Name:

Date:

The Best Part of a Picnic

Part 1

Teacher Reads Four friends have had fun together all summer. They are getting together for an end-of-summer picnic. One friend finally gets his chance to plan a picnic for the group.

Dustin and Heather were in Dustin's kitchen, packing
8 a picnic basket. "I am happy that the weather is so nice,"
20 Heather said. "This will likely be the last picnic this summer.
31 The summer flew by, don't you think?"
38 "It sure did!" Dustin nodded in agreement. "That's one
47 reason why I want to make this a real feast. So far, I have
61 hot dogs and hamburgers, peaches and plums, iced tea,
70 gingerbread cake, and snacks. What other things do we
79 need?" he asked.
82 "We need a blanket to sit on. Maybe you should take a
94 sweater, too," Heather said. "I have one in case it gets cool
106 later on. It's almost noon, so Pilar and Carlos will arrive any
118 minute. Pilar was in charge of the food for our last picnic,
130 and she did an excellent job. It's been fun taking turns with
142 the food, don't you think?"
147 "Yes!" Dustin agreed. "Everyone got a chance to be in
157 charge, and today it's my turn."

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Part 2

Teacher Reads Dustin and his friends take the bus to the park. Read on to find out what they talked about on the bus.

163 Pilar arrived at noon, and Carlos arrived a little later. By
174 12:30, the friends were on Bus 15 headed to Forest Park, a
186 large park at the north end of the city.
195 "I hope you have plenty of food in that basket," Carlos
206 said. "By the time we get to the park, I will be ready to eat!"
221 "That does not surprise us, Carlos. We know how much
231 you like to eat!" Pilar said. "You have the biggest **appetite** of
243 all of us!"
246 "Good food keeps me healthy," Carlos said with a grin.
256 "My mother thinks I am still growing. Besides, don't forget
266 that I run five miles a day!"
273 Soon the four friends were at Forest Park. They were glad
284 to see it was not crowded.

Part 3

Teacher Reads Continue reading to find out what the four friends do on their picnic.

290 "Heather, please spread the blanket out by that grill," said
300 Dustin. "I will set the food out, and we can play games and
313 eat snacks until we are ready to get the grill going."
324 "Pilar can be the camera person," said Carlos. "She is so
335 good at that, and I am in charge of eating! Just kidding—I
348 can help Dustin set out the food."
355 What a day it was! The friends spent a fun afternoon
366 playing ball, snacking, and talking about life. At around
375 6:00, they got the grill going and cooked hot dogs and
386 hamburgers. When it got dark, they made sure to put out the
398 flame on the grill and got ready to leave. Everyone thought
409 the food had been excellent. But everyone agreed that the
419 best part of their picnic was not the food. The best part was
432 spending time with good friends.
437

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