

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 builds trust," she'd say. "It shows you care about others, which leads to stronger friendships."

"Remember what Mrs. Evans always says—honesty builds trust," Maya said to Ben.

"Those are just nice words they have to tell you in school," said Ben. "Take the money."

Maya looked around. No one was nearby. "I should take it to the office," she said, her voice a little shaky.

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?

3. How did Mrs. Peterson respond when Maya took the money to the office?

- a. She was upset that Maya didn't turn it in sooner.
- 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___ion

clue: noisy disturbance

1. _____

2. h___si___ted

clue: paused before saying or doing something

2. _____

3. g___n___d

clue: reflected small flashes of light

3. _____

4. f___nt___lly

clue: in a nervous or panic-stricken way

4. _____

5. ___el___f

clue: a feeling of reassurance and relaxation

5. _____

6. w___ed

clue: filled up

6. _____

7. ___r___p___ed

clue: broke out

7. _____

8. c___p

clue: neat; clean; sharp

8. _____

ANSWER KEY

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Answers may vary. An example is:

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.

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

Maya was brave because she had to stand up to Ben. Ben was trying to convince Maya to keep the money. Maya was brave when she did what she believed was right and didn't listen to others.

3. How did Mrs. Peterson respond when Maya took the money to the office?

- a. She was upset that Maya didn't turn it in sooner.
- 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? **Answers may vary. An example is:**

Maya's honesty benefited Alex because he got his money back and was able to buy lunch.

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

