

Name _____



Small Acts, Big Meaning

Directions: Read the short story below carefully. Identify the **theme** by thinking about the life lesson or message the story teaches. Write one sentence stating the theme. Then, write a short journal-style reflection (4-6 sentences) explaining how this theme connects to your own life or experiences.

The Forgotten Birthday

Ella's classmates rushed past her with balloons and cards for another student's birthday. She smiled politely but quietly felt a sting of sadness. No one had remembered her birthday last week. That evening, her older brother knocked on her door with a small cupcake and a candle. He sang loudly and off-key, making her laugh through her tears.

Though the celebration was small, Ella felt her heart fill with joy. She realized that a single act of kindness could matter more than a room full of people. From that day on, she promised herself to notice others who might feel forgotten.

1. **Theme Statement:** Write one sentence stating the central theme of the story.

2. **Journal Reflection:** Write a short response (4-6 sentences) connecting this theme to your own life.
