**The School Play Disaster**

The annual school play was approaching, and everyone in Ms. Johnson's class was buzzing with excitement. This year, they were putting on a production of ancient Egypt, complete with elaborate costumes and a giant cardboard **pyramid** (a triangular monument from ancient Egypt). Sarah, the class star, was cast as the powerful pharaoh, while shy Michael landed the role of a nervous servant.

During rehearsals, the sound effects team, armed with plastic pots and wooden spoons, practiced creating the **rhythm** (a repeating pattern of sound) of a bustling marketplace. Meanwhile, the costume designer carefully glued sparkling **crystals** (clear, beautiful stones) onto Cleopatra's shimmering gown.

One afternoon, disaster struck! As Sarah practiced her dramatic monologue, a rogue cymbal (a pair of clashed metal discs) from the sound effects team went flying, narrowly missing Michael's head. The loud clang sent a ripple of **hysterical** (extremely funny or out of control) laughter through the class. Tears streamed down Sarah's face, her royal Egyptian composure completely shattered.

Ms. Johnson, ever the calming presence, called for a break. She reminded everyone that accidents happen and that working together as a team was key. She explained that even though this was a **typical** (common, expected) first-night hiccup in any play, they could overcome it.

Determined to solve the cymbal problem, the class brainstormed new sound effects. They decided to use a tambourine for the marketplace scene. Michael, relieved he wouldn't be a target anymore, even offered to write a catchy new chant for the scene.

Opening night arrived, and despite the earlier chaos, the play was a roaring success. The audience cheered as Sarah delivered her monologue, her voice clear and strong. The cardboard pyramid stood tall, a silent symbol (an object representing something else) of the play's theme. The new marketplace chant, complete with **lyrics** (words of a song) written by Michael, had the audience clapping along.

Everyone in Ms. Johnson's class learned a valuable lesson that day. Through teamwork and creativity, even the most **mysterious** (unknown, puzzling) problems could be solved, and even a **symptom** (a sign of a problem) like a flying cymbal could be turned into a funny memory.

**Vocabulary Questions:**

1. What is the shape of a **pyramid**?

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1. A **cymbal** is a musical instrument used in what way?

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1. Can you tap your foot to the **rhythm** of your favorite song?

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1. What are some things that can be made of **crystal**?

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1. If you have a fever, it might be a **symptom** of what?

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1. A detective story is full of what?

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1. The dove of peace is a well-known **symbol** of what?

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1. What is the baby of a swan called?

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1. What are **lyrics?**

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1. What is another word for **hysterical**?

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1. What is essential chemical for all living things to survive?

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