A Sentence Divided...

“Cleft” means divided. **Cleft sentences** can be used to emphasize a particular part of a sentence. In a cleft sentence, one element of the sentence is shifted from its normal place in the sentence into a separate clause. The emphasis in the sentence changes in a cleft sentence, depending on what is shifted.

**NORMAL SENTENCE:** Doug wore his Spiderman costume to school last week.

**CLEFT SENTENCE:**
1. It was Doug who wore his Spiderman costume to school last week.
2. It was a Spiderman costume that Doug wore to school last week.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the sentence below. Rewrite the sentence four times as a cleft sentence, each time shifting the emphasis onto a different aspect of the sentence.

Tina asked to be excused from recess yesterday because she didn’t feel well.

1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________________________