

Name: _____

Math Problems

By Kelly Hashway



Alex clutched his math quiz in his hand as he opened the front door. He'd really tried this time, but he still barely passed.

And now Mrs. Gregory was making everyone take their quizzes home



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kitchen.

"Hi, Mom. The cookies smell great."

"Thanks." Mom poured a glass of milk and put it on the table for Alex. "I figured you'd need a pick-me-up after you got your math quiz back."

Alex dropped his cookie on the floor. How did she know?

"Mrs. Gregory called," Mom said, as Ralph, their golden retriever, snatched up the fallen cookie.

Here it comes, Alex thought. I'm grounded.

"I told Mrs. Gregory how hard you studied for that quiz," Mom said, handing Alex another cookie.

Alex was shocked. Mom wasn't mad?

"I think maybe we need to get you a tutor. Someone who can help you understand math a little better. What do you think?"

"A tutor?" Alex asked, still waiting for Mom to start yelling.

"Yeah. Mrs. Gregory said she'd be happy to work with you after school, but if you'd rather we could ask Michael down the street. He's a math whiz."

Alex nodded. "I guess Michael could help me."

"That's what I thought you'd say. I'll call him tonight after dinner." Mom put her hand out, waiting for the paper to sign.

Alex pulled it out of his backpack, but he held it tight. "How come



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Alex handed the quiz to his mom and sat down at the table.

Being tutored by Michael wouldn't be so bad. And hopefully he wouldn't have to worry the next time he had to get his math quiz signed.

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1. Why didn't Alex want to show the math test to his mother?
 - a. He failed the test.
 - b. He thought his mother would be upset.
 - c. He didn't study for the test.
 - d. He forgot to bring the test home.
2. Alex didn't want to show his mother the test that afternoon. He wanted



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4. Match each character with their description.

_____ Michael

_____ Ralph

_____ Mrs. Gregory

_____ Alex

a. family pet

b. struggles with math

c. math whiz

d. teacher

5. Why wasn't Alex's mom upset with him?

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story.
Then write the full word on the line. Be sure to spell each word correctly.

1. ___ a ___ e ___ y

clue: by a very small amount

1. _____



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5. ___ e ___ ___ i e ___ ___ r

clue: type of dog that likes to fetch items
and bring them back

5. _____

6. ___ n ___ t ___ h ___ d

clue: grabbed

6. _____

7. ___ r ___ u ___ d ___ d

clue: punishment in which privileges are lost

7. _____

8. ___ ___ ___ o r

clue: a person hired to help someone learn

8. _____

9. ___ a ___ l

clue: opposite of pass

9. _____

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In the story, "Math Problems," Alex is afraid to show his math test to his mother. He is afraid that he will be grounded for getting a poor grade. When his mother finds out, she is not angry because she knows he studied and did his best.

Write a paragraph in which you list four different things Alex can do to improve



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5. Why wasn't Alex's mom upset with him?

She wasn't upset because she knew he studied and tried his best on the quiz.

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8. t u t o r

clue: a person hired to help someone learn

8. **tutor**

9. f a i l

clue: opposite of pass

9. **fail**