

Name _____

The Steadfast Tin Soldier

adapted from Hans Christian Andersen

A little boy got 25 tin soldiers for his birthday. They were all the same except for 17
 a soldier who had only one leg. The one-legged soldier looked at the boy's other 33
 toys. He saw a beautiful dancer. She wore a white dress with a sparkly rose. She 49
 stood on one leg, too. The soldier fell in love and wanted to marry her. The next 66
 morning the soldier was moved to the window sill, but he fell to the ground. Two 82
 boys found him and made him a paper boat. They sent him sailing in the gutter. 98
 Big waves rocked him and the paper boat fell apart. Down and down he sank until 113
 suddenly a fish swallowed him. The soldier was trapped as the fish swam on. Then 128
 one day, everything went still. The fish had been caught and was being roasted for 143
 dinner. The cook pulled the soldier out. He was back in the same house he had 159
 left. Everything was the same, even his lovely dancer was still there! Suddenly a 173
 little boy grabbed the toy soldier and threw him into the fire. The flames cracked 188
 his paint and the soldier started melting. Just then a gust of wind blew the beautiful 204
 dancer into the fire with him. They were burning together! The next morning when 218
 the maid came to light the fire, she found a sparkly rose and a lump of tin melted 236
 into the shape of a heart. 242

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Parent Tips

Developing fluency is important at any reading level; readers at any level may benefit substantially from fluency instruction. Readers grow to understand that there are markers in text that help bridge some of the differences between written and spoken language. Ask readers to read aloud as if they were giving a talk or were in a play: reading to an audience highlights the communication conventions of spoken language.

--National Institute for Literacy

1. The soldier ends up in the boat because he _____.

- was a birthday present
- fell from a window
- was swallowed by a fish

2. Why does the soldier love the dancer?

- Because she's sweet and kind to the other toys.
- Because she is beautiful and stands on one leg.
- Because she reminds him of his favorite painting.



3. What happens after he is pulled from the fish?

- He falls from the window.
- He sails in a paper boat.
- He is thrown into the fire.

4. What do you think of the ending of the story?