

The Five Senses: Anya and the Mystery Basket

Read the story aloud together, then try the activities.

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

One Sunday, Grandpa came to visit with a basket covered by a bright red cloth. "There are surprises inside," he said, "but no peeking! Can you find out what they are using your five helpers?" Anya wiggled her fingers. "What five helpers?" Grandpa smiled and tapped her eyes, her ears, her nose, her mouth and her hands. "Your senses," he said.

Grandpa reached under the cloth and shook something. Jingle, jingle, jingle! Anya closed her eyes and listened. "It's a bell!" she shouted. "Clever ears," said Grandpa. "That's your sense of hearing. Your ears catch sounds — loud ones, quiet ones, high ones and low ones."

Next, Grandpa let Anya slip her hand under the cloth — just her hand. She felt something soft and tickly. "A feather!" Then something hard, cold and smooth. "A pebble!" "That's your sense of touch," said Grandpa. "Your skin can feel if things are soft or rough, hot or cold, smooth or bumpy — all over your body, not just your hands."

Then Grandpa held something under Anya's nose. She sniffed. It smelled fresh and zingy and sunny. "An orange!" "That's your sense of smell," said Grandpa. "Your nose can smell flowers, rain, toast — and it can warn you about things like smoke, too."

Grandpa peeled a segment of the orange and gave it to Anya to taste. "Sweet!" she said. Then he gave her a tiny lick of lemon. Anya's whole face scrunched up. "Sour!" Grandpa laughed. "That's your sense of taste. Your tongue can tell sweet, sour, salty and bitter. But remember — we only taste food, and only when a grown-up says it's safe."

At last Grandpa pulled off the red cloth, and Anya used her fifth helper: her eyes. She saw the shiny gold bell, the white feather, the grey pebble, the round orange orange and the bright yellow lemon. "That's your sense of sight," said Grandpa. "Your eyes see colours, shapes and how things move." Anya counted on her fingers: hearing, touch, smell, taste, sight. Then she hid the basket behind her back. "Your turn, Grandpa. No peeking!"

1. Match each word to its meaning

Write the letter next to each word.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Senses ____ | A. listening to sounds, with our ears. |
| 2. Sight ____ | B. sniffing smells, with our nose. |
| 3. Hearing ____ | C. tasting food, with our tongue. |
| 4. Smell ____ | D. feeling things, with our skin. |
| 5. Taste ____ | E. the ways our body finds out about the world. |
| 6. Touch ____ | F. seeing, with our eyes. |

2. Fill in the body part for each sense.

I see with my _____. I hear with my _____. I smell with my _____.
I taste with my _____. I touch with my _____.

Word bank: ears · nose · tongue · skin · eyes

3. Answer the questions

1. How did Anya know there was a bell in the basket?

2. What did Anya's skin tell her about the feather and the pebble?

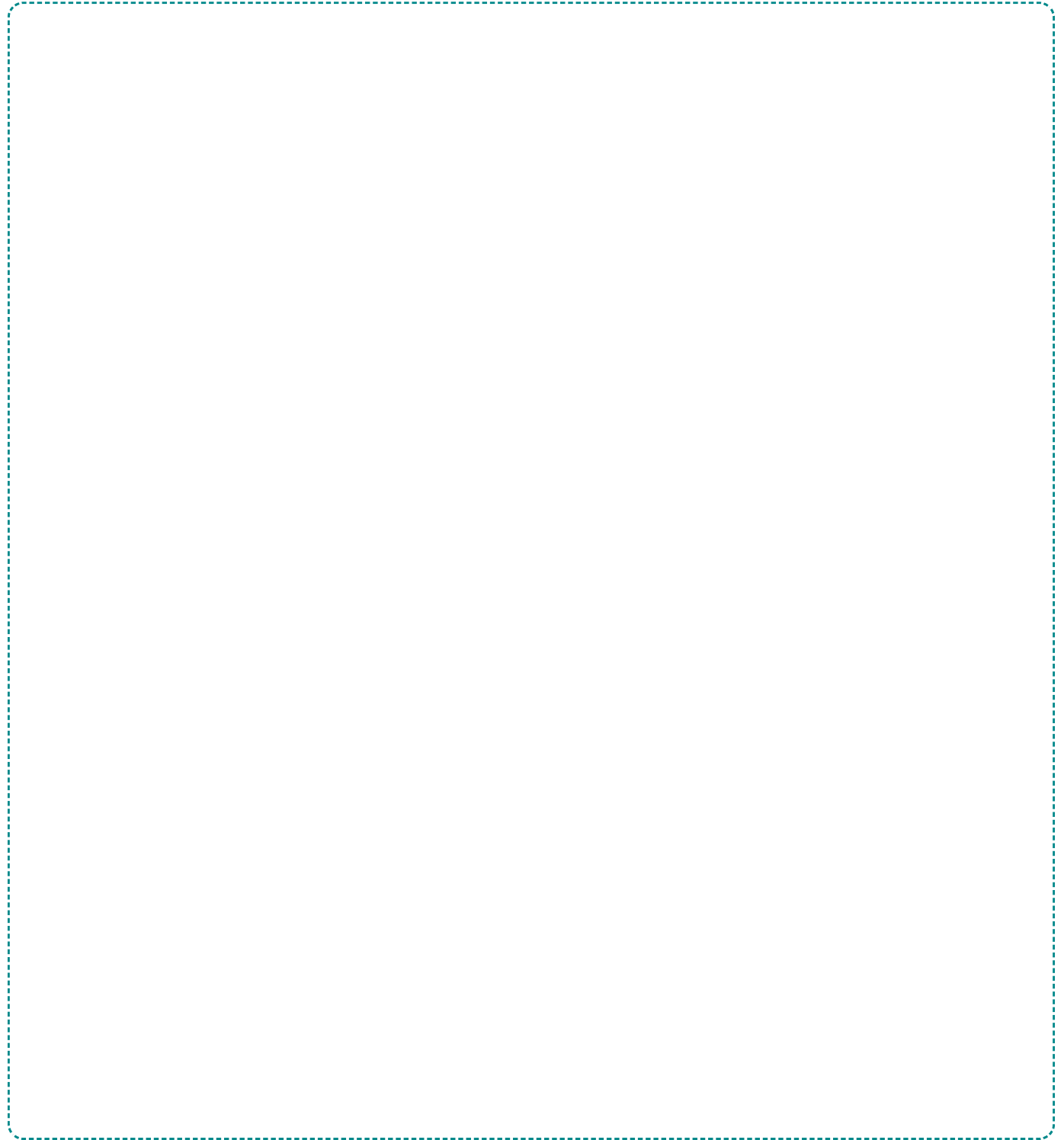
3. Which helper found the orange before Anya could see it?

4. How did the lemon taste?

5. What did Anya's eyes tell her at the end?

4. Draw and label

Draw your face and your hands. Label: eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin.

A large, empty rectangular area defined by a dashed teal border, intended for a child to draw their face and hands and then label the parts.

Answer key (for teachers and parents)

On its own page so you can leave it out when printing for children.

1. 1-E 2-F 3-A 4-B 5-C 6-D

2. eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin

3.1 She heard it jingle, with her ears.

3.2 The feather was soft and tickly; the pebble was hard, cold and smooth.

3.3 Her nose — her sense of smell.

3.4 Sour.

3.5 The colours and shapes of everything in the basket.