

Fantasy

Spark's Toys

by Nora Carson
illustrated by Kristin Varner



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PAIRED
READ

Sorting Fruit

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Make and Confirm Predictions

Skill: Point of View

Vocabulary

four, large, none, only, put, round, trouble, whole

Phonics

r-controlled vowel *ar*

Content Standards Science

Physical Science

Word count: 474**

**The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



Education

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A



Essential Question

How can we classify and categorize things?

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Chapter 1

Spark's Toys

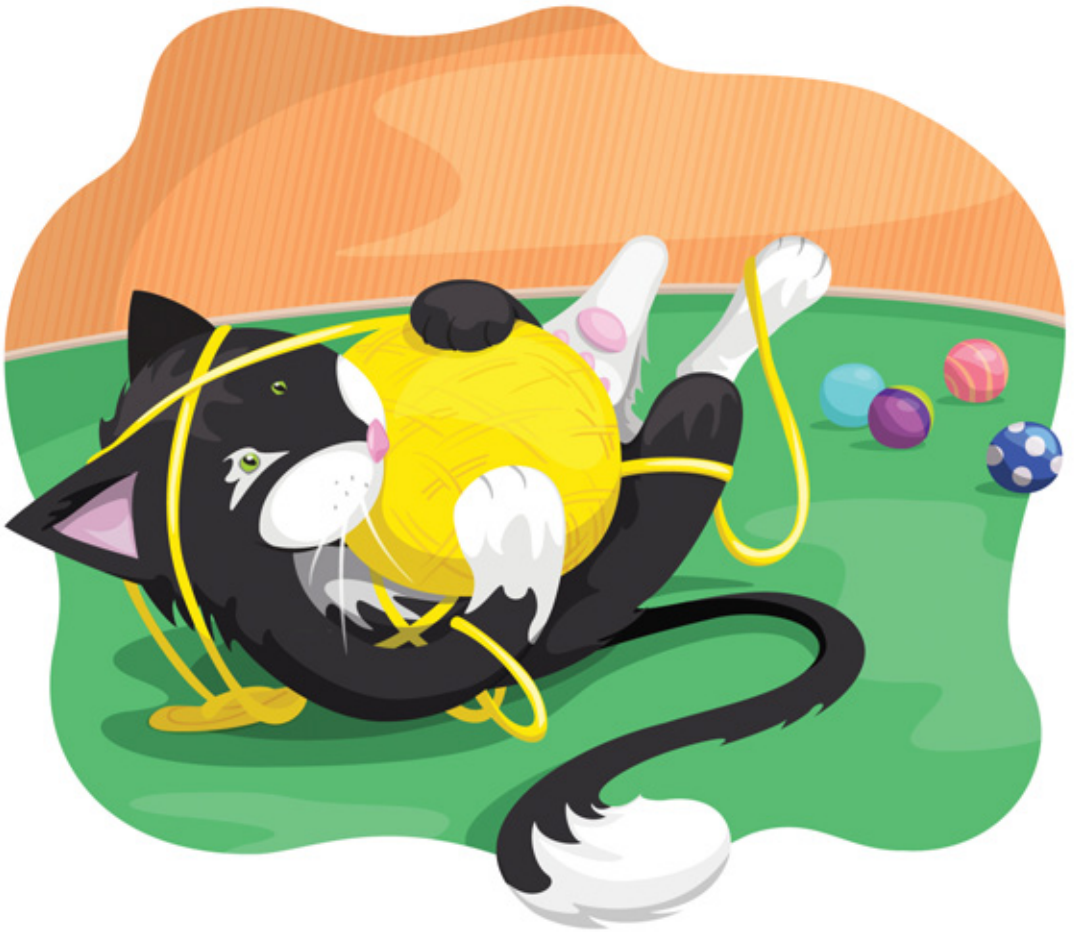
Meet Spark the cat. Spark really loved to play with his toys. He played with his toys all day long. He played with his toys all night long too.



But Spark had too many toys, and he left them all over the house. This got him into a whole lot of trouble with Mrs. King.

“Spark!” said Mrs. King one day.
“You need to clean up this mess.”

But Spark did not clean up. He was too busy playing.



Spark especially liked to play with four small balls. He would move them around with his paws. Then he chased them as they rolled away. Spark liked his bright yellow round ball of yarn too. But sometimes he got tangled up in it.

Spark also had toys that squeaked!
Sometimes Mrs. King stepped on them.

“Spark!” she said. “Would you please
put away your toys?”

But Spark put none of his toys away.
He was too busy playing.





Chapter 2

Spark's Favorite Toy

Spark had toys of all shapes and sizes. He had large and small furry toys. He had long poles with strings attached. But do you know what he liked the best?

Spark liked to play with boxes. He had plenty of them around the house. If Mrs. King couldn't find Spark, all she had to do was open a box. And Spark would be there!

"Ah, this is the life," thought Spark. "I can play all day and all night long."

Spark didn't know it, but things were about to change!





Chapter 3

Spark's Big Surprise

One day, Mrs. King came home early from work. She was holding something small and furry.

"Spark," she said. "I have a little surprise for you. This is Rose."

She put Rose down on the floor, right next to Spark.

“Rose is your new friend. Please help me take care of her,” said Mrs. King. “We have to make room for Rose’s bed and bowls. You need to put your toys away.”

Spark knew that Mrs. King was right. But where could he put all his toys?





Spark looked around and saw the boxes. Suddenly, he had an idea. He sorted his toys. He put the small toys in one box. He put bigger toys in a bigger box. Then he put the biggest toys in the biggest box. He left only one ball on the floor. He knew Rose would like it.

Spark liked to play with Rose. They played together all day long. And when Rose was sleeping, Spark jumped into his box and played with his toys.



Respond to Reading

Retell

Use the chart to help you retell *Spark's Toys*.

Character	Clue	Point of View

Text Evidence

1. Look at page 3. Who is speaking? How does Mrs. King feel about Spark's toys being all over the house? How does Spark feel?

Point of view

2. Look at page 11. How does Spark feel about Rose? **Point of view**
3. What kind of story is this? How do you know? **Genre**

Compare Texts

How can we sort things?

Sorting



Fruit

Look at the different kinds of fruit. How can you sort them? You can sort by color. Which fruit is yellow? Which fruits are green? Which fruit is brown and green?



(l) Stockbyte/Getty Images, (r) C Squared Studios/Getty Images

You can sort by shape. Which fruits are round?



You can sort by how a fruit feels. Which fruits feel smooth? Which fruit feels sharp?



Make Connections

Look at both selections. What did you learn about sorting? [Text to Text](#)

Focus on Genre

Fantasy A fantasy is a story that may have made-up characters, settings, and actions. A fantasy could not happen in real life.

What to Look for In *Spark's Toys*, Spark sorts his toys by size. Real animals don't think about doing things like that.

Your Turn

Write your own idea for a fantasy about an animal. Name the animal, and write what it does. Share your ideas with a classmate.

Thinkmark

Setting

Where did this story take place?
Why is the setting important?

Characters

Who is the main character?
How would you describe the
characters in this story?

Conclusions

What conclusion can you draw
about sorting? How did sorting
help Spark?