

Name: _____

A Promise is a Promise!

By Kelly Hashway

Lance practically ran home from the bus stop. His 17-year-old brother Nathan had promised to take him to the new skate park today.

"Lance, wait up!" called Haley, running behind him.

"I can't," Lance yelled over his shoulder. "Nathan's taking me to the skate park this afternoon."

"But you promised we'd work on our science project today."

"We'll do it tomorrow." Lance picked up the pace, not giving Haley another thought. He ran inside the house and grabbed his skate gear from the closet. He was so excited he put his elbow pads and knee guards on even though Nathan wasn't home yet.

"Hey, little bro," Nathan said, walking through the door. "Ready to go?"

Lance held his arms out. "Ready!"

"Who's that?" Nathan asked, pointing out the window.

Lance saw Haley sitting by the mailbox. "Oh man, what's she doing here? I told her I'd work on the science project with her tomorrow."

"Then why is she here today?" Nathan asked.

"Well, I sort of told her I'd do it today, but that was before you said you'd take me to the skate park."

"So you promised her you'd work on it today but then you got a better offer and canceled on her?"

"You're making it sound worse than it is. I'm still doing the project with her, just not today."



Nathan nodded. "I'll get my car keys. Wait here."

Lance couldn't stand still as he waited. When Nathan walked back into the room, he was on the phone.

"Great! I'll be right there." Nathan hung up the phone. "You're never going to believe this, but Scott got tickets to a minor league baseball game for tonight."

Lance's face fell. "You're going to the ball game? What about the skate park?"

Nathan ruffled Lance's hair. "We'll go tomorrow. You don't mind, right?"

"Well, kind of. You promised to take me skating today."

Nathan's smile faded. "Like you promised Haley you'd work on your project today?"

Lance sighed. "Scott doesn't have tickets, does he?"

"Nope. I just thought you should see how Haley is feeling."

Lance looked out the window. Haley was still sitting by the mailbox. "I'll go get her and work on the project."

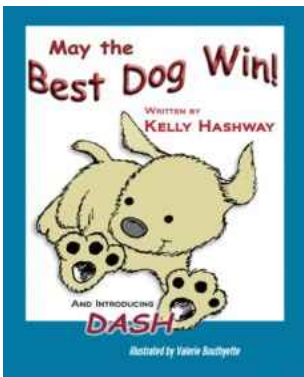
"Good for you," Nathan said. "And ask her if she wants to go to the skate park after you're finished."

"Really? You'd take us?"

"Of course. I promised."

Lance nodded. "And a promise is a promise."

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.

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1. Lance was looking forward to...
 - a. working on a science project
 - b. going to a baseball game
 - c. going to a skate park
 - d. spending time with Haley

2. When does this story take place?
 - a. on a weekend morning
 - b. on a weekday afternoon
 - c. on a weekend afternoon
 - d. on a weekday morning

3. What happened when Nathan went to get his car keys?
 - a. Nathan got a phone call from his friend Scott.
 - b. Nathan pretended he got a phone call from his friend Scott.
 - c. Nathan went outside to talk to Haley.
 - d. Haley came inside to talk to Lance.

4. Is Nathan a good influence on his younger brother Lance? Explain.

5. If Lance is 9 years old, Nathan is about...

a. 8 years older	b. 6 years older
c. 5 years older	d. 3 years older

Tell how you found the answer to the question above.

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. _____ grabbed | a. an agreement to do something |
| 2. _____ elbow | b. pieces of paper that grant admission to an event |
| 3. _____ knee guards | c. quickly picked up |
| 4. _____ mailbox | d. metal box to which mail is delivered |
| 5. _____ canceled | e. hole in a wall covered with clear glass |
| 6. _____ tickets | f. decided not to do something |
| 7. _____ window | g. joint that allows your arm to bend in the middle |
| 8. _____ promise | h. pads worn to protect the knees |

❖ **Now try this:** Highlight each vocabulary word in the story.

ANSWER KEY

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- Lance was looking forward to... **c**
 - working on a science project
 - going to a baseball game
 - going to a skate park**
 - spending time with Haley
- When does this story take place? **b**
 - on a weekend morning
 - on a weekday afternoon**
 - on a weekend afternoon
 - on a weekday morning
- What happened when Nathan went to get his car keys? **b**
 - Nathan got a phone call from his friend Scott.
 - Nathan pretended he got a phone call from his friend Scott.**
 - Nathan went outside to talk to Haley.
 - Haley came inside to talk to Lance.
- Is Nathan a good influence on his younger brother Lance? Explain.
Yes because he encourages Lance to keep his promise to Haley. He also leads by example when he agrees to take Lance and Haley to the skate park.
- If Lance is 9 years old, Nathan is about... **a**

a. 8 years older	b. 6 years older
c. 5 years older	d. 3 years older

Tell how you found the answer to the question above.

Nathan is 17. Subtract 9 from 17.

ANSWER KEY

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.



1. **c** grabbed
 2. **g** elbow
 3. **h** knee guards
 4. **d** mailbox
 5. **f** canceled
 6. **b** tickets
 7. **e** window
 8. **a** promise
- a. an agreement to do something
 - b. pieces of paper that grant admission to an event
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