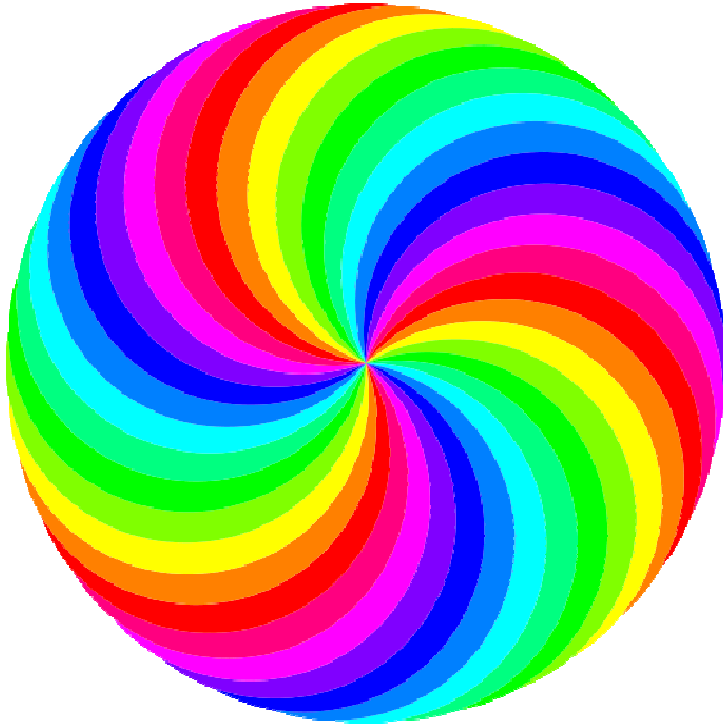


Colours

Reading Comprehension



Name.....

Katie didn't have a favourite colour and wanted to decide which colour she should choose. Katie wouldn't settle for just any colour. She wanted it to make her feel special. So, she grabbed a piece of paper and a pencil and decided to ask her family what their favourite colours were.

As Katie wandered around her house, she passed her Mum working very hard in the kitchen. Her little brother, Ben, was playing with blocks in the playroom, her big brother, Sam, was at the dining room table, and her Dad was in the garden chopping some logs for firewood. Everyone was very busy.

"Mum," Katie called out. "Do you have a favourite colour?"

Katie's Mum looked up from mopping the floor and wiped her forehead with her sleeve. "After I've finished the floors, okay?"

"Okay." Katie sighed. Next, she ran into the playroom and watched her little brother, Ben, for a few minutes. He was building a huge tower with blocks and didn't even look up.

"What is your favourite colour?" she asked.

"Blue," he blurted, stacking another block on top of his building.

"Why is blue special?"

"Blue is the best!" he said. "It's clouds at night and story time, and it tastes like blueberries on my tongue."

Katie wrote the word "blue" on her paper and skipped off to the dining room where she spied her big brother, Sam, doing homework.

He waved. "Not now, I'm busy."

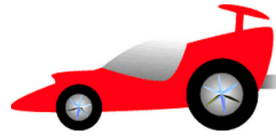
Katie hung her head. "I just want to know your favourite colour."

As she turned away, he called out, "Red."

Katie's face lit up. "Why is red special?"



“Red is awesome! It’s fast like a racing car. It’s super hot like fiery flames, and it reminds me of cherry ice cream.”



Katie wrote the word “red” on her paper and skipped out into the garden, “Dad, do you have a favourite colour?”

He swung the axe into a log. “Favourite colour? Let’s see... it would have to be purple.”

“What’s special about purple?”

“Purple reminds me of taking a boat out into the ocean at dusk. It’s when the sky swirls with colours as night draws near. And purple reminds me of reeling in a great big fish.”

Katie wrote the word “purple” on her paper and headed back to the kitchen.

“Don’t walk on the wet floor,” Mum called out.

“Can you tell me your favourite colour now?” Katie asked again.

“Hmm. Green,” her mother said. “Yes, definitely green!”

“Why green?” Katie asked.

“Green takes me to an imaginary place with trees jewelled in emeralds. It smells like fresh peppermint leaves from the garden and tastes like a cool breeze.”

Katie wrote the word “green” in her notebook and sat down right there on the floor next to the kitchen doorway. She read her notes out loud, “blue, red, purple, green.”

Katie thought about the colours. Why don’t I have a colour that makes me feel special? Blue didn’t feel like clouds to her, or taste like blueberries. Red didn’t feel like a fast car or hot flames. And it certainly didn’t taste like cherry ices. Purple didn’t seem like her special colour either. Katie had never been out on a boat in the ocean at dusk, and she didn’t care much for fishing. And green was sort of pretty, but Katie definitely didn’t go to a faraway place with emerald trees when she thought about green.

Katie spent the rest of the day calling friends and cousins and aunts and uncles, asking everyone the same question.

By the time she was ready for bed, Katie's piece of paper had so many colours on it her head was spinning. She had doubles of blues, and reds, triples of purples and greens, more pinks and yellows, and even browns and greys.

Then something occurred to Katie. Nobody, not one single person, had chosen the colour orange.



Why wouldn't anyone choose orange, she wondered. Poor orange. It's so left out.

That night Katie waited in bed for her turn to be tucked in. She smoothed her covers, fluffed her pillow, and twiddled her thumbs impatiently. When her mother finally got Katie's little brother to sleep, and then tucked in her big brother, she came into Katie's room.

"There," her mother said with relief as she sat on the edge of Katie's bed. "The boys are tucked in. Now I have more time to spend with you."

Katie let out a velvety sigh.

"Did you ever find your special colour, Katie?"

"Yes. Katie said. "My new favourite colour will be orange."

"And why did you choose orange?" her mother asked.

Katie's smile faded. "I picked orange because nobody else did, and I didn't want orange to feel left out. Poor orange," said Katie. "It must be so lonely. I want orange to feel special."

"Is that how you feel, Katie? Do you feel like orange?"

Katie's eyes welled. "Mum, I wish I was special. But I'm just ordinary."

"But don't you see, Katie...you already are special."

"I am?" Katie asked with hope.

“Of course you are. Everyone has special qualities. And your decision to choose orange tells me how caring you are. You have a very big heart. That’s something to be proud of,” her mother said.

A timid smile crept from beneath Katie’s lips. “So that’s that. Orange will be my special colour,” Katie declared.

She leaned over the edge of the bed and picked up her paper and pencil. And as she began to write down her new favourite colour, Katie noticed something interesting. She was using an orange pencil. That made her smile even wider.

The next afternoon, Katie sat in her favourite chair by the window with all of her new orange items. Everyday, she stared out of that window, looked up into the blue sky and wished she could be special. But today she wished for something different. Today, Katie wished for orange to feel special. “Nobody wants to be left out.”

And just as she did, Katie noticed something magical. As she stared out of the window, she watched the big fiery ball in the sky melt into the earth. The beautiful sunset was orange.

Katie really did love orange. She loved how it stretched out its arms and hugged her as the warmth soaked into her skin. And if she listened hard enough, Katie could hear the soft whisper of angels’ wings fluttering around the sun until the beautiful colour orange softly faded into a sea of midnight blue.

She knew that her prayers were answered. Orange really was special, and it was just like Katie.

The End

Reading Answers (section 1)

Multiple Choice Section

In this section you will be asked to choose the correct answer from a choice of four.

Circle the answer that you think is correct.

Answer these questions about *A Colour for Katie*. The first one has been done for you.

1. This story is about a girl called

Katrina

Katie

Kirah

Kelly

2. Katie wanted to choose a colour that made her feel

happy

special

hungry

sleepy

3. Katie asked her Mum what her favourite colour was but she was busy

sweeping the
floor

making the beds

mopping the
floor

washing the pots

4. Katie's Dad said his favourite colour was

blue

red

purple

green

5. Katie's big brother said that the colour red was fast like a

speed boat

rocket

racing car

motor bike

6. Katie's Mum said the colour green tasted like

a cool breeze

a big fish

a wobbly jelly

peppermint

Written Answers Section

In this section you will need to write one or more sentences to answer the questions.

7. Who did Katie ask first about their favourite colour?

8. Who do you think might have been using an axe in this story?

9. What was Ben playing with?

10. Why did Sam tell Katie he didn't want to answer her question?

11. Why did Katie twiddle her thumbs when she was in bed?

12. Katie asked her parents and her brothers what their favourite colour was. Who was the third person Katie asked?

13. In the story, the writer says that “Katie’s eyes welled”. What do you think this means?

14. When Katie had collected all her friends and family’s favourite colours, she had a list of twelve people.

If there were twice as many reds as yellows and there were 2 yellows, how many reds were there?

Well done! You have finished section 1. Now move on to section 2.

Colours are everywhere; we see them all the time and sometimes we take them for granted. They can be beautiful, they can cheer us up, they can give us important messages and they can help us feel a sense of belonging.

Colours in Nature

Flowers often have brightly coloured petals. Daffodils are bright yellow and look wonderful in early spring. Flowers are brightly coloured so that insects can see them, visit them for their nectar and pollinate them so new plants can grow. This is why there are very few black, brown or grey flowers.



Colours that give us Messages

Colours can also give us messages. Think of traffic lights; if we see a red light it means we must stop, if we see a green light it means it is safe to go. The same colours are used for pedestrian crossings too. Red often means that we should stop or there is danger.

Emergency vehicles are often equipped with flashing lights - police vehicles, ambulances, the coastguard and fire engines all have blue lights they use when they are on their way to an emergency. Yellow lights are used as a warning to other traffic by breakdown lorries, tractors, bin lorries and slow, large vehicles. If you ever see a car with a green flashing light, it means it is a doctor on his or her way to an emergency.

Colour Blindness

Some people cannot see colours in the same way as most people. They might struggle to see the difference between green and red, this is called colour blindness or **protanopia**. Some jobs are not suitable for people who have colour blindness. If you have colour blindness, you may find it difficult to become a pilot as you have to be able to tell the difference between green and red warning lights. Similarly, it might also be difficult to become an electrician as wires and cables are different colours and it is very important for electricians to be able to recognise the different colour coding of wires for safety purposes.

Colours that give us a sense of belonging

Colours are also used as a way to make us feel that we belong to a group or team. Sports teams, political parties and even staff at hospitals can all be recognised by the colours they wear. Perhaps you have a soccer shirt in the colours of your favourite team?



Reading Answers (section 2)

Answer these questions about *Colours Everywhere*

1. Flowers often have brightly coloured

leaves

stems

leaves

roots

2. When are we most likely to see daffodils?

3. Why are most flowers brightly coloured?

4. What should we do when we see a red light at a pedestrian crossing?

5. If you are colour blind, which two colours might you confuse?

6. Another name for colour blindness is

drotanopia

protanopia

trotanopia

frotanopia

7. Name two jobs you might not be able to do if you are colour blind.

8. What colour flashing lights would a doctor's car have?

yellow

red

green

blue

9. Finish the sentence below

Colours are used as a way of making us feel.....

.....

10. If a team was named The Satsumas, what colour might the team members shirts be?

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11. Newcastle United are known as The Magpies. What colour are the team members shirts ?

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12. Give your reasons for your answer to question 11.

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