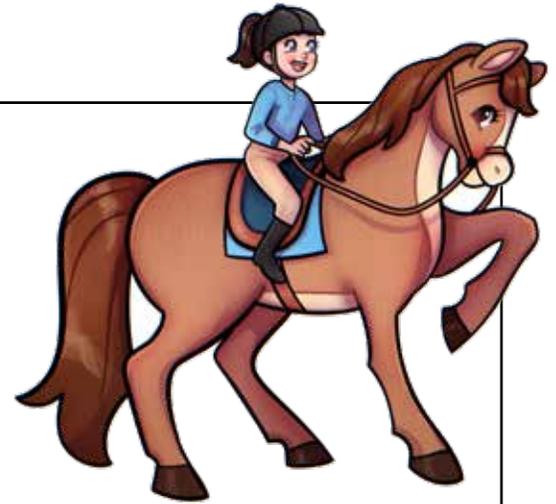


Name: _____



The Best Birthday Present

By Kelly Hashway

"Mom!" Michelle ran into the house. "You won't believe what Anna's grandmother bought for her birthday!"

"What sweetie?" Mom asked, looking up from the bills she was paying.

"A horse!" Michelle smiled. "Can I have one for my birthday? Please!"

Mom looked down at the bills. "Of course not, honey! Horses are very



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Mom held up her hand. "No! It's just not in our budget."

Michelle lowered her head and walked to her room. "This is so unfair." The phone rang, and Michelle answered with a quiet "Hello?"

"So are you getting one for your birthday?" Anna asked. "We can ride them together. It will be so cool."

"No. Mom says I can't have one."

"But why?" Anna asked.

"She said they're too much money."

"Oh. Well, I have to go feed Sir Charles. See you at school tomorrow."

Michelle hung up the phone and flopped on her bed. "Maybe I can help Anna feed Sir Charles," she thought. She picked up the phone, but her mom was already on the line.

"That would be wonderful. I feel so bad, but we just can't afford it. I think she'll really enjoy the riding lessons, though."

Michelle didn't even hear her mom hang up the phone, and she jumped when her mom walked in the room.

"Sweetie, I want to talk to you about something."

Michelle put the phone down. "I didn't mean to eavesdrop. I was going to call Anna."

"So you heard about the riding lessons?" Mom asked.

Michelle nodded.

"I can't afford to buy a horse, but I thought you'd like to learn to ride one. Mrs. Mayberry at the stables on Oak Street gives lessons every Saturday. I just



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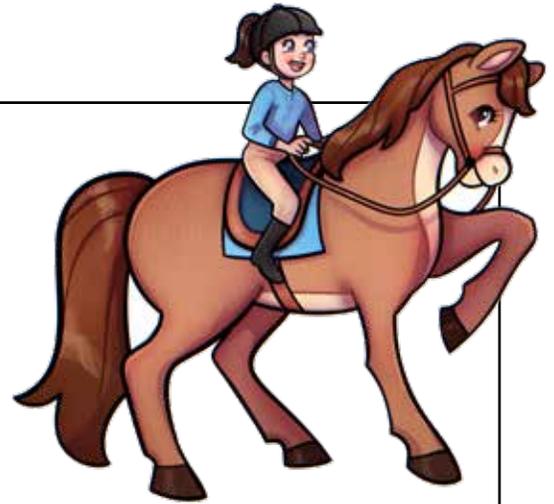
"So you're not disappointed?"

Michelle hugged her mom.

"It's the best birthday present ever."



Name: _____



The Best Birthday Present

By Kelly Hashway

1. How did Anna get her horse?
 - a. It was a birthday present from her parents.
 - b. Anna and her family bought it for her.
 - c. Anna's grandmother gave it to her for her birthday.
 - d. She bought it with her own money.



Preview

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5. What two things does Anna have to do each day to take care of her horse?

6. At one point in the story, Michelle tells her mother, "I didn't mean to eavesdrop." What does the word eavesdrop mean?

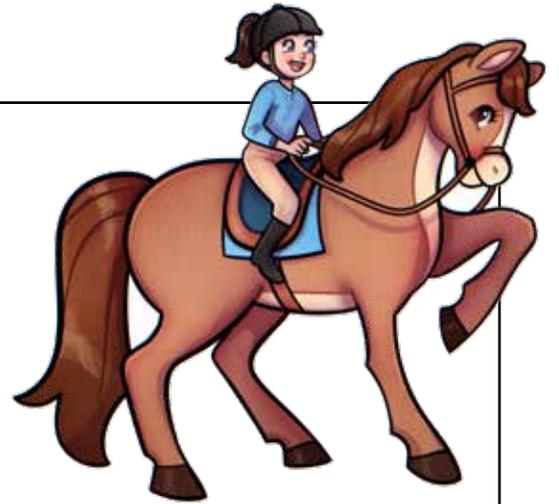
- a. to complain in a whining voice
- b. to be jealous of something someone else has
- c. to drop something on the ground and break it
- d. to listen in on someone else's conversation

Name: _____

The Best Birthday Present

By Kelly Hashway

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



1. _____ budget

a. costly



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5. _____ eavesdrop

e. to end a phone call

6. _____ disappointed

f. building where horses are kept

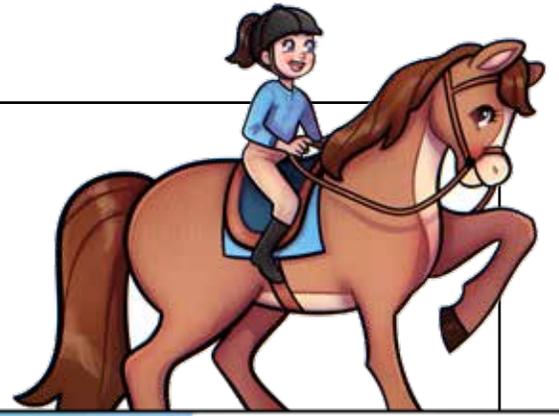
7. _____ expensive

g. to listen in on someone's conversation

8. _____ hang up

h. take care of an animal's coat by brushing or cleaning it

Now try this: Find each of the words above in the story and highlight them.



The Best Birthday Present

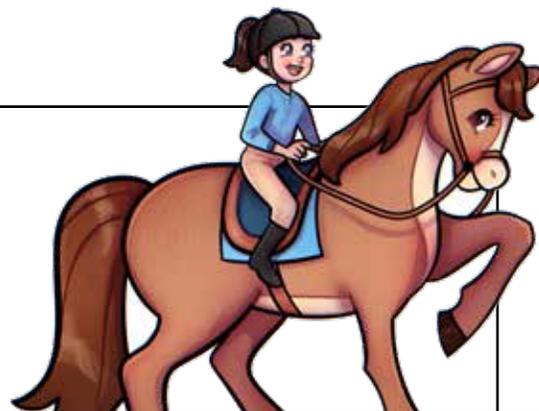
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What does the word eavesdrop mean?

- a. to complain in a whining voice
- b. to be jealous of something someone else has
- c. to drop something on the ground and break it
- d. to listen in on someone else's conversation**



The Best Birthday Present

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8. e. hang up

h. take care of an animal's coat by brushing or cleaning it

Now try this: Find each of the words above in the story and highlight them.