



Puzzle Power

James loves to work puzzles...all kinds of puzzles, and he is really good at them. His fourth grade teacher, Ms. Franklin, told him that doing puzzles develops problem solving skills and helps you become a better learner. It gives you an academic advantage. She calls it puzzle power. Last year, Ms. Franklin invited all the fourth graders in the school to participate in a puzzle contest. On the day of the event, the contestants were divided into groups, and each student was given a copy of the same 25-piece jigsaw puzzle. When the buzzer sounded, they all began assembling their puzzles as quickly as they could. The first one in each group to complete the puzzle correctly was the winner and advanced to the next round. With each round, the puzzles contained more pieces and became more challenging. James loved the competition and remained cool and calm throughout. Finally, the last round was between just two people: James and his classmate Arthur, who was very smart and loved puzzles too. The jigsaw puzzles for the championship round contained 100 pieces. When the buzzer sounded to begin, the room fell very silent while everyone watched with eager anticipation. Both boys assembled their puzzles with lightning speed. At last, James's hand shot up in the air as he excitedly placed his final puzzle piece. He had completed his puzzle first, winning the competition. He and Arthur shook friendly hands. It was a thrilling contest and both boys had expertly used their puzzle power.

1. In the story, James is really good at _____.
(baseball, swimming, puzzles)
2. His teacher told him that working puzzles gives you _____.
(puzzle power, a headache, muscles)
3. Last year, there was a fourth grade puzzle _____ at his school.
(party, contest, sale)
4. With each round of the contest, the puzzles became more _____.
(beautiful, fun, challenging)
5. Keeping cool and calm during the contest, _____ won the final round.
(James, Arthur, Ms. Franklin)