4th Grade Reading Competetion

**Two Friends and the Bear**

Ken and John were two friends. One day they were passing through a dense forest.

John said, “Friend, I am afraid there are wild animals in this forest. What will we do if a wild animal attacks us?”

“Don’t be afraid, John,” said Ken, “I will stand by your side if any danger comes. We will fight together and save ourselves.” So, they went on their journey.

But suddenly they saw a bear coming towards them. Ken at once got up the nearest tree. He did not think about what his friend would do.

John did not know how to climb a tree. He had no way of escape. He was helpless.

But soon he had a plan. He fell flat on the ground like a dead man.

The bear came up to John. It smelled his nose, ears and eyes. It thought he was dead and went away.

Then Ken came down from the tree. He said to John, “What did the bear whisper in your ear?”

John said, “The bear told me, ‘Do not trust a friend who leaves his friend in danger.’”

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4th Grade Reading Competetion

**A Surprise from Australia**

The school day ends and Jenny quickly puts her books in her bag and runs out of the classroom.

Today is a special day. Jenny is very excited. She runs home and thinks about her uncle. She spoke with him on the phone a week ago. He is returning from Australia, and he is bringing a special surprise with him!  
 Jenny is very happy. She thinks about the surprise that he will bring.  
 "Maybe he is bringing a surfboard? Fun! I can learn how to surf!"  
 "Maybe he is bringing nuts from Australia? Oh, I can eat nuts all day!"  
 "Or maybe he is bringing a kangaroo? That is not so good. I don't know where to put a kangaroo…"  
 Jenny finally arrives home. Her parents are there, and her uncle is there! She is very happy to see him. They hug and she jumps up and down.  
 "Uncle, Uncle," she says, "what special surprise do you have for me from Australia?"  
 "Well," her uncle smiles and answers, "I have for you an Australian aunt!"

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