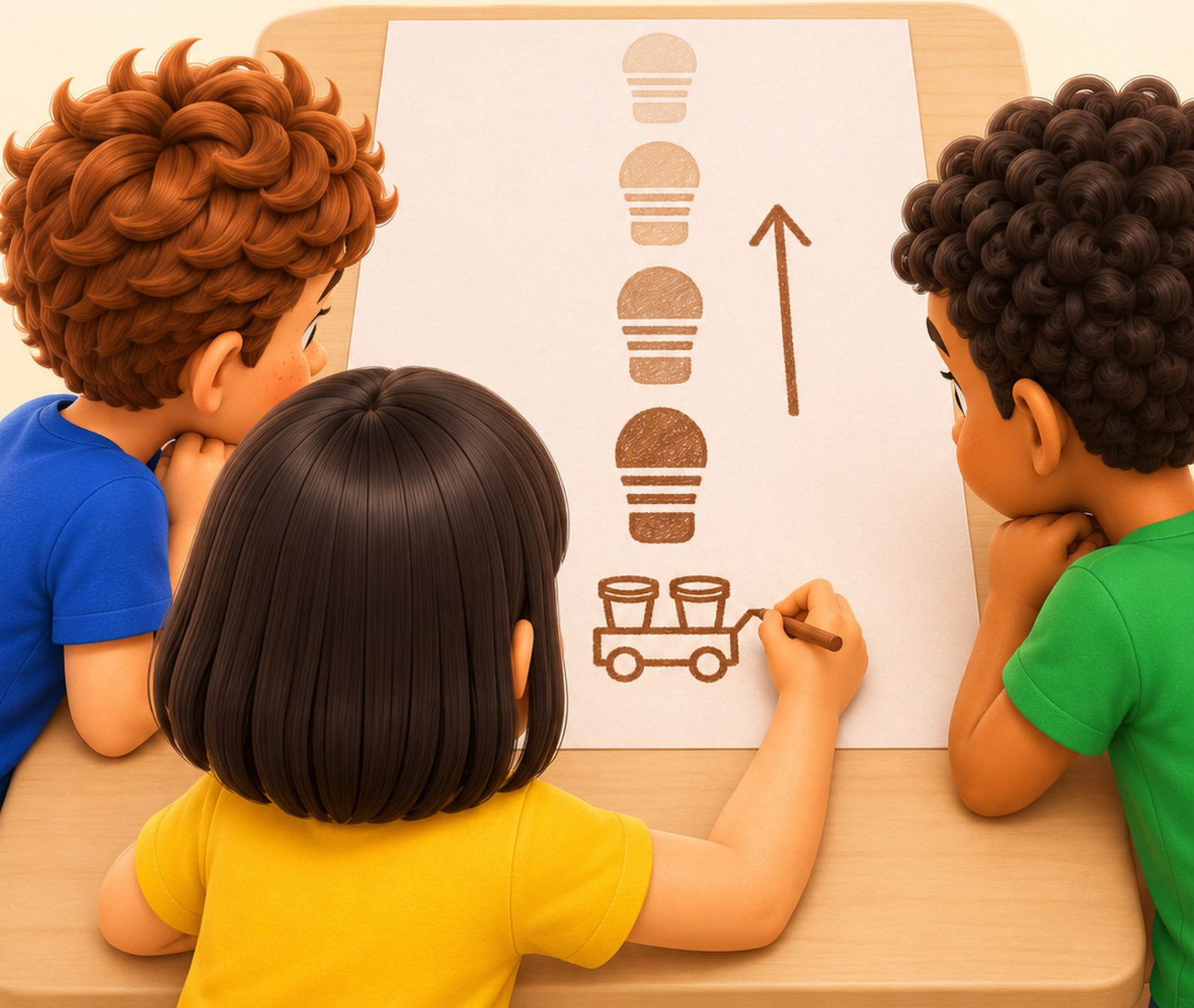


They made a row of four prints.

All the toes faced the same way.

Max made each print a bit lighter.

Mina drew a little cart at the start.



A friend came to look at the page.

"Which way did the person go?"

Ben let her look at the toes.

She pointed away from the cart.



The friend turned the page around.
Now the row looked different to her.
She checked the toes one more time.
They still pointed away from the cart.



At lunch, Ben saw the brown pots.
They stood in clean trays now.
The cart was back by the wall.
There was no soil on the floor.



After school, they went to the yard.
The sun had dried most of the path.
One small patch of mud was left.
A bird had stepped across it.



Mina saw three little toes in one print.
The next print faced the same way.
She pointed toward a low bush.
"The bird went over there."



A brown bird hopped out from the bush.
It flew up to the fence.
The friends watched it for a moment.
Then they walked to the gate.



Max stopped on the dry path.
He looked back at the little marks.
"I used to look for dirty shoes."
He pointed to the toes instead.



Ben checked his shoes at the gate.
They were still clean and blue.
He looked once more at the path.
The little prints told him where to look.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Where did Mr. Kim step in the soil?
2. Why did the prints get lighter?
3. How did the friends use their drawing?
4. What did the bird tracks show?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. Where have you seen animal tracks?
2. What clue could show a direction?
3. How could you check an idea kindly?
4. What can you do near a wet floor?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Draw a Trail of Prints

Draw four prints going the same way.

Add a clue to show where they began.

The trail begins at _____

The toes point toward

_____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Follow the clues one step at a time.

Which way do your prints point?

