

The *Cornfield*

by Lee Maki



Once there was a rich woman named Nell. She had three children. She wanted them to be friends. But they fought all the time.

One day Nell died. Her children thought that they would each get some of her money. Then they could leave home. They'd never have to see each other again. But they found out there was no money. Nell had spent it all on a cornfield.

"A cornfield!" they cried. "What good is that?"

They talked. They wanted to be rich. So they had to make the cornfield pay. To do that, they'd all have to join in.

Ike loved the earth. He cared for the corn in the field. Mag had lots of friends. She took the corn to town. Her friends bought the corn. Rabe liked to work with numbers. He counted the money that they made.

Soon the cornfield made the children rich. Ike, Mag, and Rabe learned that they needed each other. What's more, they began to *like* each other. Nell's wish had come true. The cornfield helped her children learn to be good friends. They *never* fought again.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 Nell's children learned that
 - a** they could like each other if they worked together.
 - b** they needed to fight if they wanted to be rich.
- 2 The three children hoped to share Nell's
 - a** corn.
 - b** money.
- 3 To make the cornfield pay, each child helped by
 - a** doing the job he or she liked best.
 - b** selling the corn in town.

- 4 The cornfield made Nell's children rich because they
 - a** sold a lot of corn.
 - b** liked to work with numbers.
- 5 It was wise of Nell to buy the cornfield because it helped her children
 - a** become friends and get rich.
 - b** make money and leave home.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Nell's cornfield
the boys' barns

Add an 's to *Nell* to show that she owns something. The mark (') is an apostrophe. Add only an ' to *boys* to show that more than one boy owns things.

Add an 's or an ' to each word to show ownership. Write the word.

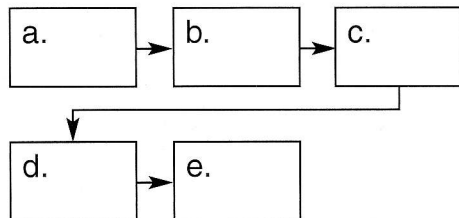
- 1 brothers
- 2 Ike
- 3 friends
- 4 Mag
- 5 Nell

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6 _____ three children learned to work together.
- 7 _____ hands were strong because he worked in the cornfield.
- 8 With her two _____ help, Mag got the corn ready to sell.
- 9 All _____ friends bought some corn.
- 10 The children wouldn't have made money without their _____ help.

THINK ABOUT IT

- D** Look at the story map below. Complete each story map by writing the letter that tells in what order each event happened.



- 1 The children work together on the cornfield. ____
- 2 Nell's wish comes true when her children become friends. ____
- 3 Nell wishes that her three children wouldn't fight. ____
- 4 They want to make lots of money. ____
- 5 Nell dies and leaves her children a cornfield. ____

- E** Most verbs add *-ed* to show that something happened in the past.

Nell's children *worked* hard.
They always *work* together.

Read each sentence. If it could be happening now, write *now*.
If it happened in the past, write *past*.

- 6 Ike, Mag, and Rabe like everyone.
- 7 The children learned about Nell's cornfield.
- 8 Ike grows the corn with care.
- 9 Rabe counted the money.
- 10 Mag sold the corn in town.