

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tomorrow

by Rebecca Besser

Jimmy rushed into the kitchen, bouncing into his seat at the table. He grabbed a piece of wheat toast and spread sweet, strawberry jam on it.

"Would you like a scrambled egg with that?" Mom asked.

"Yes, please," Jimmy mumbled around his mouth full of toast.

Mom turned from the stove and scooped steaming hot yellow egg onto Jimmy's plate. As soon as the egg hit his plate, he snatched up his fork and gobbled it down.

"Thanks," Jimmy said.

Then he jumped up from his chair and headed for the back door.

"Where are you going?" Mom asked.

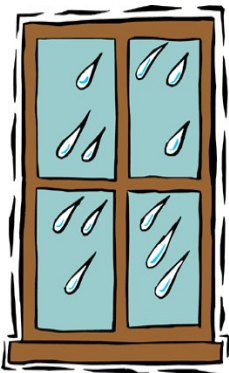
"I'm going to swing a bit," said Jimmy with his hand on the door knob.

"I don't think so," Mom said. "It's raining."

Jimmy stepped over to the window and looked out at the backyard. It was raining! The swing set was all wet. He could see water running down the slide like a river, and the swings wobbled back and forth as rain drops landed on them. He sighed and went back to the table, sitting down again.

"I don't like it when it rains," Jimmy grumbled. "I wanted to play on my swing set and now I can't."

"I don't think your swing set will get lonely," Mom said. "After all, you have played on it every day since your birthday last month."



Jimmy sat in his chair with his arms folded. He kicked the table leg and stared out the window.

"You can always play outside tomorrow," Mom said.

Jimmy looked at his mom frowning. "Mom, what's tomorrow?"

"Well, it's the day after today," Mom said.

"How do you know when it's the day after today?" Jimmy asked, sitting forward.



"Each day has a certain number of hours in it," Mom said. "When all the hours in one day go by, then another day starts."

"What are hours?" Jimmy asked. "How many hours are in a day? How many are left until tomorrow?"

"An hour is a span of time, made up of sixty minutes," Mom said. "There are twenty-four hours in one day. The clock says it's eight in the morning, so there are sixteen more hours in today."

"That seems like a long time," Jimmy said with a sigh. "How do I get to tomorrow fast? Can I run to tomorrow? I go really fast when I run. Maybe you can drive me there. The car goes faster than I do."

"I don't think that will work, Jimmy," Mom said, with a smile. "Time is set in a certain rhythm. It doesn't speed up or slow down. Sometimes time seems to pass fast, and at other times go slow. When we have a lot to do and are very busy, time seems to pass fast. When we are bored and have nothing to do, time seems to pass slow."



"If I'm busy, tomorrow will get here fast," Jimmy said excitedly. "What can I do to be busy?"

"Why don't you call Mack?" Mom asked. "He might want to come over and play."

Jimmy used the phone and called Mack. Mack was allowed to come over and play, and because he lived across the street, he arrived in minutes.

First Jimmy and Mack played video games and board games in the living room. After that, they went upstairs to Jimmy's room and turned his bed into a pirate ship. Hours and hours went by. Soon, it was time for Mack to go home.

After supper and a bath, Jimmy crawled into bed. Mom came to tuck him in, picking up clothes and toys as she went. She placed a paper pirate hat on his desk.

"Did you have a good day, Jimmy?"

"Yes, it went fast. I didn't want it to be over," Jimmy said with a big yawn.

Mom bent down, tucking Jimmy's blankets around him and kissing his forehead.

"I'm glad," Mom said. "I hope it was as wonderful as tomorrow will be. Good night."

"Good night, Mom," Jimmy said.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tomorrow

by Rebecca Besser



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

1. \_\_\_ t \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ \_\_\_ y

**hint:** fruit with seeds on the outside

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. s \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ c \_\_\_ e d

**hint:** grabbed; quickly picked up

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ c \_\_\_ \_\_\_ a r \_\_\_

**hint:** yard behind a house

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_ o \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ r o \_\_\_

**hint:** day after today

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ t h \_\_\_ s

**hint:** things you wear

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_ o \_\_\_ e h \_\_\_ \_\_\_ d

**hint:** part of the face above the eyes

6. \_\_\_\_\_

# ANSWER KEY

## Tomorrow

by Rebecca Besser



1. What kind of a mood was Jimmy in when he first came into the kitchen? **a**

- a. **excited**
- b. tired
- c. frightened
- d. cranky

2. What kind of a mood was Jimmy in when he first found out it was raining outside? **d**

- a. excited
- b. tired
- c. frightened
- d. **cranky**

3. List three things Mack and Jimmy did together?

**They play video games, play board games, and turn Jimmy's bed into a pirate ship.**

4. Jimmy's mom said, "The clock says it's eight in the morning, so there are sixteen more hours in today."

How many hours will be left in the day when it's ten o'clock in the morning?

**14 hours**

5. According to Jimmy's mother, what seems to make time go by faster?

- a. going outside
- b. staying indoors
- c. **keeping busy**
- d. cleaning the house

6. Draw a pencil sketch of one scene from the story. Be sure your sketch is neat and detailed. Write a sentence to tell what's going on in your picture.

\

**Pictures and sentences will vary.**

---

# ANSWER KEY

## Tomorrow

by Rebecca Besser



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

1. s t r a w b e r r y

hint: fruit with seeds on the outside

1. strawberry

2. s n a t c h e d

hint: grabbed; quickly picked up

2. snatched

3. b a c k y a r d

hint: yard behind a house

3. backyard

4. t o m o r r o w

hint: day after today

4. tomorrow

5. c l o t h e s

hint: things you wear

5. clothes

6. f o e e h e a d

hint: part of the face above the eyes

6. forehead