

The Big Fair and the Missing Medal

The annual town fair was in full swing! The Ferris wheel spun its colorful carriages, popcorn filled the air with its delicious aroma, and games promised all sorts of fun.

Ten-year-old Maya happily paid the **fare** (money for a ride) to hop on the bouncy castle. Everyone was having a great time, **except** (other than) Maya's friend, Ben. He looked downcast.

"What's wrong?" Maya asked.

Ben sighed. "I **missed** (failed to find) my lucky charm necklace. I had it on earlier, but now it's gone!"

Maya frowned. "Don't worry, we'll find it. Did you retrace your steps?"

Ben shook his head. "**Not** (no) really. I was too busy trying out games."

Suddenly, Maya had an idea. "Maybe it fell near the pie-eating contest. Let's check!"

They ran over to the messy aftermath of the contest. Several contestants looked exhausted, wiping dough from their faces.

"Excuse me," Maya politely asked a woman with a crown of whipped cream, "Have you seen a small silver necklace with a star pendant?"

The woman squinted. "Sorry, dear, haven't seen anything like that. Maybe it's on the **plane** (ground)."

Disappointed, Maya and Ben searched the ground around the contest area. Just then, a glint of silver caught Maya's eye. There, tangled in a **knot** (loop) of string from a nearby balloon vendor, was Ben's necklace!

Ben's face lit up. "There it is! Thank you, Maya!"

"No problem," Maya smiled. "Let's find your parents now. You wouldn't want them to **worry** (be concerned) about you, would you?"

Ben laughed. "**Definitely not!**"

Soon, Ben was reunited with his relieved parents, proudly showing off his recovered necklace – a symbol of good luck and, more importantly, a symbol of a great day at the fair, even though it started with a **mistake** (error).

Comprehension Questions:

1. Where did Maya and Ben go?

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2. Why was Ben sad?

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3. How did Maya help Ben?

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4. What did the woman with whipped cream suggest?

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5. What word describes the feeling Ben's parents might have had if they couldn't find him?

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Vocabulary Questions:

1. What is a synonym for **fare** (money for a ride)?

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2. What is the opposite of **except** (other than)?

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3. What is another word for **missed** (failed to find)?

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4. What is the opposite of **plain** (simple)?

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5. What is a synonym for **great** (very good)?

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