

Name: _____

Spare

by Kelly Hashway

Lena followed Jennifer and Tara off the bus, listening to them discuss their plans to go bowling this weekend. They waved and quickly turned to say goodbye to Lena before they got into their cars.

"What's wrong, sweetie?" Lena's mom asked as she got in the car. "Did something happen at school today?"

"No. It's just that Tara and Jennifer made plans to go bowling tomorrow and they didn't invite me."

"Oh." Her mom nodded. "Did you ask them if you could go too?"

"No. I couldn't invite myself. If they wanted me to go, they would've asked."

"Well, maybe they want to spend some time together, just the two of them."

Lena stared out the window. "But I didn't do anything to make them mad. Why would they leave me out?"

"I don't think that's what's going on. Sometimes a group of three doesn't always work. Sometimes one person is left out."

"I just don't understand why it was me."

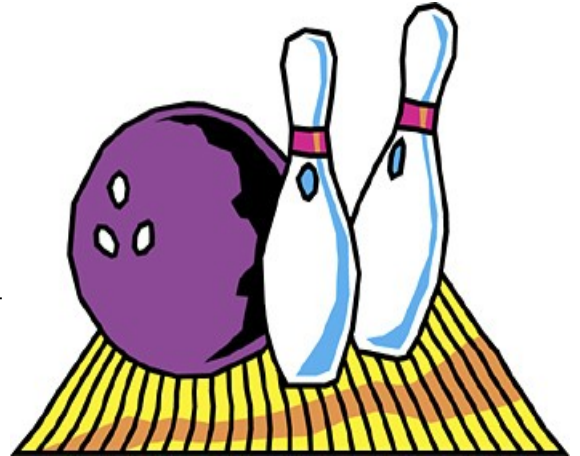
Lena spent the night alone in her room, wondering why her friends hadn't invited her to go bowling. The next morning she decided she needed an answer.

"Mom, can we go bowling?" Lena asked.

"You want to go bowling with me?"

"Well, yeah. Since Dad has to work this weekend and we aren't going to the baseball game, I thought we could go bowling."

Her mom raised an eyebrow. "Or were you thinking we could spy on Jennifer and Tara?"



"I don't even know when they're going. They might not be there. But ever since I heard they were going bowling, I've wanted to go. It's been a while."

"Okay," her mom said.

An hour later they were renting shoes.

"Look there's Jennifer and Tara," Lena said, pointing two lanes over.

"Why don't you go say hi?" her mom asked.

"I don't want them to think I followed them here. Let's just play."

Lena picked a ball and took her first shot. She knocked down nine pins. She carefully lined up her second shot. The last pin fell, giving her a spare.

"Great job!" Jennifer said, coming up behind her.

Lena jumped. She hadn't expected Jennifer and Tara to come over and say hi.

"What are you doing here?" Tara asked.

"Yeah, you're usually at the game with your dad on Saturdays," Jennifer added.

The game. Now it made sense. Lena's father had season tickets and they went to games all the time on Saturdays. "So that's why you didn't invite me to go bowling."

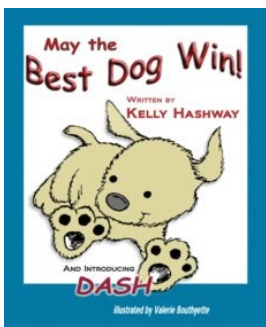
"Of course," Tara said.

"My dad had to work today, so Mom and I decided to come here."

"Well since you're here, can we bowl together?" Jennifer asked.

"Absolutely," Lena said.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

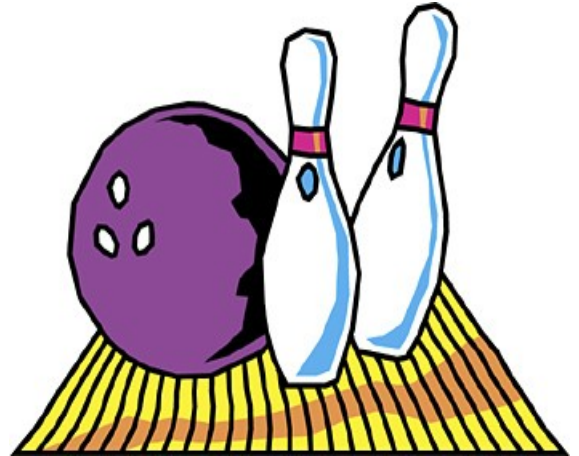
Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. How did Lena feel when she was not invited to go bowling?
- a. jealous
 - b. confused
 - c. disappointed
 - d. all of these



2. Why did Lena want to go bowling with her mother on Saturday?
- a. She really loved bowling.
 - b. She wanted to spy on her friends.
 - c. She goes bowling every weekend.
 - d. She wanted to show she was a better bowler than Tara and Jennifer.

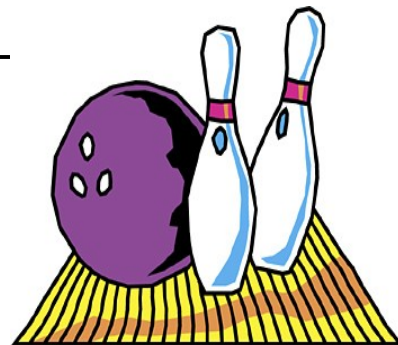
3. Why didn't Jennifer and Tara invite Lena to come to the bowling alley with them?

4. What is a spare in bowling?
- a. When you roll the ball once and knock down all the pins.
 - b. When you roll the ball twice and knock down all the pins.
 - c. When you miss only one pin.
 - d. When you get a high score in bowling.

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

1. ___ n ___ i ___ e

hint: ask someone to come to an event or party

2. ___ a s e ___ ___ l ___

hint: game in which players hit a ball with a bat

3. ___ o ___ ___ i n ___

hint: game in which players try to knock down pins with a heavy ball

4. ___ a d

hint: upset; angry

5. ___ l o ___ e

hint: without other people around

6. ___ o m ___ ___ r o ___

hint: day after today

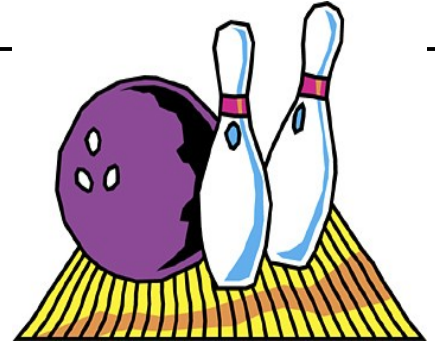
6. ___ y e b ___ o ___

hint: line of hair found above an eye

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In the story, "Spare," Lena and her friends go to a bowling alley on a Saturday afternoon.

Have you ever been to a bowling alley before? If you have, describe the experience. Tell who you went with and what it was like.

If you have not been to a bowling alley before, tell whether or not you'd like to go bowling one day. Give reasons to support your answer.

ANSWER KEY

Spare

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1. How did Lena feel when she was not invited to go bowling? **d**

- a. jealous
- b. confused
- c. disappointed
- d. **all of these**

2. Why did Lena want to go bowling with her mother on Saturday? **b**

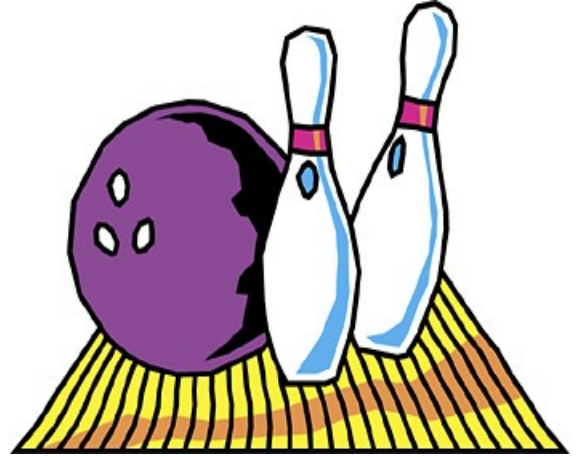
- a. She really loved bowling.
- b. **She wanted to spy on her friends.**
- c. She goes bowling every weekend.
- d. She wanted to show she was a better bowler than Tara and Jennifer.

3. Why didn't Jennifer and Tara invite Lena to come to the bowling alley with them?

They thought Lena was going to the baseball game with her father.

4. What is a spare in bowling? **b**

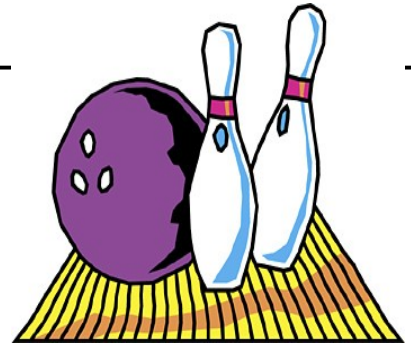
- a. When you roll the ball once and knock down all the pins.
- b. **When you roll the ball twice and knock down all the pins.**
- c. When you miss only one pin.
- d. When you get a high score in bowling.



ANSWER KEY

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

1. invite invite
hint: ask someone to come to an event or party

2. baseball baseball
hint: game in which players hit a ball with a bat

3. bowling bowling
hint: game in which players try to knock down pins with a heavy ball

4. mad mad
hint: upset; angry

5. alone alone
hint: without other people around

6. tomorrow tomorrow
hint: day after today

6. eyebrow eyebrow
hint: line of hair found above an eye