



GRADE 3 · ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

One cone, cold fingers. Two cones, frost. Three cones...

STORY ELEMENTS

CCSS RL.3.1, RL.3.3 · VA SOL 3.5

Characters: Miles, his friend Gavin, Stella, Miles's mom, and the Ice Cream Man

Setting: Cedar Court, a street of houses, during a summer heat wave

Problem: The free ice cream makes kids colder with every cone. After three cones, kids climb into the truck's freezer, and Gavin gets taken.

Solution: Miles grabs the Ice Cream Man's wrist, and he and Stella pull him out of the truck onto the hot street. He melts, the truck melts, and the frozen kids, including Gavin, thaw out.

WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

CCSS RL.3.2, RL.3.3 · VA SOL 3.5

- 1: A strange ice cream truck comes to Cedar Court, and Miles gets a free cone.
- 2: Stella shows the boys a scoop of ice cream that sat on her driveway all night without melting.
- 3: A ray of sunlight makes the Ice Cream Man's hand drip.
- 4: Miles sees a girl's face in a frosted window, and she blinks.
- 5: Gavin eats his third cone and climbs into the truck.
- 6: Miles and Stella pull the Ice Cream Man onto the hot street, and he melts.
- 7: Mom takes the kids to the Dairy Barn, and Miles's cone drips.

WORD DETECTIVE

CCSS RL.3.4, L.3.4a · VA SOL 3.4

heat wave: many very hot days in a row

frosted: covered with a thin layer of ice

sleepwalking: walking while asleep, without knowing what you are doing

chattering: clicking together fast because you are cold

SPOT THE CLUES

CCSS RL.3.7, W.3.3 · VA SOL 3.5, 3.7

Answers will vary. Look for: The drawing shows details from the story. The sentences name at least one clue. The clue comes from the story.





GRADE 4 · ANSWER KEY

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CAUSE AND EFFECT

CCSS RL.4.1, RL.4.3 · VA SOL 4.5

Miles eats his first free cone.: *That night his fingers are cold, in July.*

One last ray of sunlight touches the Ice Cream Man's hand.: *His hand drips like a popsicle and steams.*

Gavin eats his third cone.: *The back door opens, and Gavin climbs into the truck.*

The Ice Cream Man's shoe touches the hot blacktop.: *He melts into a white puddle, and the truck melts too.*

THEME DETECTIVE

CCSS RL.4.2 · VA SOL 4.5

1. Stella yells, "Nothing's free." What does she mean? Was she right?: *Free things can have a hidden cost. She was right: every cone made the kids colder, and three cones put you in the freezer.*

2. Miles knows what the third cone does, but he still wants it. Why is it so hard for him to say no?: *The ice cream pulls at him. He wants it "so bad that my whole body hurts. Like being thirsty, but a hundred times worse."*

3. What lesson does the author want readers to learn? Use one detail from the story to explain.:
Possible answers: If something seems too good to be true, be careful (free ice cream that never melts). Or: good friends look out for each other (Stella tackles Miles so he can't go to the truck).

WHO IS STELLA?

CCSS RL.4.1, RL.4.3 · VA SOL 4.5

careful: *She never eats a cone. She puts hers on the driveway and looks up whether ice cream can melt.*

observant: *She is the first to see the man's hand drip and the faces in the windows.*

loyal: *She tackles Miles and sits on him so he can't get his third cone.*

Other traits are fine if the evidence supports them.

WHAT'S THE CATCH?

CCSS W.4.3 · VA SOL 4.7

Answers will vary. Look for: Has a clear beginning, middle, and end. Describes what the narrator sees, hears, or feels. The catch is clear, and someone figures it out.





GRADE 5 • ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

One cone, cold fingers. Two cones, frost. Three cones...

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

CCSS RL.5.1 • VA SOL 5.5

1. Mom says, "There wasn't any truck." Why do you think she can't see it? What does that tell you about who the truck is for?: Only kids can see and hear the truck, so grown-ups can't stop it. It's there to trap kids. Gavin's mom didn't hear any truck either.
2. Stella says the Ice Cream Man never gets out of the truck. Why do you think he stays inside?: Heat hurts him. The truck is cold like a freezer, and the street is hot. One ray of sun made his hand drip, so stepping on the hot blacktop would melt him.
3. At the end, the kids hear the slow, wrong song on a snow day in January. What does this suggest?: The Ice Cream Man, or another one like him, is back. In winter there's no heat to melt him, so he would be much harder to stop.

PLOT MOUNTAIN

CCSS RL.5.2, RL.5.5 • VA SOL 5.5

Exposition: On Cedar Court, during the hottest week ever, Miles wants ice cream more than anything when a strange truck comes at sundown.

Rising action: The free ice cream never melts, and every cone makes the boys colder. Stella sees the man's hand drip and a face blink in a window. Gavin eats his third cone and climbs into the truck.

Climax: Miles grabs the Ice Cream Man's wrist instead of the cone, and he and Stella pull him out of the truck onto the hot street.

Falling action: The Ice Cream Man and his truck melt into a white puddle. Miles opens the freezer, and Gavin and the other frozen kids wake up and run home.

Resolution: Mom takes the kids to the Dairy Barn, and Miles's cone drips. But in January, they hear the slow, wrong song again.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

CCSS RL.5.4, L.5.5a • VA SOL 5.4

"It's still hot. Hot like breathing in a dryer.": simile: The air is so hot and heavy it's hard to breathe.

"White and round, like a refrigerator on wheels.": simile: The truck is big, white, and boxy, and it looks cold inside.

"The driveway is about a thousand degrees.": hyperbole: The driveway is so hot it burns to touch.

"It pulls at me, harder than ever.": personification: The song seems to tug Miles toward the truck, as if it could grab him.

WRITE A NEW ENDING

CCSS W.5.3 • VA SOL 5.7

Answers will vary. Look for: Starts when the Ice Cream Man holds out the third cone. The plan is different from the one in the story. The new ending shows whether the plan works. Keeps the story's spooky mood.



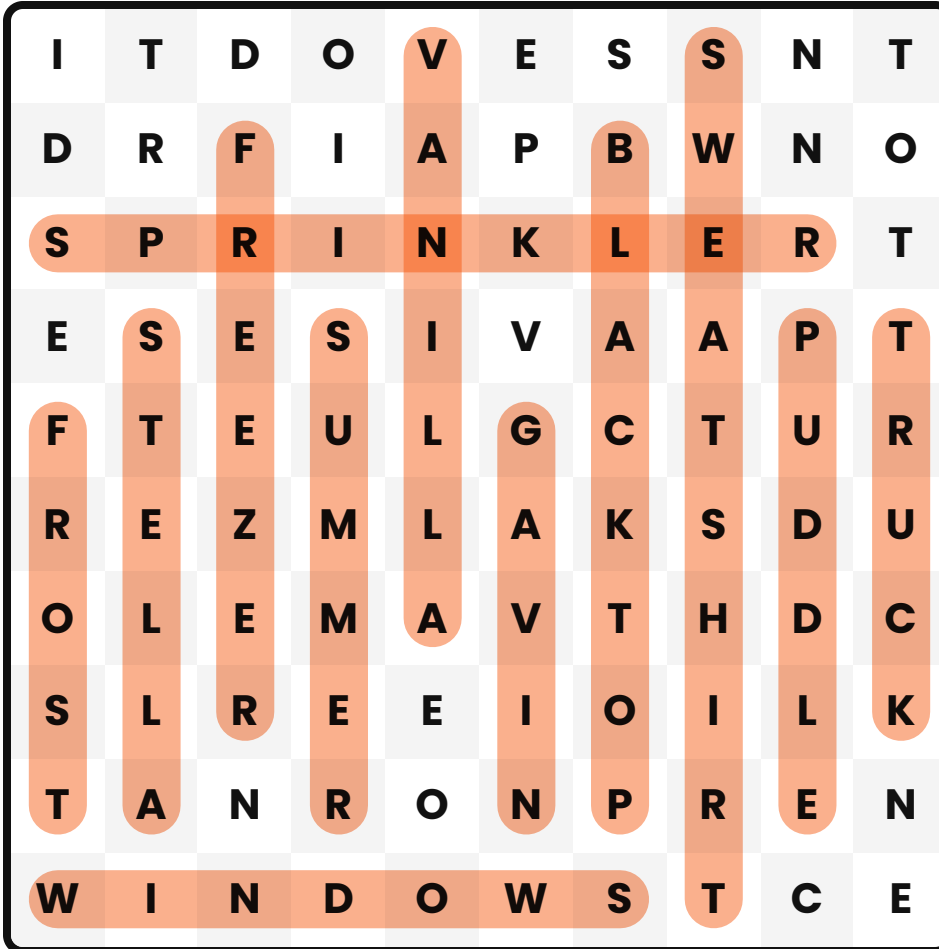


WORD SEARCH · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

One cone, cold fingers. Two cones, frost. Three cones...

1. Find the 12 words from the story. They go across, down, and diagonally. 2. Circle each word and cross out its letters. 3. The letters left over, read in order, spell a line from the story.



FIND THESE

- ☐ Blacktop
- ☐ Freezer
- ☐ Frost
- ☐ Gavin
- ☐ Puddle
- ☐ Sprinkler
- ☐ Stella
- ☐ Summer
- ☐ Sweatshirt
- ☐ Truck
- ☐ Vanilla
- ☐ Windows

SECRET MESSAGE

I T D O E S N T D R I P N O T E V E N O N C E





WORD SEARCH · VERSION B · ANSWER KEY

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1. Find the 12 words from the story. They go across, down, and diagonally. 2. Circle each word and cross out its letters. 3. The letters left over, read in order, spell a line from the story.



FIND THESE

- ☐ Blacktop
- ☐ Freezer
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- ☐ Gavin
- ☐ Miles
- ☐ Puddle
- ☐ Sprinkler
- ☐ Stella
- ☐ Summer
- ☐ Sweatshirt
- ☐ Vanilla
- ☐ Windows

SECRET MESSAGE

I T D O E S N T D R I P N O T E V E N O N C E



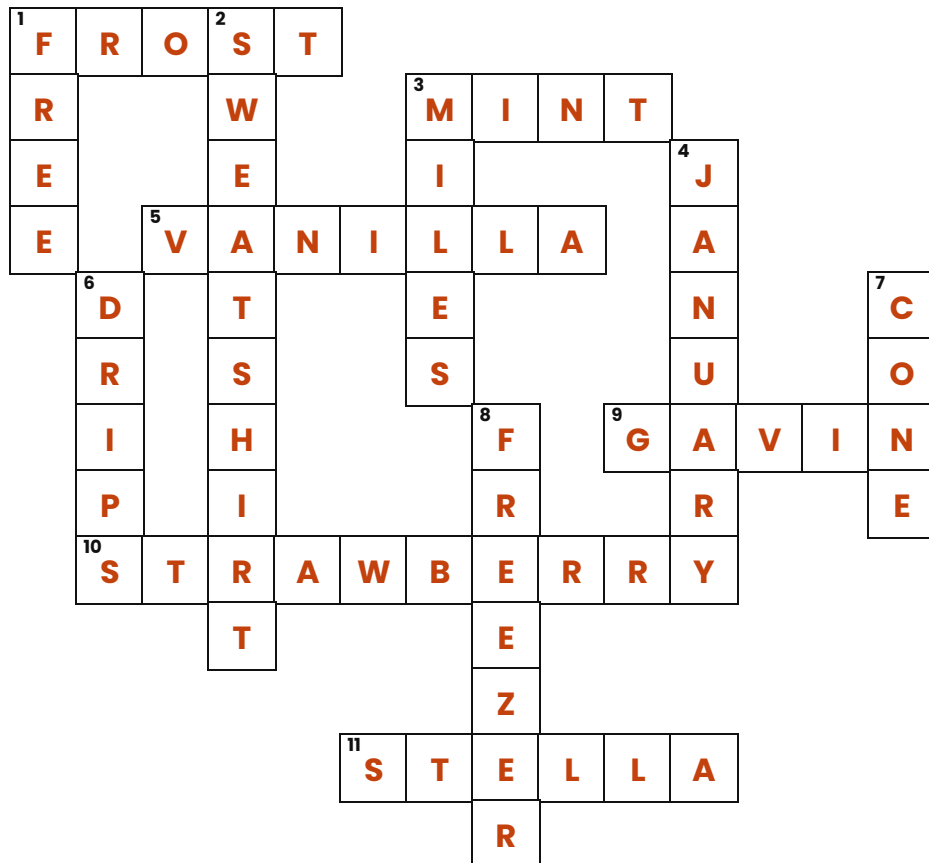


CROSSWORD · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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1. Read each clue. 2. Write one letter in each square. Every answer comes from the story.



ACROSS

- What Miles finds on his eyelashes in July **FROST**
- Gavin's flavor: ____ chocolate chip **MINT**
- What the melted puddle smells like **VANILLA**
- The friend who eats three cones **GAVIN**
- The flavor of Stella's scoop on the driveway **STRAWBERRY**
- She's eleven and yells, "Nothing's free." **STELLA**

DOWN

- How much the ice cream costs **FREE**
- What Miles wears in a heat wave **SWEATSHIRT**
- The boy telling the story, king of ice cream **MILES**
- The month the song comes back **JANUARY**
- At the Dairy Barn, Miles's cone finally does this **DRIPS**
- Don't eat the third one! **CONE**
- Where the frozen kids are kept **FREEZER**

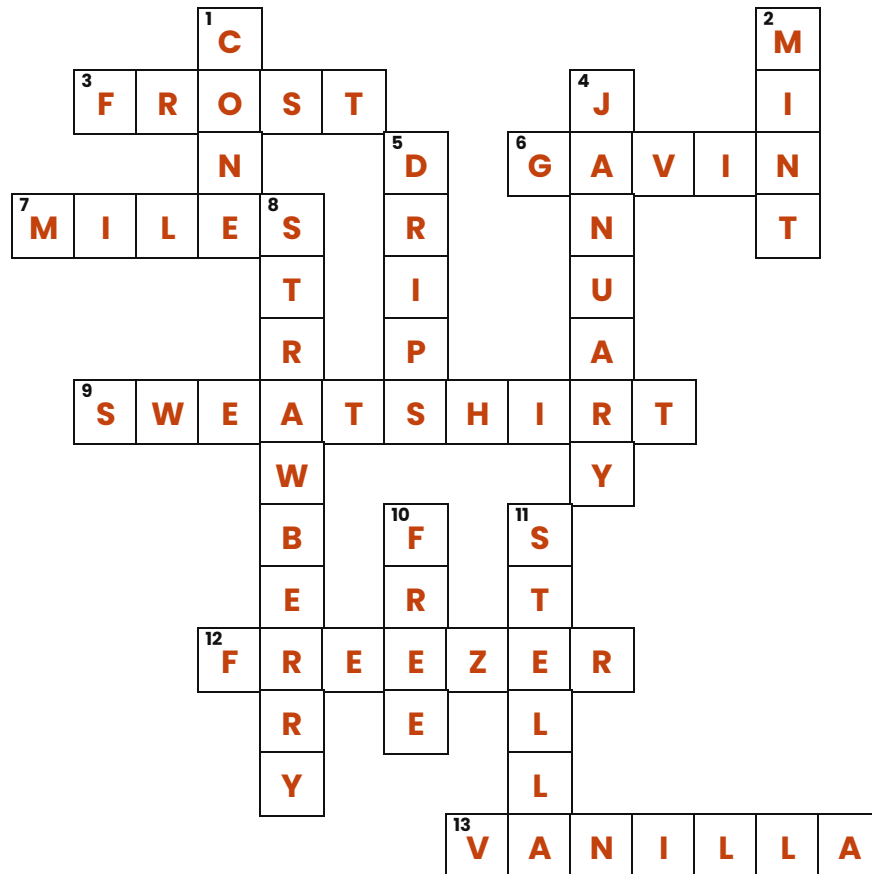




THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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1. Read each clue. 2. Write one letter in each square. Every answer comes from the story.



ACROSS

3. What Miles finds on his eyelashes in July **FROST**
6. The friend who eats three cones **GAVIN**
7. The boy telling the story, king of ice cream **MILES**
9. What Miles wears in a heat wave **SWEATSHIRT**
12. Where the frozen kids are kept **FREEZER**
13. What the melted puddle smells like **VANILLA**

DOWN

1. Don't eat the third one! **CONE**
2. Gavin's flavor: ____ chocolate chip **MINT**
4. The month the song comes back **JANUARY**
5. At the Dairy Barn, Miles's cone finally does this **DRIPS**
8. The flavor of Stella's scoop on the driveway **STRAWBERRY**
10. How much the ice cream costs **FREE**
11. She's eleven and yells, "Nothing's free." **STELLA**





SECRET CODES · ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

One cone, cold fingers. Two cones, frost. Three cones...

Three messages from the story are written in code. Use each code's key to crack it, one letter at a time.

CODE 1: SHIFT CODE

Every letter moved 3 places forward in the alphabet. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W

Z K R Z D Q W V D F R Q H
W H O W A N T S A C O N E

CODE 2: MIRROR CODE

The alphabet is flipped: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

B L F D Z M G M F N Y V I G S I V V
Y O U W A N T N U M B E R T H R E E

CODE 3: BACKWARDS CODE

Each word is written backwards. Read every word from right to left.

E H R E V E N S T E G T U O
H E N E V E R G E T S O U T





THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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Each word from the story got scrambled. Use the clue to put the letters back in order.

R N E K R S P L I

1. Clue: It goes tick-tick-tick on Stella's lawn

SPRINKLER

E Z F E R E R

2. Clue: Where the frozen kids are kept

FREEZER

P C A L K B T O

3. Clue: The hot street that melts him

BLACKTOP

D S O I N W W

4. Clue: Little round ones run down the truck's side

WINDOWS

Y A B R E R R W S T

5. Clue: The flavor of Stella's scoop

STRAWBERRY

H W S A E T R S T I

6. Clue: What Miles wears when it's a hundred and two degrees

SWEATSHIRT

V A L L A I N

7. Clue: What the puddle smells like

VANILLA

O I E K O C

8. Clue: Miles's favorite flavor: ____ dough

COOKIE





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Each word from the story got scrambled. Use the clue to put the letters back in order.

1. I L R R E K P N S

Clue: It goes tick-tick-tick on Stella's lawn

SPRINKLER

2. R Z E E R F E

Clue: Where the frozen kids are kept

FREEZER

3. L A B K P O C T

Clue: The hot street that melts him

BLACKTOP

4. I O D W S N W

Clue: Little round ones run down the truck's side

WINDOWS

5. Y R S R R E A B T W

Clue: The flavor of Stella's scoop

STRAWBERRY

6. T W R H S E T A I S

Clue: What Miles wears when it's a hundred and two degrees

SWEATSHIRT

7. I L L N V A A

Clue: What the puddle smells like

VANILLA

8. O E C K I O

Clue: Miles's favorite flavor: ____ dough

COOKIE



HIDDEN MESSAGE · ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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1. Answer each question from the story. 2. Write the **first letter** of each answer in the matching numbered blank below. 3. Read the hidden message!

1. Gavin gets ____ chocolate chip.

MINT

2. Mom says the ____ conditioner is doing its best.

AIR

In January, the kids build a snow fort in Stella's front ____.

YARD

4. What is Stella holding on her front steps?

BOOK

5. How old is Stella?

ELEVEN

Gavin pokes the scoop with a stick, and the stick goes ____.

TOCK

7. When the sun goes down, the sky goes ____, then purple.

ORANGE

8. What is the name of the boy telling the story?

MILES

9. When the man's cold fingers stick to his, Miles says, "____."

OW

10. One last skinny ____ of orange light comes through a gap between the houses.

RAY

11. The truck is white and ____, like a refrigerator on wheels.

ROUND

12. Stella says, "____ cone, your fingers get cold."

ONE

13. The song is slow and ____.

WRONG

HIDDEN MESSAGE

M A Y B E T O M O R R O W

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13



ESCAPE ROOM · ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

One cone, cold fingers. Two cones, frost. Three cones...

ESCAPE THE ICE CREAM TRUCK

You just ate cone number three, and the freezer door is swinging shut. Frost is creeping across the little round window. Work as a team. Open all four locks to escape.

LOCK 1: THE NUMBER LOCK

Answer each question with a number from the story. Put the three numbers together, in order, to make the code.

1. How many cones does it take to end up in the freezer? **3**
2. How many times did Miles and Gavin run through the sprinkler? **9**
3. In how many bites does Gavin eat his third cone? **4**

CODE

3

9

4

LOCK 2: THE WORD LOCK

This word from the story is in Mirror Code: A swaps with Z, B with Y, and so on. Find each code letter in the top row and write the letter under it. Hint: The heat feels like breathing in one.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

IN CODE: **W I B V I**

CODE

D

R

Y

E

R





THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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LOCK 3: THE ORDER LOCK

These events are mixed up. Put them in story order, then read the letters in that order to get the code word.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------|
| ☐ O | A ray of sunlight makes the Ice Cream Man's hand drip. | <u>3</u> |
| ☐ T | The Ice Cream Man melts on the hot street. | <u>5</u> |
| ☐ F | The truck gives Miles a free cone. | <u>1</u> |
| ☐ R | Stella shows the boys a scoop that won't melt. | <u>2</u> |
| ☐ S | Gavin climbs into the truck. | <u>4</u> |

CODE

F R O S T

LOCK 4: THE FAKE FACT LOCK

Five of these happened in the story. One is made up. The number of the fake one opens the lock.

1. The sprinkler on Stella's lawn goes tick-tick-tick.
2. Gavin's flavor is mint chocolate chip.
3. Stella's scoop on the driveway is strawberry.
4. Miles wears his winter coat in the heat wave.
- 5. The truck has the Ice Cream Man's name painted on the side. (fake)**
6. The melted puddle smells like vanilla.

CODE

5

When a team opens all four locks, they escape. Read them the last line: "And for the first time all week, I'm sweating."





WHO SAID IT? • ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

One cone, cold fingers. Two cones, frost. Three cones...

1. Read each line from the story. 2. Write the name of the character who said it. Some characters say more than one line.

CHARACTERS

Gavin Miles Mom Stella The Ice Cream Man

1. "I'm going to melt into the sidewalk."

Gavin

2. "Nothing's free."

Stella

3. "Who wants a cone?"

The Ice Cream Man

4. "There wasn't any truck."

Mom

5. "Back again. I knew you would be."

The Ice Cream Man

6. "You want number three."

Stella

7. "We have to get him off the truck."

Miles

8. "Miles? Why is it so hot in here?"

Gavin

