

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 to be signed.

Sounds from the kitchen and the smell of fresh chocolate chip cookies greeted Alex at the door. His stomach grumbled. No way would he be allowed to have cookies after he showed Mom this quiz. Unless... He could wait until the morning and have her sign the quiz before school! Alex shoved the paper in his backpack and ran to the 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 you aren't mad?"

Mom smiled. "I know you tried your best. I can't be mad about that. Now if you said you didn't want to be tutored, I might be a little upset."

"I don't want to fail math."

"Tell you what. Let's have some milk and cookies and then we'll call Michael together."

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 to wait until the next morning instead. Why?

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3. Why didn't Alex wait until morning to have his mom sign the test?

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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?

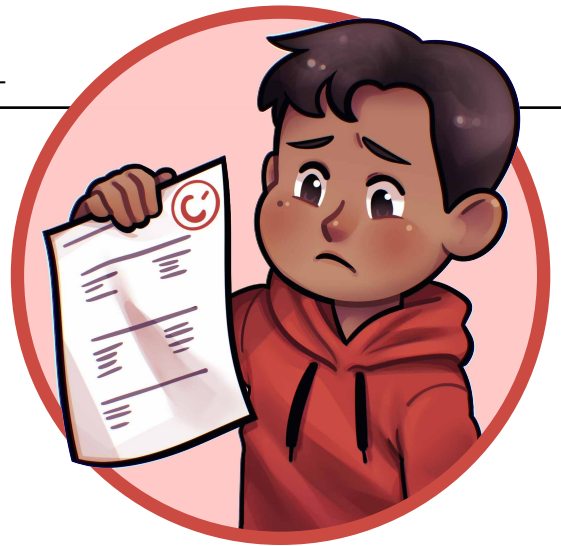
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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story.  
Then write the full word on the line. Be sure to spell each word correctly.

1. \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ y

**clue:** by a very small amount

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

2. \_\_\_ i \_\_\_ n \_\_\_ d

**clue:** wrote a cursive name on a paper

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

3. \_\_\_ t o \_\_\_ c \_\_\_

**clue:** belly

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

4. \_\_\_ i g \_\_\_ e d

**clue:** thought

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

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. \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Math Problems

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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 his math skills.

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## ANSWER KEY

# Math Problems

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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 to wait until the next morning instead. Why?

**Alex was afraid he would not get milk and cookies if he showed it to his mother in the afternoon.**

3. Why didn't Alex wait until morning to have his mom sign the test?

**Alex's mother already knew about the test because she had talked to his teacher on the phone.**

4. Match each character with their description.

  c.   Michael

a. family pet

  a.   Ralph

b. struggles with math

  d.   Mrs. Gregory

c. math whiz

  b.   Alex

d. teacher

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.**

## ANSWER KEY

# Math Problems

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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. b a r e l y

**clue:** by a very small amount

1.        **barely**       

2. s i g n e d

**clue:** wrote a cursive name on a paper

2.        **signed**       

3. s t o m a c h

**clue:** belly

3.        **stomach**       

4. f i g u r e d

**clue:** thought

4.        **figured**       

5. r e t r i e v e r

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

5.        **retriever**       

6. s n a t c h e d

**clue:** grabbed

6.        **snatched**       

7. g r o u n d e d

**clue:** punishment in which privileges are lost

7.        **grounded**       

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**