

Wizard School

“Welcome to Wizard School!” The Great Octavius held both his arms out over the crowd of eager students in the auditorium. Victor quivered with excitement. His new wizard-in-training robe was a shimmering dark blue, and in his hand he clasped his newly-assigned magic wand. The Great Octavius whispered something. There was a flash and a rumble above his head, and confetti began to rain down on them. The students cheered. Victor gazed up at Octavius in amazement.

“Remember,” Octavius concluded his speech. “You are not to practice magic alone. You may only practice in your classrooms, with your instructors.” There was a murmur of discontent from the students. “And when you are not in your classroom, you are to keep your wand in its protective box.”

Not practicing magic alone was the first rule of the school, but Victor couldn’t help himself. It was like the magic was alive inside him, and clamoring to get out. At the end of his first day, alone up in his room, he took out his magic wand. It seemed to be alive in his hands. It glowed slightly, and seemed to have a pulse of its own. Victor raised the wand and whispered the magic words that were

supposed to cast the confetti spell. “Confettus precipitous!” The floor quaked underneath of him, and heavy, wet flakes of snow began to fall from his ceiling. His robe got wet and his hat got ruffled. The next day in class, The Great Octavius fixed him with a steely eye. “Have you been practicing magic alone?” he asked.

Trembling, Victor told him no.

That day in class, The Great Octavius turned a dog into a mouse. Later, alone in his room, Victor pointed his wand at a red ant scurrying across the wooden floor. “Caninus muridae!” he murmured. Before Victor’s eyes, the ant’s tiny body swelled up and became a skunk. Victor’s heart pounded with fear. “Oh no! Get out of here!”

Victor urged the skunk towards the door. The irritated animal turned its tail on Victor and sprayed him with stink. The next day in class, a dark-faced Great Octavius, holding his nose, asked him, “Have you been practicing magic alone?” Again, Victor told him no.

That day in class, The Great Octavius turned the classroom floor into ice. Later, alone in his room, Victor pointed his wand at his bedroom floor and said, “solum harena!” His bedroom floor became a desert of dry, drifting sand. His spell had actually





worked! But sand got everywhere—into the seams of Victor’s wizard robe, inside his hat, in his eyes, up his nose. Victor knew he had had enough. He wanted to practice magic more than anything in the world, but trying spells himself so soon was only causing trouble. And he had lied to his hero, The Great Octavious. Victor was embarrassed, disappointed and ashamed.

The next day he confessed to the Wizard. The Great Octavious towered over the class and spoke in a booming voice. “Every year I instruct a new class of young wizards not to practice magic alone. And every year, without fail, one of you does. Every year there is one with so much energy and enthusiasm, and so much magic bubbling up within him, that he can’t help himself. This is the level of talent and the spirit of commitment that we look for in our new wizards. When that young wizard also has enough integrity to come to me and admit to having broken the rules, then I know I have found a successor. Congratulations, Victor. You will begin special training with me at once!”

Directions: Think about the story. Then match the causes with the effects. Write the letter of the effect in front of its cause.

CAUSE

EFFECT

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| 1. _____ | Victor turned an ant into a skunk. | A | Confetti rained down in the auditorium. |
| 2. _____ | Victor cast a spell that turned his floor to sand. | B | The students mumbled in discontent. |
| 3. _____ | Victor was embarrassed, disappointed and ashamed. | C | Victor’s hat got rumped. |
| 4. _____ | Octavious said, “You are not to practice magic alone.” | D | Victor went to class smelling like a skunk. |
| 5. _____ | Victor demonstrates he has both talent and integrity. | E | Victor confessed to the wizard. |
| 6. _____ | The Great Octavious cast a spell. | F | Victor turned an ant into a skunk. |
| 7. _____ | Victor cast a spell that made it snow in his room. | G | Victor got sand up his nose. |
| 8. _____ | Octavious turned a mouse into a dog. | H | Octavious chooses Victor for special training. |