



The Movie

"I have exciting news," Miss Mitchell told her fourth grade class one day. "We are all going to be in a movie!" Miss Mitchell explained that a cameraman was coming to their school the next day to film them working in class, eating in the cafeteria, and playing on the playground. Miss Mitchell passed out permission slips to everyone to take home and have their parents sign.

"I am not sure about this," Penny told her parents. "I don't know if I want to have a day of my life on film." At the same time, Olivia was at home trying to convince her parents to sign the slip. "This is my big chance!" she told them. "The whole world will see me!"

The next day, Olivia wore the fanciest dress that she owned. Her hair was pinned up like she was going to a ball, and she had makeup on her face. "Why Olivia," Miss Mitchell said. "You have certainly taken a lot of care with your appearance today!"

"I want to look my best," Olivia told her. Penny wore her regular school clothes. But seeing Olivia so dressed up made her wonder if she had done the wrong thing.

When the cameraman arrived, he was very friendly and made the class feel at ease. "Just ignore me," he told them. "Do what you usually do, and pretend I am not here."

Penny did as she was asked. But Olivia got up from her desk and walked across the room several times. She went to the pencil sharpener. She went to the water fountain. She went to the bookshelf. Each time she turned her face towards the camera and struck a pose. She patted her carefully-pinned hair. She batted her long eyelashes.

By lunch time, Penny was so hungry that she had temporarily forgotten all about the camera. But Olivia barely touched her lunch. "I wouldn't want to be caught on camera chewing like a cow!" she confided to whoever would listen. By recess, Penny didn't care about the camera anymore. She played Fishie Fishie Cross My Ocean with the other kids, while Olivia stood by, her hand on her hip, posing for the camera.

"I want to thank you all for your participation today," the cameraman said right before the final bell rang. "You have all given me a lot to think about for my film."

Olivia's hand shot up. "When will we be able to see the film?" she asked.

"This film will not be in movie theatres," the cameraman said. "This film will only be shown to college students who want to enter the teaching field. It is to show them what they can expect when they are teachers."

Olivia's face fell. "But you should have told me that!" Olivia wailed. "I misunderstood my role. I didn't show the student teachers what to expect at all!"

"On the contrary," Miss Mitchell said. "I think you showed them exactly what they can expect!"

Name _____ **Character | Setting | Event**

Build a Story Puzzle

Characters, setting and event all need to come together like a puzzle in order for a story to work. Use the diagram below to map out the characters, setting and event in the story *The Movie*.

1. Describe the characters of Penny and Olivia.

2. Describe the setting of the story.

4. Write a sentence or two here, describing how character, setting and event intersect in this story.

3. What event is at the center of the story?

