



THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

It's the hottest week ever on Cedar Court when a strange ice cream truck rolls in at sundown. The ice cream is free, and it never melts. But every cone makes Miles colder, and Stella has figured out what happens after the third one. A short, safe-for-school scary story for summer.

Read-aloud time: about 18 minutes • **Themes:** Temptation, Too good to be true, Friendship, Courage

WHAT'S INSIDE

The story
 Grade 3: Story Elements, What Happened First?, Word Detective, Spot the Clues
 Grade 4: Cause and Effect, Theme Detective, Who Is Stella?, What's the Catch?
 Grade 5: Read Between the Lines, Plot Mountain, Figurative Language Hunt, Write a New Ending
 Puzzles: Word Search, Crossword, Secret Codes, Word Scramble, Escape Room, Who Said It?, Hidden Message
 Answer keys for everything

HOW TO USE IT

Read the story aloud. It's spooky, not gory, and safe for school.
 Pick the worksheets for your grade. Each one takes 10–30 minutes and needs no prep.
 The puzzles are great for early finishers. Story Bingo for the read-aloud is a separate download, with a different card for every student.
 Students can also do every worksheet online at scaremoor.com/worksheets.
 Answer keys are at the back.



READ-ALoud STORY • GRADES 3–5

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

CHAPTER 1: FREE

"If it gets one degree hotter," Gavin says, "I'm going to melt into the sidewalk."

"You can't melt," I tell him. "You're not ice cream."

"I could be. Watch me."

He lies down flat on his driveway. Then he yells and jumps back up, because the driveway is about a thousand degrees.

It's the hottest week ever on Cedar Court. That's what the guy on the news said.

A heat wave. Every day this week is going to be over a hundred.

The sprinkler on Stella's lawn is going *tick-tick-tick*. We already ran through it nine times.

Now we're just lying in the shade of Gavin's garage, dying.

Stella is sitting on her front steps across the street with a book. She's eleven, so she thinks she's too old for sprinklers.

She ran through it twice.

"You know what I want?" I say. "Ice cream."

"You always want ice cream," Gavin says.

It's true. I'm the ice cream king of Cedar Court.

I can name every flavor at the Dairy Barn in under one minute. Mom times me.

But the Dairy Barn is all the way across town. Mom says it's too hot to drive anywhere. And

the ice cream in our freezer has ice crystals all over it.

Who wants that?

So I just lie there and think about cookie dough.

The sun goes down behind the houses. The sky goes orange, then purple. It's still hot. Hot like breathing in a dryer.

That's when I hear the song.

Ice cream truck music.

I sit straight up.

Every kid in America knows that song.

Except this one is wrong. It's too slow. Like a music box running down.

And one of the notes is off, every time. Like a wrong key on a piano.

"Do you hear that?" Gavin whispers.

"Ice cream truck!" I'm already on my feet.

It comes around the corner at the end of Cedar Court.

It's not like the trucks I've seen. It's old. White and round, like a refrigerator on wheels.

Down the side there's a row of little round windows, like on a ship. All of them are frosted over.

There's no name painted on it. Just a picture of a cone.

It stops right in front of Gavin's house.

The window on the side slides open, and a cold breeze rolls out over us.

Real cold. Freezer cold. In the middle of a heat wave, it feels like heaven.

The Ice Cream Man leans out.

He's tall. Really tall. White uniform. White paper hat. A big, wide smile.

His face isn't sweaty at all. Not one drop.

"Well, hello there," he says. When he talks, his breath comes out in a little white puff. "Who wants a cone?"

"How much?" I ask.

"For you?" His smile gets wider. "Free."

Gavin and I look at each other.

Free.

"Cookie dough," I say. "Please."

He doesn't even look at the tubs. He just reaches down and comes back up with a cone. Cookie dough. A big, round, perfect scoop.

He hands it down to me, and his fingers touch mine.

They're so cold they burn. They stick to my skin for one second, like a frozen pole in winter.

Then he lets go.

"Ow," I say, and then I take a bite and forget all about it.

It's the best ice cream I've ever had in my whole life.

Gavin gets mint chocolate chip. He moans like a zombie when he tastes it.

"Stella," I yell across the street. "It's FREE!"

Stella has her book closed in her lap. She's staring at the truck. She doesn't come over.

"Nothing's free," she yells back.

The Ice Cream Man looks at her. He keeps smiling.

"Maybe tomorrow," he says.

Then the window slides shut, and the song starts again, slow and wrong, and the truck drives away.

I eat my whole cone standing on the sidewalk. It's a hundred degrees out.

It doesn't drip. Not even once.

"Mom, did you see the ice cream truck?"

Mom is at the kitchen sink. "What truck?"

"The ice cream truck. It was right out front. It played the song."

She looks at me funny. "Sweetie, I've been standing at this window for half an hour. There wasn't any truck."

I look out the window.

You can see Gavin's whole driveway from here.

That night my room is so hot that the fan just pushes hot air around.

Mom says the air conditioner is doing its best.

I lie on top of my sheets.

I'm not hot.

I'm perfect. Cool. Like I just jumped in a pool.

I pull the sheet up. Then the blanket.

My fingers are cold.

In July.

CHAPTER 2: IT DOESN'T DRIP

In the morning, Stella is standing in her driveway, pointing at the ground.

"Come look at this."

Gavin and I cross the street. It's already so hot that the air over the road is wiggly.

On Stella's driveway, right in the middle, there's a scoop of strawberry ice cream. Perfect and round. Like somebody just set it down.

"It's from last night," Stella says. "The truck came back around after you guys went in. I asked him for a cone."

"I thought nothing was free," Gavin says.

"I didn't eat it." She crosses her arms. "I put it on the driveway. It sat there all night. Look at it."

It's nine in the morning. It's ninety-five degrees. The driveway is so hot you can't stand on it in bare feet.

The ice cream isn't melting.

Not even a little. No puddle. No drips. It just sits there, perfectly round, like a pink bowling ball.

"Maybe it's a special kind," I say.

"There isn't a special kind," Stella says. "I looked it up. Ice cream melts. All ice cream."

"How is it not melting?" Gavin says.

He pokes it with a stick. The stick goes *tock*, like he hit a rock.

"Is it even ice cream?"

My stomach drops.

I don't say anything. Because the truth is, I don't care how weird it is.

I want another one.

I want another one so bad my teeth hurt.

All day long, it's all I can think about.

At lunch, Mom makes grilled cheese, and it tastes like nothing. Like chewing a napkin.

In the afternoon, Gavin and I sit in his garage and don't even talk. We just watch the sun.

It goes down so slowly.

"Come on," Gavin whispers to it. "Come on, come on."

The second the sun drops behind the houses, we hear it.

The song. Slow and wrong.

We're already running.

Stella comes too, but she stops at the edge of her lawn with her arms crossed.

The truck pulls up in front of Gavin's house, and the window slides open, and the cold rolls out.

"Back again," says the Ice Cream Man. "I knew you would be."

"Cookie dough," I say.

"Mint chip!"

He hands them down. His cold fingers stick to mine again. This time I don't even say ow.

The ice cream is even better than yesterday.

I'm halfway through when Stella grabs my arm.

"Miles. Look at his hand."

The sun is behind the houses. But at the end of the street there's a gap between two of them, and one last skinny ray of orange light comes through it.

It slides across the truck.

It touches the back of the Ice Cream Man's hand.

His hand drips.

Not sweat. His hand *drips*, like a popsicle.

A thin white drop runs down his wrist. There's a tiny hiss, and a curl of steam.

He snatches his hand back inside the window. Just for a second, his smile goes away.

Then the light's gone, and he's smiling again.

"Anything for you, young lady?" he asks Stella.

"No," she says. "Thank you."

I look at her. She isn't looking at him anymore. She's looking at the side of the truck.

At the little round windows.

I look too.

They're frosted over, white and fuzzy, like the inside of an old freezer.

But in the one closest to me, the frost is thinner.
Behind it, there's a face.

A kid's face. A girl. Frost on her eyebrows. Frost on her lips.

Her eyes are open. And while I'm looking right at her, she blinks.

CHAPTER 3: THREE

"She *blinked*," Stella says. "You saw it. I know you saw it."

It's the next morning. We're in Stella's garage, because it's the only place on the street with a fan that works.

I'm wearing a sweatshirt.

It's a hundred and two degrees out, and I'm wearing a sweatshirt, and I'm still cold.

When I woke up this morning, my eyelashes were stuck together. I thought it was sleep crust.

It wasn't. It was frost. Little white crystals of frost, on my eyelashes, in July.

Gavin has his sweatshirt on too. His lips are kind of blue.

"Maybe it was a doll," Gavin says. His teeth are chattering. "A doll in the window. Like a decoration."

"It *blinked*," Stella pushes her glasses up. "And that's not all. I watched from my window last night. After you guys went in."

"Watched what?" I say.

Stella takes a breath.

"The truck came back around. Really late. There was a boy waiting for it on the corner. I've never seen him before. He had a sweatshirt on, like you. And he was shaking."

She swallows.

"The man said, 'Number three,' and gave him a cone. And the boy ate it. Then the back door of

the truck opened, and the boy just... climbed in. By himself. Like he was sleepwalking."

"Why would he do that?" Gavin whispers.

Nobody answers him.

My skin prickles all over.

"And then there was a new face in one of the windows," Stella says. "The last one. His face."

Nobody says anything. The fan goes around and around.

I breathe out, and my breath makes a little white puff in the air.

In a garage. In a heat wave.

"One cone, your fingers get cold," Stella says quietly. "Two cones, your breath does that. Three cones..."

She points at the street.

"You've each had two," she says.

The worst part is, I still want it.

I know what happens. I know about the windows.

And I still want a cone so bad that my whole body hurts. Like being thirsty, but a hundred times worse.

How can I want it this bad?

The sun goes down.

The song starts.

I'm on my feet before I even know it. Gavin is too.

We're walking toward the street. My legs are doing it all by themselves.

"MILES!" Stella tackles me.

She knocks me flat on her lawn and sits on my back. She's heavier than she looks.

"Get OFF!"

"No."

"I just want to look," I say.

"You don't want to look," Stella says. "You want number three."

I twist my head around.

Gavin is still walking.

"Gavin, STOP!" Stella screams.

He doesn't stop. He doesn't even turn around. He walks right out into the street, right up to the truck.

The window slides open. The cold rolls out.

"Number three," says the Ice Cream Man, and smiles, and hands him a cone.

Mint chip.

"Gavin, DON'T!" I yell.

Gavin eats it.

He eats the whole thing in four bites. Then he stands there with his empty hands at his sides.

The back door of the truck swings open by itself. A big white cloud of cold rolls out of it onto the hot street.

Gavin climbs in.

The door shuts.

I can't breathe.

I can't move. Stella's still sitting on me. She's crying now. I'm crying too.

The song starts up again, slow and wrong, and the truck pulls away.

As it goes by, I see the row of little round windows.

Gavin's face is in the last window. Frost is growing over his eyes.

CHAPTER 4: THE HOTTEST DAY

I don't sleep.

I'm too cold to sleep. I'm under three blankets and my winter coat, and my teeth won't stop

chattering.

Last night, Stella called Gavin's house and told his mom he was sleeping over at my house. Gavin's mom said okay.

She didn't hear any truck either.

So nobody's looking for him.

Nobody but us.

"He never gets out," Stella says.

It's the next day. The hottest day yet. The radio says a hundred and five.

Stella and I are sitting on her front steps. I'm in my winter coat, sweating on the outside and freezing on the inside.

"What do you mean?" My lips are so cold, my words come out slow.

"The Ice Cream Man. He never gets out of the truck. Not once. He leans way out the window to hand down the cones, even to little kids. He never puts a foot on the street."

She points at the road. "And look at that."

The street on Cedar Court is black and shiny. Blacktop. It's been baking all week.

There's a spot near the curb where the tar is so hot it's gone soft and bubbly.

"The sun made his hand drip," Stella says. "Just one little ray. What if he touched *that?*"

I look at the bubbling tar.

I look at my fingers. They're blue at the tips.

"We have to get him off the truck," I say.

"We have to *pull* him off the truck," Stella says.

The sun goes down.

The song starts.

It pulls at me, harder than ever. My legs want to run to it. I make them walk.

Stella is right behind me. She has both hands wrapped in the back of my coat.

"Don't let go," I tell her.

"I won't."

The truck comes around the corner, slow, and stops in front of Gavin's house. Right over the soft, bubbly spot in the road.

The window slides open. The cold rolls out.

"Well, well," says the Ice Cream Man. He leans way out. His smile is so wide it almost touches his ears. "Number three."

He holds out a cone.

Cookie dough.

It's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. Every part of me wants to take it. My hand comes up all by itself.

The Ice Cream Man leans out a little more to give it to me.

And I don't take the cone.

I grab his wrist.

Both hands.

His skin is so cold it burns. My fingers stick to him like they're glued. It hurts so bad I scream.

"Now," I gasp. "PULL!"

Stella pulls.

I lean back with all my weight, and Stella leans back with all of hers, and the Ice Cream Man comes tipping out of the window.

He grabs the window frame with his other hand. His smile is gone.

"LET GO," he says, and his voice isn't friendly anymore. It's cold. Ice-cold. Frost puffs out of his mouth.

"No," I say through my teeth.

We pull. My shoulders feel like they're going to pop. The cone drops and bounces on the street and doesn't even crack.

The Ice Cream Man's fingers slip off the window frame.

He tips out.

One white shoe comes down on the blacktop.

HISSSSS.

Steam explodes up from the street. He screams. It's a terrible sound, a high, cracking, squealing sound, like ice breaking on a lake.

His foot is melting.

Melting into the hot road, white and sticky, like a dropped cone.

Then his other foot comes down, and it melts too. His legs drip. His uniform drips.

He's sinking. Shorter and shorter. His arms flapping.

My hands are still stuck to his wrist. I yank them back. It stings like a hundred bee stings. I don't even care.

His face melts last. The big smile slides sideways and drips off his chin.

Then there's nothing but a big white puddle in the road, steaming and bubbling, smelling like vanilla.

Behind it, the truck is melting too.

It sags in the middle. The roof droops. White drips run down its sides like a popsicle on a sidewalk.

The little round windows go clear.

"The freezer!" Stella yells.

I run to the back of the truck. The door is soft and drippy.

I grab the handle and pull, and the whole door peels off in my hands like a wet sticker.

Cold pours out.

Inside, there are shelves. And on the shelves, there are kids.

Frozen solid. Covered in frost, like popsicles in a box. Their eyes are closed. Their faces are

white.

Then the hot air hits them.

The frost starts to drip.

One of the kids coughs.

It's Gavin.

He sits up, shivering, frost sliding off his hair.

"Miles?" he croaks. "Why is it so hot in here?"

I laugh. I laugh so hard I start crying again.

The other kids are waking up too. A girl with frost on her eyebrows. The boy from the corner.

A bunch of kids I've never seen before, from other streets, other neighborhoods.

They climb down out of the dripping truck, coughing and crying. They run off into the dark in every direction.

Running home.

By the time the last one is out, the truck isn't a truck anymore.

It's just a big, sticky, white puddle in the middle of Cedar Court.

And for the first time all week, I'm sweating.

In the morning, the puddle is gone. The street is just a street.

If you get down really close and sniff, it smells a little like vanilla.

Stella's strawberry scoop is gone off her driveway too. Just a pink stain.

Gavin's mom thinks he had a sleepover. Mom thinks I had a fever, and it finally broke. "Your hands were like ice all week, sweetie."

The heat wave lasts another whole week.

Mom takes us to the Dairy Barn. Gavin and Stella and me.

I get a cookie dough cone. It drips down my hand and onto my sneaker.

It's perfect.

Summer ends. School starts. It's fall, then it's winter.

On the first snow day in January, Gavin and Stella and I build a snow fort in Stella's front yard. It's so cold our noses are red.

Gavin stops packing snow.

"Do you hear that?"

I hear it.

Faint. Far away. Coming from a few streets over.

A song. Slow. Wrong. Like a music box running down.

It's snowing. Ice cream trucks don't come in January.

Down the street, I hear the song.



GRADE 3 • STORY ELEMENTS

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

STORY ELEMENTS

Every story has characters, a setting, a problem, and a solution. Fill in each box with details from The Ice Cream Man Who Never Melts.

CHARACTERS

Who is in the story?

SETTING

Where and when does it happen?

PROBLEM

What goes wrong?

SOLUTION

How does it end?





GRADE 3 • WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?

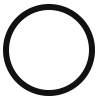
These events are mixed up. Number them 1 to 7 in the order they happened in the story.



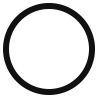
Miles sees a girl's face in a frosted window, and she blinks.



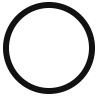
Miles and Stella pull the Ice Cream Man onto the hot street, and he melts.



Stella shows the boys a scoop of ice cream that sat on her driveway all night without melting.



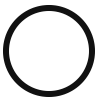
A strange ice cream truck comes to Cedar Court, and Miles gets a free cone.



Mom takes the kids to the Dairy Barn, and Miles's cone drips.



A ray of sunlight makes the Ice Cream Man's hand drip.



Gavin eats his third cone and climbs into the truck.





GRADE 3 • WORD DETECTIVE

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

WORD DETECTIVE

Read each sentence from the story. Use the clues around the bold word to figure out what it means.

1. A **heat wave** . Every day this week is going to be over a hundred.

I think **heat wave** means:

2. Down the side there's a row of little round windows, like on a ship. All of them are **frosted** over.

I think **frosted** means:

3. Then the back door of the truck opened, and the boy just... climbed in. By himself. Like he was **sleepwalking** .

I think **sleepwalking** means:

4. I'm under three blankets and my winter coat, and my teeth won't stop **chattering** .

I think **chattering** means:





GRADE 3 • SPOT THE CLUES

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

SPOT THE CLUES

Draw it. Then write about it.

Draw the Ice Cream Man's truck: old, white, and round, with little frosted windows down the side and a picture of a cone. Then write 2–3 sentences: what clues should have warned the kids that something was wrong?

Draw here





GRADE 4 • CAUSE AND EFFECT

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Each thing that happens causes something else. Read each cause, then write the effect.

CAUSE

Miles eats his first free cone.



EFFECT

One last ray of sunlight touches the Ice Cream Man's hand.



Gavin eats his third cone.



The Ice Cream Man's shoe touches the hot blacktop.





GRADE 4 • THEME DETECTIVE

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

THEME DETECTIVE

The theme is the big lesson of a story. Answer each question to find the theme of The Ice Cream Man Who Never Melts.

1. Stella yells, "Nothing's free." What does she mean? Was she right?

2. Miles knows what the third cone does, but he still wants it. Why is it so hard for him to say no?

3. What lesson does the author want readers to learn? Use one detail from the story to explain.





GRADE 4 • WHO IS STELLA?

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHO IS STELLA?

A trait is a word that describes what someone is like. Write three of Stella's traits and the evidence from the story that proves each one.

TRAIT 1 _____

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY

TRAIT 2 _____

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY

TRAIT 3 _____

EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY





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

Date:

A strange truck comes down your street, giving away something for free. What is it giving away? What is the catch? Write what happens.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

- ☐ 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 • READ BETWEEN THE LINES

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

An inference is a smart guess that uses clues from the story. Answer each question and include your clue.

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?

2. Stella says the Ice Cream Man never gets out of the truck. Why do you think he stays inside?

3. At the end, the kids hear the slow, wrong song on a snow day in January. What does this suggest?





GRADE 5 • PLOT MOUNTAIN

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

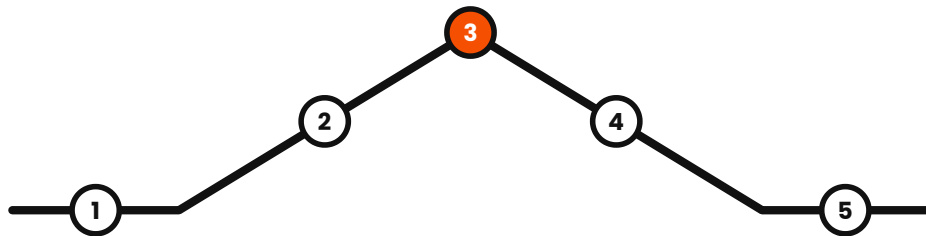
One cone, cold fingers. Two cones, frost. Three cones...

Name: _____

Date: _____

PLOT MOUNTAIN

Every plot climbs to a climax and comes back down. Write what happens at each part of the mountain.



1. EXPOSITION (The beginning)

2. RISING ACTION (Trouble builds)

3. CLIMAX (The scariest moment)

4. FALLING ACTION (Things calm down)

5. RESOLUTION (How it ends)





GRADE 5 • FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE HUNT

Authors use special language to help us picture things. For each quote, write the type (simile, metaphor, personification, or hyperbole) and what it means.

QUOTE FROM THE STORY

TYPE

WHAT IT MEANS

"It's still hot. Hot like breathing in a dryer."

"White and round, like a refrigerator on wheels."

"The driveway is about a thousand degrees."

"It pulls at me, harder than ever."





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

Date:

Rewrite the ending. Keep Miles, Stella, and the truck, but change the plan.

CHECK YOUR WORK

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WORD SEARCH · VERSION A

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

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





CROSSWORD · VERSION A

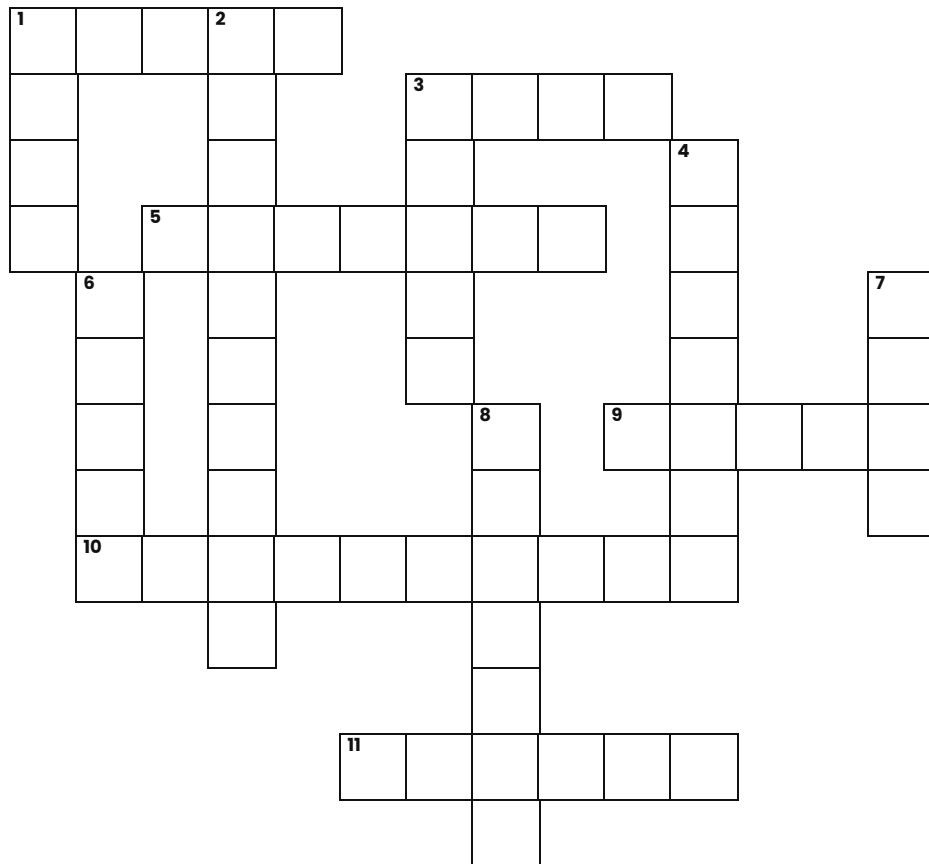
THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

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



ACROSS

1. What Miles finds on his eyelashes in July
3. Gavin's flavor: ____ chocolate chip
5. What the melted puddle smells like
9. The friend who eats three cones
10. The flavor of Stella's scoop on the driveway
11. She's eleven and yells, "Nothing's free."

DOWN

1. How much the ice cream costs
2. What Miles wears in a heat wave
3. The boy telling the story, king of ice cream
4. The month the song comes back
6. At the Dairy Barn, Miles's cone finally does this
7. Don't eat the third one!
8. Where the frozen kids are kept





SECRET CODES

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

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

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





WORD SCRAMBLE • VERSION A

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

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

E Z F E R E R

2. Clue: Where the frozen kids are kept

P C A L K B T O

3. Clue: The hot street that melts him

D S O I N W W

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

Y A B R E R R W S T

5. Clue: The flavor of Stella's scoop

H W S A E T R S T I

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

V A L L A I N

7. Clue: What the puddle smells like

O I E K O C

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





HIDDEN MESSAGE

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

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.

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

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

3. ____.

4. What is Stella holding on her front steps?

5. How old is Stella?

Gavin pokes the scoop with a stick, and the stick

6. goes ____.

When the sun goes down, the sky goes ____, then

7. purple.

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

When the man's cold fingers stick to his, Miles says,

9. "____."

One last skinny ____ of orange light comes

10. through a gap between the houses.

The truck is white and ____, like a refrigerator on

11. wheels.

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

13. The song is slow and ____.

HIDDEN MESSAGE

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



ESCAPE ROOM

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Team: _____

Date: _____

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?
2. How many times did Miles and Gavin run through the sprinkler?
3. In how many bites does Gavin eat his third cone?

CODE

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





ESCAPE ROOM · PART 2

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

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. _____
- ☐ T The Ice Cream Man melts on the hot street. _____
- ☐ F The truck gives Miles a free cone. _____
- ☐ R Stella shows the boys a scoop that won't melt. _____
- ☐ S Gavin climbs into the truck. _____

CODE

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.
6. The melted puddle smells like vanilla.

CODE

All four locks open? Bring your codes to your teacher. If they're right, you escaped!





WHO SAID IT?

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

Name: _____

Date: _____

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."*

2. *"Nothing's free."*

3. *"Who wants a cone?"*

4. *"There wasn't any truck."*

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

6. *"You want number three."*

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

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





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

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

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.



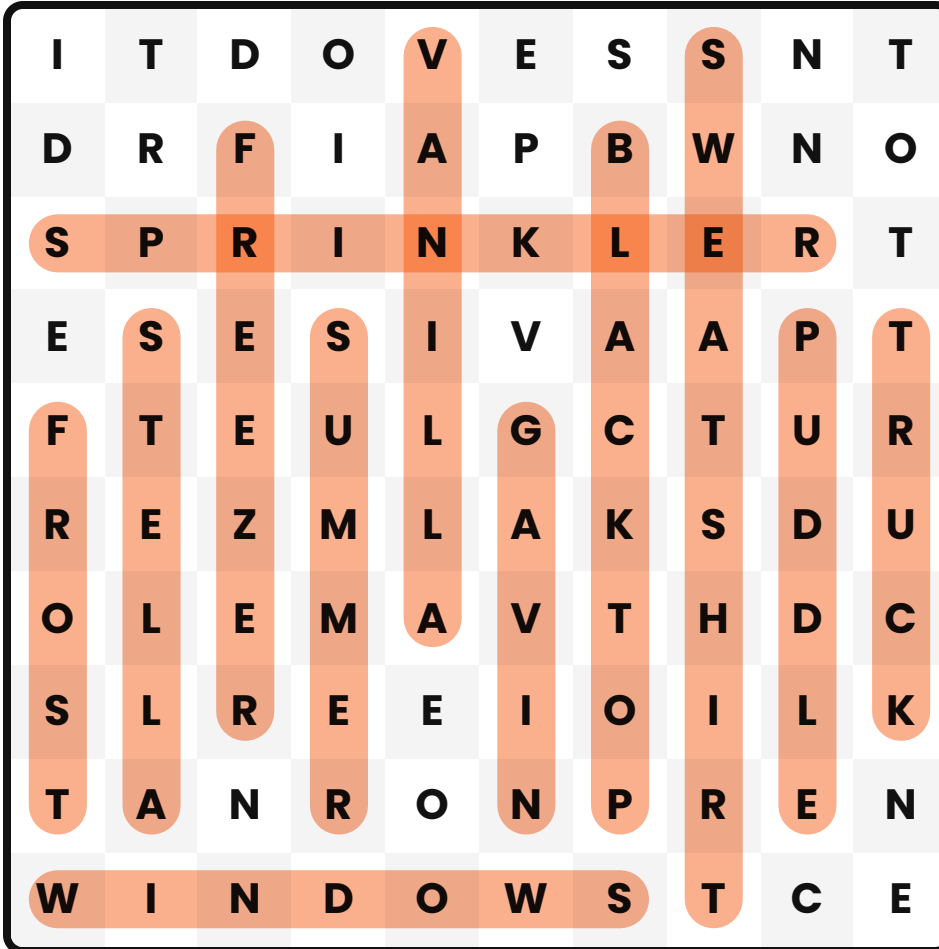


WORD SEARCH · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

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



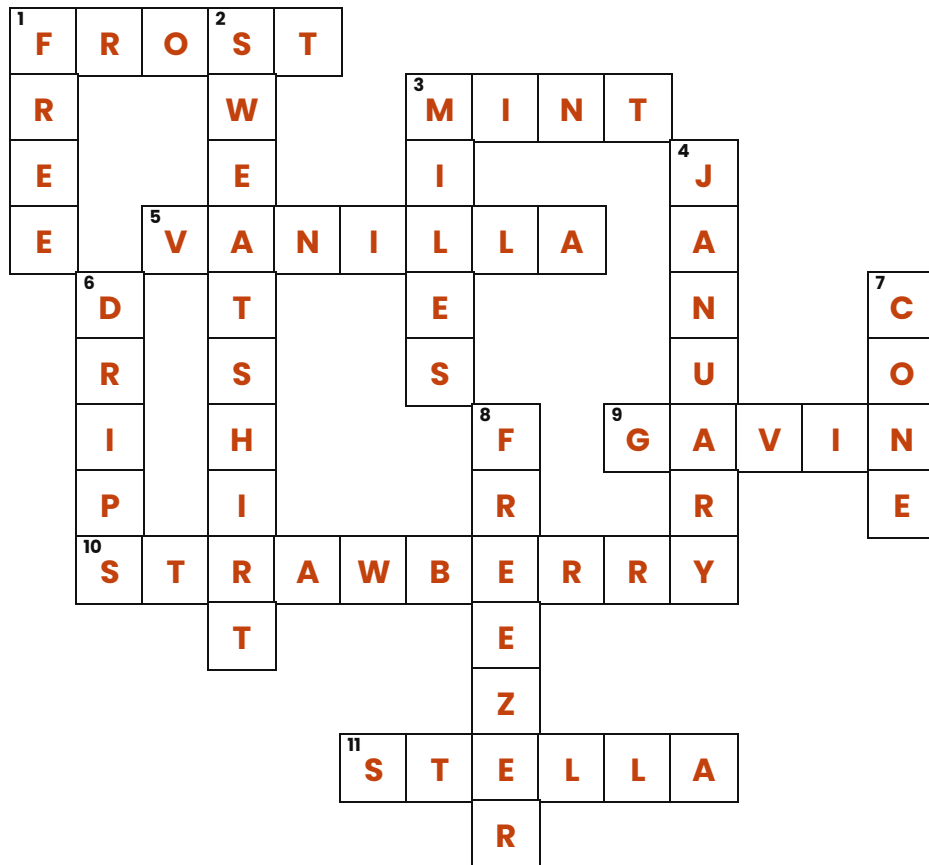


CROSSWORD · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

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**





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





WORD SCRAMBLE · VERSION A · ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

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

1. R N E K R S P L I

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

SPRINKLER

2. E Z F E R E R

Clue: Where the frozen kids are kept

FREEZER

3. P C A L K B T O

Clue: The hot street that melts him

BLACKTOP

4. D S O I N W W

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

WINDOWS

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

Clue: The flavor of Stella's scoop

STRAWBERRY

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

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

SWEATSHIRT

7. V A L L A I N

Clue: What the puddle smells like

VANILLA

8. O I E K O C

Clue: Miles's favorite flavor: ____ dough

COOKIE





HIDDEN MESSAGE · ANSWER KEY

THE ICE CREAM MAN WHO NEVER MELTS

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

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

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

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

