The Mystery of the Missing Backpack

It was a Friday afternoon, and Alex had just finished his last class of the day. He was excited because the weekend was finally here. He packed his books into his backpack and walked out of school, thinking about the football match he was going to play the next morning.

As he reached the bus stop, he realized something strange—his backpack wasn't on his shoulders. He turned around quickly, his heart racing. Had he left it in the classroom? He ran back inside, but when he checked under his desk, it was gone. He asked his classmates, but no one had seen it.

Feeling anxious, Alex went to the school's lost and found office. The teacher in charge shook her head. "I'm sorry, Alex. No one has brought in a backpack today."

Alex started to panic. His notebook, his favorite pen, and even his football jersey were inside that bag. He decided to retrace his steps. He checked the cafeteria, the playground, and even the library, but there was no sign of it.

Just as he was about to give up, his friend Mia ran towards him, out of breath. "Alex! I saw someone walking out of school with a bag that looked like yours."

"Really? Who was it?" Alex asked, hopeful.

"I think it was Tom, the new boy in our class," Mia said.

Alex and Mia found Tom sitting alone under a tree in the schoolyard. His hands were nervously gripping a backpack—Alex's backpack!

"Tom, that's my bag," Alex said, trying to stay calm.

Tom looked embarrassed. "I'm sorry," he said quietly. "I took it by accident. I have a backpack that looks just like this, and I didn't realize until I got outside."

Alex sighed in relief. "It's okay, just don't scare me like that again!" he said, laughing. Tom smiled and handed back the backpack.

That evening, Alex told his parents what had happened. "Sometimes, things aren't as bad as they seem," his dad said. Alex nodded, feeling grateful that he had such good friends.

Questions:

1. Why was Alex excited at the beginning of the story?

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2. When did he realize that his backpack was missing?

3. What were some things inside his backpack?

4. Where did Alex look for his backpack? Name at least two places.

5. Who told Alex that they had seen someone with his backpack?

6. Why did Tom take Alex's backpack?

7. How did Alex feel at the end of the story?

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