

LEVEL UP YOUR WRITING!

A SUPER MARIO STORY



In the land of the Mushroom Kingdom, Mario received a mysterious invitation. It read, "Join us for the Great Mushroom Kingdom Riddle Challenge!" Curious and always up for an adventure, Mario set off, but when he arrived, he saw King Bowser Koopa also landing in his airship.

"Bowser!" growled Mario. "What are doing here?"

"I'm here to win this riddle contest," laughed Bowser, "and see *you* lose!"

The Riddle Challenge was being held at the grand Toadstool Castle, where Princess Peach, the chief riddle master, awaited the two contestants. She explained the rules, "To win the challenge, you must answer each riddle correctly in writing. Remember, to do it right, you need to restate the question in your answer without using *yes* or *no*, provide multiple examples from the text, and explain the significance of those examples. Oh, and proofread carefully for any spelling or grammar errors!"



"Rules are boring!" growled Bowser. "Ask the riddle already!"

Peach's riddle was a classic: "I can be cracked, made, told, and played. What am I?"

Mario scratched his head and then confidently wrote down his answer. He raised his paper triumphantly—only to see Bowser already delivering his written answer into Peach's hand.

"Bowser has turned his answer in first," said Peach sadly.

"I know the answer to the riddle! A joke! That's what it is, a joke," yelled Bowser. Seeing he had been beaten, Mario also handed his paper to the princess.

"I'm afraid you lose, Bowser," smiled Peach. "You forgot to follow the process I told you! You didn't restate the question, provide examples, or explain your examples. You only wrote two words: *a joke*, and you even misspelled *joke*."

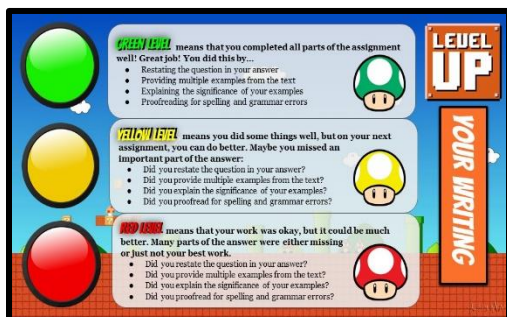
"What?" cried Bowser.

"Allow me to read the correct answer," said Peach. Then she read Mario's answer aloud. "I believe the answer to your riddle is a joke. You see, jokes can be cracked when someone tells them, made up when they're created, told when they're shared, and played when they make people laugh. The significance here is that humor and laughter bring joy to our lives, just like a Super Mushroom gives extra strength to me when I need it. And I've proofread my answer carefully, so I'm sure it's error-free!"

"No fair!" yelled Bowser. "I had the answer first! I know it was right, too, because I used my airship telescope to read your riddle's answer from the sky as I arrived."

"Having the right answer doesn't matter if you don't follow the rules of the contest," said Peach. "Guards, remove his cheating koopa from my castle grounds at once!"

As the guards dragged Bowser away, Mario waved goodbye. "It turns out your answer was *a joke* after all!" laughed Mario. Then Mario and his friends celebrated his victory with a spaghetti party, knowing that the skills he had acquired would be helpful in his future adventures.



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