

Name: _____

The Lost Money

By Dan Greco

The sun glinted off something near the swings. Maya stopped. It was a five-dollar bill, crisp and new. A wave of excitement washed over her. She could buy that cool new lip balm she'd been wanting!

"Wow, look what you found!" whispered her friend, Ben. "Finders keepers, right?"

Maya hesitated. Ms. Evans always talked about honesty in class. "Honesty



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Ben shrugged. "Whatever you say."

At the office, Mrs. Peterson smiled. "That's very honest of you, Maya. Thank you!"

Later, during lunch, a commotion erupted. A boy named Alex was searching frantically. "My lunch money! I lost it!" Tears welled up in his eyes.

Mrs. Peterson walked over with the five-dollar bill. "Is this yours, Alex?"

Alex's face lit up. "Yes! Thank you, thank you!" When Mrs. Peterson told him he could thank Maya for it, he looked at Maya. "You found it?"

Maya nodded. She felt a warm glow inside. It wasn't just about returning the money. It was about seeing Alex's relief, knowing she had helped him avoid going hungry today.

She understood that being honest builds a caring community, even if you don't know exactly what will happen next. She felt strong and proud, knowing she had made a good choice, just like Ms. Evans said. Honesty was more than just a nice word; it was a way to make the world a little brighter.

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1. In this story, Mrs. Evans says, "Honesty builds trust." Explain what she means by this.



2. Sometimes being honest requires bravery. How does Maya show bravery?

A cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit with a red cape and a shield-shaped emblem on his chest with the letters 'MJS', is flying through a blue sky with white clouds.

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- b. She said that Maya should keep the money.
c. She smiled and said, "Thank you."
d. She said to bring the money to the lunchroom.

4. How did Maya's honesty help others?

5. After Maya returned the money, she felt a warm glow inside. Why did she feel this way?

- a. because she stood up to Ben b. because she saw how relieved Alex was
c. because she received a reward d. because she made Mrs. Peterson happy

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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. ____ o ____ ____ o ____ i o n

clue: noisy disturbance

1. _____



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clue: in a nervous or panic-stricken way

5. ____ e l ____ ____ f

clue: a feeling of reassurance and relaxation

5. _____

6. w ____ ____ ____ e d

clue: filled up

6. _____

7. ____ r ____ p ____ e d

clue: broke out

7. _____

8. c ____ ____ ____ p

clue: neat; clean; sharp

8. _____

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In the story, *The Lost Money*, Maya is honest and brave. Her honesty helps others around her.

On the lines below, write about a time when you were honest. How did your honesty help others? How did you show bravery in order to be honest?



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ANSWER KEY

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1. In this story, Mrs. Evans says, "Honesty builds trust." Explain what she means by this. **Answers may vary.**
An example is:

She means that being honest shows
you care about others and can lead
them to trust you.



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c. because she received a reward d. because she made Mrs. Peterson happy

ANSWER KEY

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8. c r i s p

clue: neat; clean; sharp

8. crisp