

# Katie's 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Katie was turning twelve, and her excitement bubbled over like a shaken soda can. Her parents had planned a surprise birthday party, and she couldn't wait to see what awaited her. The day arrived, and Katie's friends gathered in their cozy backyard, adorned with colorful balloons and streamers. As the sun dipped below the horizon, the party kicked off. There were games, laughter, and a giant cake with twelve flickering candles. But amidst the festivities, Katie noticed something peculiar. Her best friend, Lori, stood alone near the swing set, her eyes downcast.

Katie approached Lori, who looked up with a half-hearted smile. "What's wrong?" Katie asked. Lori hesitated, then whispered, "I wasn't invited to your party." Katie's heart sank. She hadn't realized that Lori wasn't on the guest list. She felt torn between her excitement and her friend's sadness. But in that moment, Katie made a choice. She took Lori's hand and led her to the cake. "Make a wish," Katie said, gesturing to the candles. "It's not just my birthday; it's yours too."

Lori blinked in surprise, then closed her eyes and blew out the candles. The crowd cheered, and Lori's smile returned. Katie realized that true friendship meant sharing joy, even when it seemed scarce. The lesson was clear: Kindness and inclusion mattered more than any party or gift. Katie's birthday became a celebration of compassion, and she learned that the best presents weren't wrapped in paper but woven into the fabric of our actions.

The next day at school, Katie noticed a new girl sitting alone during lunchtime. Her name was Ally, and she wore oversized glasses that slipped down her nose. Katie remembered Lori's lonely expression at the party and decided to act. "Hi, I'm Katie," she said, sitting across from Ally. "Want to join our group?" Ally's eyes widened. "Really?" Katie nodded. "Absolutely. Friends make life brighter, don't you think?"

From that day forward, Ally became part of their circle. Katie's birthday had taught her that kindness had a ripple effect. By including others, she not only made her own world better but also created a chain of compassion that reached far beyond her backyard. And so, Katie's special birthday surprise continued to inspire acts of friendship and warmth, proving that sometimes the best gifts were the ones we gave to others.



1. Read the reading passage thoroughly.
2. Underline any word or sentence you don't understand.

# Katie's 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Answer according to the reading passage:

- 1. Where was the birthday celebration held?**
  - a. cozy living room
  - b. cozy backyard
  - c. cozy front lawn
  
- 2. Who was Katie's best friend?**
  - a. Ally
  - b. Lori
  - c. Anna
  
- 3. What mattered more than any party or gift?**
  - a. friends
  - b. generosity
  - c. kindness and inclusion
  
- 4. What did Katie notice the next day at school?**
  - a. a new girl sitting alone
  - b. a new girl in her class
  - c. she forgot her lunch
  
- 5. The best presents aren't wrapped in paper, they are:**
  - a. welcoming others
  - b. being kind to other
  - c. woven into the fabric of our actions

# Katie's 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday

## Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. How did Katie's actions at her birthday party demonstrate kindness and compassion?
  2. What is the message of this reading passage?
  3. What 3 things did you learn from this reading passage.
  4. Describe how the backyard may have looked at the party.
- What do you think are the best gifts for a birthday?
  - Why do you think Katie included Lori even though she wasn't invited?
  - How did Katie's special birthday surprise impact her friendships beyond the party?
  - If you were Katie, how would you have handled the situation differently?
  - How did Katie's actions at school benefit Ally?
  - Have you ever felt left out? How did you feel? What can you learn from the experience?