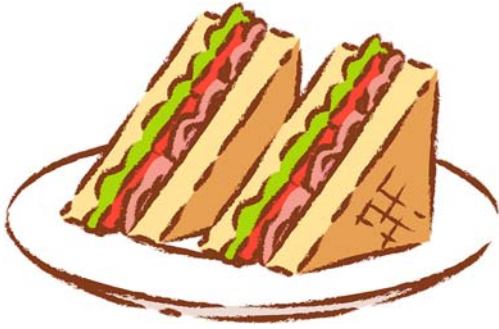


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Decoding Goodness

**Directions:** Read the passage below carefully. Pay attention to the main character's **actions**, **words**, and **choices** that reveal a deeper message. As you read, look for clues that show

what lesson or idea the author wants readers to remember after finishing the story. After reading, write a short paragraph explaining what message the author is sending about kindness and why it still matters today. Then, imagine one extra line that could appear at the end of the story to reinforce this message.

### The Extra Lunch

Every day, Marcus's mom packed him two sandwiches: one for lunch and one "just in case." Usually, the second sandwich came back untouched. But one cold afternoon, Marcus noticed a boy from his class, Devin, sitting under the bleachers instead of joining the lunch crowd.

Devin's backpack was zipped tight, and his head was down. Marcus hesitated, then walked over. "Hey," he said softly. "You want half my sandwich?" Devin looked up, startled. For a moment, he said nothing. Then he nodded, eyes wide.

They ate quietly, trading jokes about teachers and gym class. The next day, Marcus packed three sandwiches—two for himself and one for Devin, just in case. When he got home, he told his mom, "You were right. That second sandwich came in handy after all."

### Response Prompts

1. What do Marcus's actions reveal about his character and values?
2. What message or **lesson** do you think the author wants readers to take away from this story?
3. Why is this message important in today's world?
4. Write one sentence that could appear at the end of the story to strengthen the theme of kindness.