

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cliff Hanger Story

Swish

Kai grabbed his basketball from the floor of his closet and made his way out to the new hoop in the driveway. He dribbled a little to loosen up, then took his first shot. The ball bounced off the rim and into the bushes. *Whatever*, he thought. *I'm still warming up*. He circled the driveway, and charged the hoop, trying for a layup. *Drat!* Kai took a quick look up and down the street to make sure no neighborhood kids were watching him miss such easy shots. He bounced the ball three times, focused on the hoop, set his feet, and took the shot. The ball arced into the air and swished into the net.

Then silence. There was no bounce after the ball passed through the hoop. There was no ball. It was gone. Kai looked around him. How could he have missed it? He backed up and looked up on the roof. No ball. How could the ball disappear when it just went through the net?

On impulse, Kai picked up a rock and tossed it into the hoop. No rock came out the bottom. It vanished. Kai shivered. *Okay, I must be going crazy. What is going on here?* He stood there for a moment, then opened the garage door and dragged out the ladder, unfolding it next to the hoop. He slowly climbed the rungs. When he reached the top, he looked down into the basket.

And then ...