

# The Moment of Truth

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Blue Dev. 3  
Power Builder

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- 1 “This is Ms. Hill,” Mr. Lopez told the volunteers at the animal shelter. The smiling woman beside him nodded. “As you know, Ms. Hill is a reporter. She is here to write a story on the shelter for the newspaper,” he said. “Emi, I’d like you to be in the photograph. You have volunteered the most hours this month.”
- 2 Emi opened her mouth to say something but quickly closed it. She averted his gaze. She also avoided looking at Carmen, her best friend. Carmen couldn’t help feeling a little hurt. Carmen had been helping Emi with her volunteer work this month. Emi had signed up to work two hours every day after school. But her softball coach scheduled practice on the same days at the same time. Emi had asked Carmen to take her place at the shelter on those days.
- 3 Carmen hadn’t minded helping Emi. She enjoyed working with the animals. But now she was offended. Her picture deserved to be in the newspaper. Her family would be so proud! Carmen decided not to say anything though. She didn’t want to embarrass Emi.
- 4 Just then a terrible screeching sound came from the Cat Room. Everyone rushed in to see what had happened. A scruffy cat named Jack was standing in front of a cage that housed a female cat and her kittens. Jack was snarling at the mother cat. Protecting her kittens, the mother cat hissed back at him.
- 5 Mr. Lopez grabbed a towel and tossed it over Jack. The cat continued hissing and growling. Mr. Lopez picked him up and placed him into his own cage. Afraid for her kittens, the mother cat stood with her fur straight up.
- 6 Red-faced, Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Hill if she would mind waiting in the lobby for a few minutes. He checked the volunteer schedule on the wall. “Emi,” he said patiently, “you were scheduled to feed the cats today. Did you forget to lock Jack’s cage?”
- 7 *Today is Friday*, Emi thought. *I didn’t arrive here until softball practice was over. Carmen fed the cats today. She must have forgotten to lock Jack’s cage.* She didn’t know how to respond to Mr. Lopez. She hadn’t mentioned to him that Carmen was helping her.
- 8 “Uh . . . I guess I did forget,” Emi said. “I’m really sorry.”
- 9 Carmen couldn’t let her friend take the blame for something she had done. “Mr. Lopez,” she spoke up. “I’m the one who forgot to lock Jack’s cage. Emi asked me to substitute for her at the shelter today and on some other days.”
- 10 “That’s right, Mr. Lopez,” Emi admitted. “I have softball practice three days a week, and Carmen has been taking my place. I should have told you that she has been helping me lately. I’m sure she has worked more hours than I have this month. Why don’t you take her picture for the newspaper story?”
- 11 Mr. Lopez glanced from Carmen to Emi. “I think both of you have learned something about telling the truth. Why don’t we include pictures of both of you in the newspaper? By the way, please remember to lock all the animal cages from now on,” he added with a smile.

## COMPREHENSION

- This story takes place at
  - softball practice.
  - an animal shelter.
  - a newspaper office.
- Emi signs up for two hours of volunteer work every day because
  - she knows Carmen will take her place.
  - she thinks she'll have time to do the work.
  - she wants her picture in the newspaper.
- At the beginning of the story, Mr. Lopez chooses Emi for the picture because
  - he likes her best.
  - he has seen her working after school every day.
  - her name is on the schedule most often.
- Which happens last?
  - Mr. Lopez decides to put both girls in the picture.
  - Carmen admits that she forgot to lock the cage.
  - Emi admits that Carmen has been taking her place.
- If Carmen hadn't admitted she forgot to lock the cage, she probably would have felt
  - peaceful because she didn't have to admit her mistake.
  - happy because no one would know that she made a mistake.
  - guilty because she hadn't told the truth.
- Mr. Lopez decides to put both girls in the picture because they
  - told the truth.
  - made mistakes.
  - promised to lock the cages from now on.
- At the end of the story, Carmen probably feels
  - angry that she did Emi's work.
  - glad that she told the truth.
  - jealous that Emi will be in the newspaper.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

- A** Often you can tell the meaning of a word from other words and ideas in the story.

In each paragraph shown in parentheses, find the word that best matches the meaning below. Write the word.

- gave time freely (1)
- turned away from (2)
- a steady look (2)
- growling (4)
- without hurrying (6)

- B** One good way to learn words is to use them.

Read each sentence. Look back at the paragraph, and find the word that best completes each sentence below. Write the word.

- When is the game \_\_\_\_? (2)
- The more you \_\_\_\_, the better you will get. (2)
- The crow was \_\_\_\_ from a branch high in the tree. (4)



## LEARN ABOUT WORDS (continued)

- 9 The woman's coat was dirty and \_\_\_\_\_. (4)
- 10 She didn't want to \_\_\_\_ to the question. (7)

## WORD STUDY

**C** Some words appeal to the sense of smell, taste, hearing, or touch. For example, *greasy* appeals to the sense of touch.

Select the one word in each sentence that most appeals to the sense of smell, taste, hearing, or touch. Write the word.

- 11 Dad's chin always feels sandpapery in the morning.
- 12 The lemonade was tangy, just the way I like it.
- 13 The airplane thundered across the sky over our heads.
- 14 The snow had turned slushy by afternoon.
- 15 Those brownies are really chewy!
- 16 The air was smoky long after the fire was extinguished.
- 17 The wind seemed to moan as it blew over the lake.
- 18 The engine roared as the driver pushed the car to full throttle.

**D** tree grass sky flower

Of the four words, *sky* does not belong because it names a place, and the other three words are names of plants.

In each list, one word does not belong with the other words. Write the word that does not belong.

- 19 eyes face nose mouth
- 20 salmon trout tuna chicken
- 21 petal rose daisy daffodil
- 22 walk run yell jog
- 23 robin bird eagle blue jay
- 24 book news newspaper magazine
- 25 milk ice cream eggs cheese

## Comprehension

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| <b>1</b> b | <b>5</b> c |
| <b>2</b> b | <b>6</b> a |
| <b>3</b> c | <b>7</b> b |
| <b>4</b> a |            |

## Learn about Words

- |          |                      |                    |
|----------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>A</b> | <b>1</b> volunteered | <b>4</b> snarling  |
|          | <b>2</b> averted     | <b>5</b> patiently |
|          | <b>3</b> gaze        |                    |
| <b>B</b> | <b>6</b> scheduled   | <b>9</b> scruffy   |
|          | <b>7</b> practice    | <b>10</b> respond  |
|          | <b>8</b> screeching  |                    |

## Word Study

- |          |                      |                  |
|----------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>C</b> | <b>11</b> sandpapery | <b>15</b> chewy  |
|          | <b>12</b> tangy      | <b>16</b> smoky  |
|          | <b>13</b> thundered  | <b>17</b> moan   |
|          | <b>14</b> slushy     | <b>18</b> roared |
| <b>D</b> | <b>19</b> face       | <b>23</b> bird   |
|          | <b>20</b> chicken    | <b>24</b> news   |
|          | <b>21</b> petal      | <b>25</b> eggs   |
|          | <b>22</b> yell       |                  |