

Grade 6 Reading - Fiction #2

Ralph's Birthday Surprise

Ralph was eagerly counting down the days to his 12th birthday. He had been dreaming about hosting his party at the local bowling alley for weeks. The thought of spending the day with his best friends, Thomas, Justine, Marcus, and Dustin, brought a big smile to his face.

On the morning of his birthday, Ralph woke up to the sound of cheerful birds chirping outside his window. He quickly jumped out of bed and ran downstairs, excited to start the day. His parents greeted him with warm hugs and wished him a happy birthday. Ralph couldn't wait to see his friends and show off his bowling skills.

As Ralph arrived at the bowling alley with his parents, he noticed Thomas, Justine, Marcus, and Dustin waiting for him near the entrance. However, something seemed off. None of them were holding any presents. Ralph felt a pang of disappointment but quickly reminded himself that having his friends there was the most important thing.

"Hey guys, I'm so glad you made it!" Ralph exclaimed with a grin.

"Happy birthday, Ralph!" they all cheered in unison.

They headed towards the lanes and put on their snazzy bowling shoes. Ralph's heart pounded with excitement as they took turns rolling the ball down the lane. Strike after strike, he couldn't help but feel a little sad that he hadn't received any gifts. Nonetheless, he focused on enjoying the game and the company of his friends.

After Ralph's 4th strike, Thomas handed him a beautifully wrapped box. Ralph's eyes widened as he unwrapped it to find a brand new video game he had been eyeing for months. "Wow, thanks, Thomas! You really know what I like!" Ralph exclaimed, his disappointment fading away.

Justine was next, surprising Ralph with a comic book collection featuring his favorite superhero. Marcus followed suit with a custom-made basketball, knowing Ralph's love for the sport. Dustin presented him with a gift card to his favorite ice cream parlor, and Ralph couldn't help but smile with delight.

The game continued, and every time Ralph hit a strike, his friends surprised him with outstanding gifts. Each present was carefully chosen, reflecting Ralph's interests and passions. Ralph's heart swelled with gratitude, realizing that the best gift was the friendship they shared.

As they approached the end of the game, the sound of familiar laughter caught Ralph's attention. He turned towards the entrance of the bowling alley and his eyes widened in disbelief. There, standing in the doorway, was his long-time friend Emily. Ralph's heart skipped a beat as he ran towards her, unable to contain his excitement.

"Emily! Is it really you?" Ralph exclaimed, his voice filled with a mixture of surprise and joy.

Emily's face lit up with a bright smile as she replied, "Surprise, Ralph! I couldn't miss your special day. Happy birthday!"

The entire group gathered around, enveloping Emily in a warm embrace. It had been three long years since they last saw each other, and Ralph couldn't believe that Emily had made the journey all the way from California to be there with him on his birthday.

As they settled back into their bowling shoes, Ralph couldn't help but feel a sense of completeness. Having Emily by his side, the celebrations felt even more special. They shared stories of their adventures, catching up on everything that had happened since Emily moved away.

With renewed enthusiasm, they started another game, each frame filled with laughter, friendly banter, and strikes. Ralph's happiness soared as he saw his friends cheering him on with every roll of the ball. And every time he hit a strike, the surprises continued.

Emily presented him with a scrapbook filled with memories from their childhood days. It was a testament to their enduring friendship, capturing their shared laughter, silly antics, and heartfelt moments. Ralph's eyes welled up with tears as he flipped through the pages, reliving precious memories.

The game came to an end, but the celebrations were far from over. The group gathered at a cozy corner of the bowling alley, sharing a delicious birthday cake with colorful candles flickering on its surface. The room echoed with laughter, as they reminisced about the unforgettable day they had spent together.

As the day drew to a close, Ralph realized that his 12th birthday had turned into a celebration of not only another year of his life but also the cherished bonds he shared with his friends. Material gifts no longer held any significance compared to the joy, laughter, and memories they had created together.

With grateful hearts, they said their goodbyes, promising to keep in touch and planning their next reunion. Ralph watched as Emily waved goodbye from the doorway, feeling a renewed sense of gratitude for the enduring friendships that had shaped his life.

1. Why was Ralph disappointed at the beginning of his birthday party?

- A) His friends didn't show up.
- B) The bowling alley was closed.
- C) His friends didn't bring any presents.
- D) He didn't like the presents he received.

2. What does the word "snazzy" mean in the passage?

- A) Colorful and attractive
- B) Old-fashioned and worn out
- C) Noisy and chaotic
- D) Slippery and wet

3. What did Thomas give Ralph as a birthday gift?

- A) A video game
- B) A comic book collection

- C) A custom-made basketball
 - D) A gift card to an ice cream parlor
4. Why did Ralph's disappointment fade away?
- A) His friends started bringing him gifts.
 - B) He received a phone call from his favorite celebrity.
 - C) He won the bowling game.
 - D) He ate a delicious pizza.
5. What was the best gift Ralph received on his birthday?
- A) A video game
 - B) A comic book collection
 - C) A custom-made basketball
 - D) The friendship of his friends
6. What does the word "pang" mean in the passage?
- A) A sudden feeling of joy
 - B) A small amount of money
 - C) A sharp feeling of disappointment
 - D) A loud noise
7. Who showed up as a surprise guest at the end of the game?
- A) Ralph's parents
 - B) Thomas
 - C) Justine
 - D) Emily
8. What did the group do when Emily arrived?
- A) They continued playing without acknowledging her.
 - B) They sang "Happy Birthday" to Emily.
 - C) They celebrated Ralph's birthday together.
 - D) They went out for ice cream.
9. Why did the author choose to write this passage?
- A) To teach readers about the game of bowling.
 - B) To show the importance of friendship over material gifts.
 - C) To promote the idea of celebrating birthdays in bowling alleys.

D) To share the author's personal experience of hosting a bowling party.

Answers:

1. C) His friends didn't bring any presents
2. A) Colorful and attractive
3. A) A video game
4. A) His friends started bringing him gifts.
5. D) The friendship of his friends
6. C) A sharp feeling of disappointment
7. D) Emily
8. C) They celebrated Ralph's birthday together.
9. B) To show the importance of friendship over material gifts.