FACT OR FICTION?

Stories & Trivia Cards

GIVE A SPY A COOKIE

Readability Level: 5.2
A loud alarm bell sang out while blinding, red lights flashed on the walls. Patty slammed her water bottle down on the table in the break room. She was in the middle of her work shift at the secret research facility. The noise of the sirens and the sight of the blinking lights had become all too familiar in recent days.

“Not again,” said Patty with a sigh as she allowed her head to fall to the tabletop near her partially-eaten roast beef sandwich. “This is the second time today that the building has gone on lockdown. How will I get any work done if this keeps happening?”

Patty realized suddenly that she was talking aloud in an empty room, smiled, and shook her head. But, she wasn’t alone for long. As she stood up to throw away her lunchtime garbage, the door to the cramped room opened and closed with her back facing the entryway. Patty’s brow furrowed as she turned around to a seemingly empty room. “That’s strange,” she said. “Didn’t I just hear the door open?” Patty had started to think that she was going bonkers when instead; she remembered what her boss, one of the head research scientists, had told her the day before.
“Watch out for pocket spies,” he had said. “They are all the rage in corporate espionage, genetically engineered to be as tiny as mice, and capable of stealing all of our company secrets to sell them to our competitors.”

In a flash, Patty looked under the table and then behind the coat rack. Next, Patty checked the crevice between the refrigerator and the wall. She finally found him hiding in one of the upper cupboards. When she opened the cabinet door, she said, “How could you have gotten up here without me seeing you? It was you who opened the break room door a moment ago, right? I bet you have the entire security force looking for you.”

As Patty spoke, the pocket spy cowered into the corner of the storage area. He was visibly trembling. To her, he looked just like a miniature person. He wore clothing that wouldn’t be big enough to fit a baby; a suit, necktie, polished shoes, a mask to conceal his identity, and a hat. Although Patty had been warned about his kind, she didn’t think this tiny critter could harm a soul. He looked far too cute to be dangerous.

“So, I’m guessing that you set off the alarms in this place today by accident,” said Patty as she gestured to the lights on the walls that were still flashing. “Your snooping has given me more than one headache here at work.”

“I’m sorry,” said the little spy in a high-pitched voice.

“That’s sweet,” said Patty. “But, there’s no need to try to charm me. I don’t know any of my company’s secrets that you want to steal. I’m just a research assistant. However, I can give you a cookie. I baked them myself this morning using my grandmother’s recipe. They’re full of chocolate chips, almonds, and a dash of love.”

Patty reached into her lunchbox and pulled out one of the disc-shaped snacks that was actually bigger than the pocket spy himself. “You might not be able to eat all of this,” she said. “But, I can break you off some crumbs on which to nibble. Would you like that?”

The pocket spy smiled and nodded.

“Too bad I’ll have to turn you in when you’re done munching away,” thought Patty.
FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy’s name is Henry.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! The story never mentions the name of the pocket spy.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty works as a research scientist in a secret facility.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! Patty is only a research assistant at her place of work.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty was amazed that the pocket spy ate the entire cookie she gave to him.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! Patty had to break the cookie into crumbs so that the pocket spy could enjoy the treat.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty was in a break room when the building’s alarms were set off.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty found the pocket spy hiding in one of the break room cabinets.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy was wearing a mask, a hat, a suit, and a necktie.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy threatened to hurt Patty if she refused to assist him with his escape.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! The pocket spy cowered away from Patty initially.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty was eating a sandwich made of roast beef for lunch.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
When the alarms of the research facility went off, Patty slammed down her water bottle in anger.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.
FACT OR FICTION?
During the story, Patty hears the alarms sound in her place of work for the seventh time that day.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! In the story, the alarms are only sounding for the second time that day.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty didn’t notice the pocket spy enter the break room.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy knocked over the garbage can in the break room as he tried to escape from Patty.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! The pocket spy didn’t try to escape from Patty.

FACT OR FICTION?
When Patty offered the pocket spy a cookie, he refused to eat any of the delicious treat.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! The story ends before the reader knows whether or not the pocket spy actually eats any of the cookie.

FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy apologized after Patty told him that his snooping had given her headaches.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
In addition to alarms sounding in the research facility, there were also flashing lights on the walls.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
According to Patty’s boss, pocket spies are genetically engineered and as tiny as mice.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy was intruding at the research facility to steal their company secrets.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty tried to stop the pocket spy from coming into the break room. But, he was too strong for her and kicked down the door.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! Patty didn’t even see the pocket spy enter the break room.
FACT OR FICTION?
When Patty first realized that an intruder could be in the research facility, and possibly even in the break room, she first looked for that person under the table.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
To Patty, the pocket spy appeared to be wearing clothing that would be too small for a baby.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty baked cookies this morning.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
When pressed by the pocket spy for information, Patty told him a lot of her company’s secrets.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! Patty told the pocket spy that she didn’t know any of her company's trade secrets.

FACT OR FICTION?
When the alarms sound and the lights flash, the building in which Patty works goes on lockdown.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty baked cookies this morning.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty thought she might be going crazy when she heard the door to the break room open and then see that nobody had entered.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty and the pocket spy end up having a bloody fight that Patty ultimately wins.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! Patty and the pocket spy do not have a fight of any kind.

FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy tells Patty that he would much rather have some of her potato chips than eat one of her cookies.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! Within the boundaries of the story, the pocket spy neither accepts, nor rejects, Patty's offer of a home-baked cookie.
FACT OR FICTION?
While Patty talked to the pocket spy, the building’s security force burst through the break room door to apprehend the little guy.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! The security force of the research facility is only spoken of existing by Patty—they are not actual characters in the story.

FACT OR FICTION?
When Patty tries to reach out and pet the pocket spy, as though he is a cute animal, he bites her right on the finger.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! Patty doesn’t try to pet the pocket spy—nor does he bite her at all.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty’s boss is one of the head research scientists.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty’s place of employment both builds and researches technology involving robots.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! The secret research done at Patty’s place of work is never actually mentioned in the story.

FACT OR FICTION?
To Patty, the pocket spy looked much like a miniature person.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
Patty asked the pocket spy if he had any plans for Friday night because she wanted to take him on a date to the movies.

**ANSWER:**
Fiction! Patty asks the pocket spy no such question.

FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy wore a mask to conceal his identity.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
As the alarms and flashing lights were activated, Patty wondered if the building was on fire.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy speaks with a high-pitched voice.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
As the alarms and flashing lights were activated, Patty wondered if the building was on fire.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.

FACT OR FICTION?
The pocket spy speaks with a high-pitched voice.

**ANSWER:**
Fact.
IS THE STATEMENT FACT OR FICTION?

Rules: Up to six players, or groups of players, may place a token on the start line. Upon answering a "fact or fiction" question correctly, the player may advance one space toward the finish line. Upon answering a question incorrectly, the player must move one space backward. The first player able to cross the finish line is the winner!
Overview of FACT OR FICTION?:
Fact or Fiction? Stories and Trivia Cards are each a 2-page story and a set of 36 true/false trivia cards that directly correlate to the passage. Your students read the story and then play a game to practice their reading recall skills about the details and events that happened in the tale they have just read. As students play against each other and attempt to correctly answer the questions on the trivia cards, they can refer back to the reading selection to find appropriate information. So, Fact or Fiction? Stories and Trivia Cards help teach the comprehension strategy of rereading as well.

Readability Level:
This free sample of Fact or Fiction? has a 5th grade level of readability.

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