

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Graduation Party

By Kelly Hashway



Chris hauled the last folding chair up from the basement. He set it out on the deck and poured himself a glass of lemonade from the pitcher on the card table.

"Christopher, that's for the party," his mother said.

"But I'm thirsty."

"Then get yourself a drink from the refrigerator. And when you're done, your father needs help setting up the volleyball net."

"Why isn't Kurt helping?" Chris asked. "It's his party. Why am I stuck doing all the work while he's out with his friends?"

The phone rang and Mom ran inside muttering, "That better not be the caterers with another problem. That food was supposed to be delivered an hour ago."

Chris poured himself another glass of lemonade, figuring his mom was too preoccupied to notice.

"Chris!" Dad yelled from the backyard. "I need a hand with this net."

"Coming!" Chris tossed his cup in the garbage and headed down the steps to the backyard. Kurt's Mustang pulled into the driveway. Chris turned and glared at his brother. "Hey, Chris," Kurt said.

"The caterers are on their way," Chris's mom said, practically running down the deck stairs. "I think we'll set up the gift table next to the refreshments. Chris could you get another card table from the basement?"

"After he helps me with this net," Dad said.

"I'm going to take a shower before the party," Kurt said, heading inside. Unbelievable, Chris thought. I'm doing all the work and he's going to shower? Chris helped his father with the volleyball net and then searched the basement for another table. He spotted one behind some boxes in the space under the stairs. He tried to push them aside but they were too heavy.

"I'll get it," Kurt said, coming up behind him.

"It's about time you did something."

"What's that about?" Kurt asked, looking hurt.

"This is your party. But I've been doing everything. And people are going to give you presents and money. What do I get? Nothing. I wasted my whole day setting up while you hung out with your friends."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



"You thought I was hanging out with my friends?"

"Weren't you?"

"No. I was working. I had to get a job to help pay for college. I've been mopping floors at the supermarket since five o'clock this morning."

"Oh," Chris said. Suddenly carrying

: a few tables and chairs didn't seem so bad. "There's still an hour until the party starts. You should relax. Take a nap or something."

: "You don't mind helping with the set up while I nap?" Kurt asked.

: "No." Chris smiled. "Happy graduation."

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1. When does this story mostly take place?
  - a. at Chris and Kurt's house
  - b. at a park near Chris and Kurt's house
  - c. shortly before Chris's graduation party
  - d. shortly before Kurt's graduation party

2. Why was Chris upset with Kurt?

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3. Where was Chris's brother Kurt during the day, and what was he doing?

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4. Which job **didn't** Chris's family have to do to prepare for the party?

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| a. cook food for the party | b. bring tables and chairs from the basement |
| c. put up a volleyball net | d. make lemonade for the party               |

5. If Kurt left the supermarket at 1:00 pm, how many hours was he working? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Place the events in order. Write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th.

\_\_\_\_\_ The phone rang and Mom answered it.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chris brought up the folding chairs from the basement.

\_\_\_\_\_ Kurt left home to go to the supermarket.

\_\_\_\_\_ Kurt takes a nap.

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line.  
Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ e n \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** synonym for cellar

2. \_\_\_ u \_\_\_ t \_\_\_ \_\_\_ i n \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** speaking in a low voice that is difficult to hear

3. \_\_\_ r e \_\_\_ \_\_\_ c \_\_\_ \_\_\_ i \_\_\_ d \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** busy with something; lost in thought or work

4. \_\_\_ u s \_\_\_ \_\_\_ n \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** type of sports car made by Ford

5. \_\_\_ a t \_\_\_ \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ s \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** people who are hired to prepare food

6. \_\_\_ u \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ a r \_\_\_ e t \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** large grocery store

7. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ d u \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ n \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** celebration to honor a student who has finished high school or college





# ANSWER KEY

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1. When does this story mostly take place?

- a. at Chris and Kurt's house
- b. at a park near Chris and Kurt's house
- c. shortly before Chris's graduation party

**d. shortly before Kurt's graduation party**

2. Why was Chris upset with Kurt?

**Chris has been working hard to help prepare for Kurt's graduation party and he thought Kurt was hanging out with his friends all day.**

3. Where was Chris's brother Kurt during the day, and what was he doing?

**Kurt got a job at the supermarket and he was mopping floors.**

4. Which job **didn't** Chris's family have to do to prepare for the party?

**a. cook food for the party**

b. bring tables and chairs from the basement

c. put up a volleyball net

d. make lemonade for the party

5. If Kurt left the supermarket at 1:00 pm, how many hours was he working? **8 hours**

6. Place the events in order. Write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th.

**3rd** The phone rang and Mom answered it.

**2nd** Chris brought up the folding chairs from the basement.

**1st** Kurt left home to go to the supermarket.

**4th** Kurt takes a nap.

# ANSWER KEY

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. b a s e m e n t                      **basement**  
\_\_\_\_\_   
**hint:** synonym for cellar
2. m u t t e r i n g                      **muttering**  
\_\_\_\_\_   
**hint:** speaking in a low voice that is difficult to hear
3. p r e o c c u p i e d                      **preoccupied**  
\_\_\_\_\_   
**hint:** busy with something; lost in thought or work
4. M u s t a n g                      **Mustang**  
\_\_\_\_\_   
**hint:** type of sports car made by Ford
5. c a t e r e r s                      **caterers**  
\_\_\_\_\_   
**hint:** people who are hired to prepare food
6. s u p e r m a r k e t                      **supermarket**  
\_\_\_\_\_   
**hint:** large grocery store
7. g r a d u a t i o n                      **graduation**  
\_\_\_\_\_   
**hint:** celebration to honor a student who has finished high school or college