

Name: _____

The Perfect Gift

By Kelly Hashway

Colin walked through the mall with his head down. He couldn't bear to look at another window display of great Christmas gifts he couldn't afford. There were only a few days left until Christmas, and Colin still didn't have a present for his parents. He



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Christmas. They loved it so much they had it framed.”

Colin knew that was true. The poem hung in the living room right above the fireplace. But Colin wasn't good at writing poems, so that didn't really help him.

“It doesn't have to be a poem,” Whitney said. “It could be anything that makes them think of you whenever they look at it. That's why homemade gifts are special— because they make you think of the person who made it.”

“But I don't know how to make anything Mom and Dad would actually want,” Colin said, kicking a tiny pebble across the parking lot.

Whitney opened the car door. "Yes, you do! You're always drawing those funny little comics. Why don't you do a family portrait as a comic? Mom and Dad would love it!"



"Maybe," Colin said. He thought about the idea the whole way home. He even pictured how he would draw everyone.

For the next two days, Colin drew sketch after sketch, trying to get everyone drawn perfectly. Finally he had everyone just right, even down to



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moment she saw the comic, she started to cry.

"This is the best present you've ever given us, Colin," his mother said.

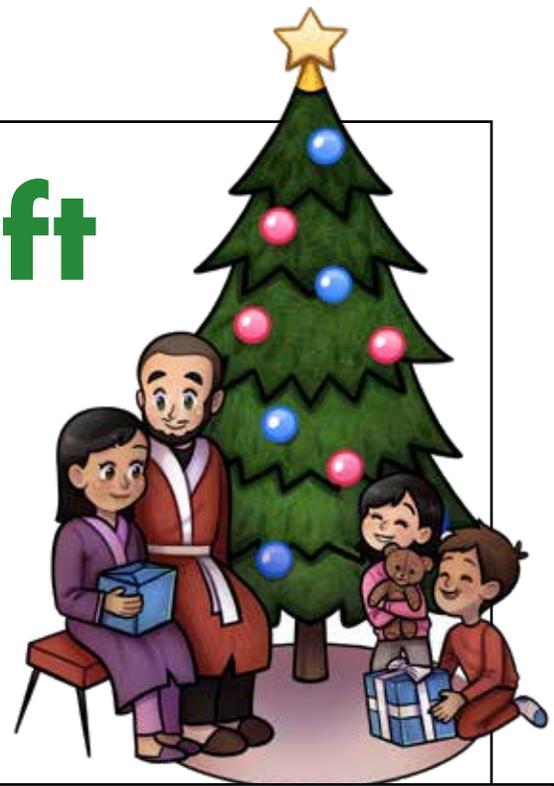
"I know just where to put it," his dad said with a smile. He took the drawing and placed it beside Whitney's poem above the fireplace.

Colin stared up at the comic. It really was the perfect gift.

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1. How does Colin feel in the beginning of the story?

- a. excited
- b. angry
- c. disappointed
- d. curious

2. Who is Whitney?

- a. Colin's older sister
- b. Colin's older brother
- c. Colin's mother
- d. Colin's younger sister



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5. Where did Colin's father put the gift?

6. What would be another good title for this story?

- a. Colin and Whitney's Gift
- b. A Gift for Colin's Mom
- c. The Picture Perfect Present
- d. Family Christmas Poem

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line.



1. _____ e d



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clue: very small rock

5. _____ i c _____

clue: tuft of hair that is standing up

6. _____ o _____ n _____

clue: particular point in time

7. _____ o _____

clue: written passage with rhymes

8. _____ a _____ e d

clue: put a paper in a wooden or plastic case with a glass front

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

ANSWER KEY

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6. What would be another good title for this story?

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ANSWER KEY

The Perfect Gift



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7. p o e m

clue: written passage with rhymes

7. _____ **poem** _____

8. f r a m e d

clue: put a paper in a wooden or plastic
case with a glass front

8. _____ **framed** _____