

Ling and Ting Story Starters

Ling & Ting are twins, but they are not exactly the same. Ling & Ting like to make up silly stories. You can make up silly stories, too. Even if you have a twin, no one will make up a story exactly like yours!

Ling & Ting take things that happen in real life and use them in a silly story. You can do that, too! You can take people, places, and things that happen in your life and put them in a silly story. In your story, anything can happen!

Think about the people you know, like your teacher. *What if your teacher did something really silly in class one day? What if you went to school and in your classroom you saw some silly person or animal there instead of your teacher? What might happen?*

Think about the places you go, like a store. *What if the store sold really silly things? What if a silly person or animal came into the store? What might happen?*

Think about things that happen in your life, like a holiday. *Imagine how silly you could make the holiday. You could eat silly foods and play silly games. Who might come to your silly holiday? How would you celebrate?*



Story Starters with *Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same*

1) In *Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same*, the twins go to the barber for a haircut. Ting sneezes while the barber is cutting her hair and something happens! *Imagine if you went to a barber and you sneezed during a haircut. What might happen? What if you sneezed during a*



check-up with your dentist or your doctor? What if you sneezed at a bakery and startled a baker? Think of places you like to go. What might happen if you sneezed very loudly?

2) Ling wears a magic hat when she does magic tricks. Her magic trick does not go the way she wants it to go. Sometimes a magician will do a trick and pull a rabbit out of a hat. *What if the magician's trick did not go the right way? What might the magician pull out of a hat? What might happen next?*

3) Ling & Ting make dumplings. They put meat in the middle of the dumplings. *What if Ling & Ting decided to be silly while they cook? What silly fillings could they put in the dumplings?*

4) Mix it up! At the end of **Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same**, Ling & Ting take bits from each story and mix them up into a silly story they tell together. *Look at the silly stories you wrote. Take a bit from each and mix them up! You can take what was pulled out of the magician's hat and put it in the place where you sneezed and so on...Mix them all together and make the silliest story of all!*

Story Starters with Ling & Ting Share a Birthday

1) Ling & Ting share a birthday because they are twins. Ling gets green shoes and Ting gets red shoes as birthday gifts. They share the shoes so each girl has one red shoe and one green shoe.

If you wore two different shoes, would you look silly? What if you wore two different socks? What if you put one leg in one pair of pants and your other leg in another pair of pants? Come up with your own silly outfit!



2) Ling & Ting buy birthday gifts for each other. Books and toys are good gifts. Elephants or hot air balloons would be silly gifts! Imagine that a big gift shows up at your door. There is a bow on top, and your name is on the tag. *What silly gift might be inside? What might happen after you open the gift?*

3) Ling & Ting make birthday cakes with butter, sugar, eggs, and flour. Some cakes have chocolate in them, or bananas, or even carrots! *If you made a silly cake, what would you put in it? Who would eat it?*

Story Starters with *Ling & Ting: Twice as Silly*



1) Ting tries to plant cupcakes and jelly beans in her garden. *What if the jelly beans did grow into a jelly bean stalk? What if you planted something silly in your garden and it did grow? What would it look like as a plant?*

2) Ling & Ting paint their toys red because red is a lucky Chinese color. *What if you had a paint box with lucky colors in it? What would the colors be? What would you paint to make it lucky?*

3) Ling & Ting like to swing. Ling says she can swing higher than a tree, because a tree cannot swing! *Imagine a silly, magical swing. You can swing as high as you want. You can swing to anywhere you want to go. Where would your swing take you? What would you do there?*

4) Ling & Ting imagine having a monkey to pick apples for them. They then imagine getting a penguin from the zoo. Imagine if you had the zookeeper's key and you could unlock the zoo cages. *Which cages would you unlock? What silly things would you do with the zoo animals? What if you took an animal from the zoo back home with you?*

6) Mix it up! At the end of ***Ling & Ting: Twice as Silly***, Ling & Ting take bits from each silly story and mix them up into a very silly story! Look at the silly stories you wrote.

Take a bit from each and mix them up. You could take the animal from your zoo story and imagine that you are that animal. Then you could explore the garden where your silly plant grew. Maybe as an animal you could go somewhere on your swing and meet a friend who can read your mind!

The **Ling & Ting Story Starters** were written by Kristen Remenar, an educator, librarian and national speaker. Discover more at www.KristenRemenar.com