

# The Birthday Surprise

**Genre:** Fiction **Reading Level:** 300L **Grade:** 1st

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Today is Mom's birthday. Jake wants to do something special for her. He has 15  
a secret plan. 18

Early in the morning, Jake wakes up quietly. He goes to the kitchen. His big 32  
sister Anna is already there. 37

"Are you ready to make breakfast for Mom?" asks Anna. 46

"Yes!" whispers Jake with a big smile. 53

Anna helps Jake make pancakes. Jake cracks the eggs very carefully. Anna 65  
mixes the batter. Jake pours the pancakes on the pan. They look perfect! 78

Next, Jake picks flowers from the garden. He puts them in a pretty vase. 92  
Anna sets the table with Mom's favorite dishes. 100

"Everything looks beautiful," says Anna. "Let's wake up Mom!" 109

They bring the breakfast tray to Mom's bedroom. Mom opens her eyes and sees 123  
the surprise. 125

"Happy birthday, Mom!" they shout together. 131

Mom smiles so big. "This is the best birthday surprise ever!" she says. She 145  
gives Jake and Anna huge hugs. 151

Jake feels proud. He made Mom's birthday special! 159

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. Whose birthday is it in the story?
2. What does Jake make for breakfast?
3. Who helps Jake with the surprise?
4. Why does Jake feel proud at the end of the story?