



Entry Level 3 Literacy

The Birthday Present

On Wednesday morning I woke up to the sound of my alarm clock ringing. I hate that sound! I looked at the ceiling for a moment and then remembered, 'Oh, no! It's my mum's birthday and I haven't got her a present!'

I quickly got up, had a shower, got dressed and ran straight to the shops. I called my friend Jenny on the way.

'Jenny, it's my mum's birthday, what will I get her?'

'Er, get her what you always get.'

'What's that?' I said.

'Nothing!' said Jenny.

'I want to do something different this year,' I said, still thinking.

'My sister always buys her perfume, so that's out and my brother Joe always takes her for lunch to a fancy restaurant, he's got loads of money! I, on the other hand, am skint!'

'Well, what does she like?' asked Jenny.

'She does love that cat of hers. 'Missy,' she calls it, 'Missy Moo,' — it's so embarrassing!'

'Hey, I know this shop that sells clothes for cats. I'm not kidding, it's well funny! Why don't you get a new outfit for Missy!' said Jenny.

For some reason I thought this was a good idea. So I went to the shop Jenny told me about. As it was National Pirate Day, I bought a pirate costume for Missy, with an eye-patch, a hat and a fake parrot to sit on her shoulder.

It wasn't easy getting Missy into the outfit, I can tell you! I now have several scratches and a large bite mark on my thumb, but I thought it would be worth it just to see the look on my mum's face.

My mum came home after having a delicious lunch with my rich brother Joe. As she opened the door she saw Missy. She stopped dead for a moment, kind of moved her head from side to side and then let out a terrible scream! 'Aarrgghh! Oh my God, there's a ferret in the house! I can't stand ferrets!'

She turned and ran out of the room.

I went after her and (after she calmed down) explained about the costume. She said she'd never seen a cat dressed as a pirate before, but that a ferret wearing a red bandana had once bitten her at a fairground — It was something she'd never forgotten. She did say thank you for the present, though, and that it was the thought that counted.

'I think I'll just buy a cake next time.' I thought to myself.

Name_____ Date_____

QUESTIONS

A. Answer these questions in sentences.

1. What had the boy forgotten?
2. What was his friend's name?
3. What did his brother and sister buy for their mother's birthday?
4. What was the cat's name?
5. What idea did Jenny have?
6. Name three things the cat was wearing?
7. Why did the mother scream?
8. What was the ferret wearing on its head?
9. What did the boy say he would buy next year?
10. What would be another good name for the story?

Name_____ Date_____

QUESTIONS

B. Put these words into alphabetical order.

reason	lost	boat	area	parachute	treasure
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C. Look up these words in the dictionary and write down their meanings.

morsel	lava	topaz	vixen	wonky	ballot
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D. Write some sentences using each of the words below.

book	clock	purple
excellent	computer	dancing
February	friendly	remember