

Name: _____

Underwater Adventure

by Kelly Hashway

Andy slumped in his seat and moaned. His father had dragged him along for all the weekend errands. Andy just wanted to go home and play video games, but his dad insisted they spend quality time together.

"How many more places do we have to go?" Andy asked after the fourth stop. They'd already been to the bank, the supermarket, the post office, and the dry cleaner. He couldn't imagine what they could possibly have left to do.

"Just one more." His father smiled. "I saved the best for last."

Andy didn't think any errands were fun. "Oh no, we aren't going school clothes shopping are we?"

"No. This is much more exciting."

Andy worried his dad might not have the same definition of exciting that he had, but he tried to be hopeful. After the bank, how boring could this errand be?

His dad pulled up at The Bubble Palace. Andy groaned. The name was much more interesting than the actual place.

"The car wash? How is this exciting?" Andy crossed his arms in protest.

"You'll see," his dad said.

Andy expected his dad to pull into an open garage kind of building and get out to use the hose. But instead he pulled up to some sort of drive through.

"What's this?" Andy asked.

"You've never been in one of these?"

"No. Mom goes to the self-serve car wash."

His dad smiled. "I like this one better. It's like an underwater adventure."

Underwater adventure? Were they driving into water or something?



Andy watched in silence as his dad paid the attendant and pulled the car onto a strange kind of conveyor belt.

"Shouldn't we get out of the car?" Andy asked.

"You could, but you'd miss the best part." His dad took his hands off the wheel as the car was pulled forward.

They drove through a black plastic mat hanging from the ceiling of the drive through. Andy stared in amazement as the car was sprayed with water from above. The water pounded down on the car and Andy smiled.

"That's pretty cool. Like a rainstorm or something."

"Wait. It gets better."

Soapsuds washed over them, and they passed through rolling brushes on both sides.

"I call those sea anemones," his dad said. "It's like being a fish or some other sea creature, isn't it?"

Andy rolled his eyes, but as the car was pulled through a drying station that blew air and wiped the car with a bunch of wiggling felt strips, Andy said, "Hey, that looks like an octopus wrapping us up in its arms!"

"Now you're getting it." His dad patted his shoulder.

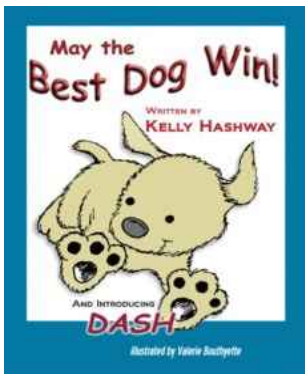
They came out of the car wash.

"See," his dad said, "not all errands are boring."

"Can we do that again?" Andy asked.



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. Andy is probably...
- a. a teenager
 - b. a toddler
 - c. a young boy
 - d. more than 21 years old

2. Explain how the car wash in this story was different from the car washes Andy had visited before.

3. How did Andy feel in the beginning of the story? Circle the three best answers from the box below.

imaginative	excited	annoyed	guilty
bored	clever	sick	frustrated

4. At the car wash, Andy and his dad...
- a. become upset with each other
 - b. see a real octopus
 - c. pretend they are underwater
 - d. got out of the car and washed it with a hose

5. In this story, Andy doesn't enjoy running errands with his father. In your own words, write a definition for the word errand.

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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 s ___ s ___ e d

hint: demanded

2. ___ h ___ p p i ___ g

hint: going to stores to buy things

3. ___ a l ___ c e

hint: huge house

4. ___ r r ___ n ___

hint: short trip to do something or buy something

5. c ___ n v ___ y o ___ ___ e l t

hint: large moving mat (2 words)

6. ___ c ___ ___ p ___ s

hint: sea creature with 8 arms

7. p r ___ t ___ s t

hint: showing that you do not like something

ANSWER KEY

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1. Andy is probably...
- a. a teenager
 - b. a toddler
 - c. **a young boy**
 - d. more than 21 years old

2. Explain how the car wash in this story was different from the car washes Andy had visited before.

Andy had gone to self-serve car washes with his mother. At a self-serve car wash, you get out of the car and wash it yourself. In this story, Andy is visiting an automatic car wash. In this type of car wash, you sit in the car while machines wash your car.

3. How did Andy feel in the beginning of the story? Circle the three best answers from the box below.

imaginative	excited	annoyed	guilty
bored	clever	sick	frustrated

4. At the car wash, Andy and his dad... **c**
- a. become upset with each other
 - b. see a real octopus
 - c. **pretend they are underwater**
 - d. got out of the car and washed it with a hose

5. In this story, Andy doesn't enjoy running errands with his father. In your own words, write a definition for the word errand.

An errand is a short trip to buy something or pick something up.

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. i n s i s t e d

hint: demanded

insisted

2. s h o p p i n g

hint: going to stores to buy things

shopping

3. p a l a c e

hint: huge house

palace

4. e r r a n d

hint: short trip to do something or buy something

errand

5. c o n v e y o r b e l t

hint: large moving mat (2 words)

conveyor belt

6. o c t o p u s

hint: sea creature with 8 arms

octopus

7. p r o t e s t

hint: showing that you do not like something

protest