

The Nest



Just as the recess bell rang, James kicked the soccer ball. It sailed over the goalie's head and broke a light. 1

"James," said Ms. Sullivan, the principal. "Come here, please." 2

As everyone else lined up and went inside, James stayed behind and talked to the principal. In the classroom, Mr. Handler asked, "Where's James?" 3

"He broke the light," said Peter, pointing outside. 4

After a few minutes James came in. Through the window the class could see the custodian removing what remained of the light. 5

"It's okay, James," said Mr. Handler. "It was an accident." 6

At lunchtime, Rebecca saw a robin land in the space where the light had been. It stayed there awhile and then flew away. Soon it returned with some grass and string in its beak. 7

When lunch was over, Mr. Handler took the class outside to see what was going on. As they watched, two robins returned with more string and some paper. 8

"They're making a nest," Rebecca said. 9

“I think you’re right, Rebecca,” said Mr. Handler. “Let’s not replace that light yet.” 10

For the next few weeks, the class watched the nest. One sunny morning, James found a piece of fragile blue eggshell on the ground beside the wall, and Rebecca heard some chirping overhead. 11

“The eggs have hatched!” they said excitedly. 12

When Mr. Handler came out to look, one of the robins returned to the nest with a juicy worm in its beak. 13

“You know, James,” he said, smiling, “I don’t think we should ever replace that light!” 14

1 When does the story start and end?

- starts one day and ends the next day
- starts before recess and ends after recess
- starts before school and ends at lunchtime
- starts in the morning and ends several weeks later

2 Mr. Handler says “It’s okay, James” and “It was an accident” in paragraph 6 because he believes that James

- likes all types of birds.
- is bothered by the eggs.
- knows nests are important.
- is sorry for what happened outside.

3 What does the word “replace” mean as used in paragraphs 10 and 14?

- Take out an old light and put in a bigger one.
- Turn off the switch and leave the broken light.
- Throw away the broken light and put in a new one.
- Remove the old light and use it for something different.

4 In paragraph 11, the word “fragile” means

- falls quickly.
- breaks easily.
- turns different colours.
- comes from a bird’s nest.

5 Explain how the robins become an important part of the daily life of Mr. Handler’s class. Use details from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

6 Explain why Mr. Handler says “I don’t think we should ever replace that light” in paragraph 14. Use details from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.
