

Robert's envelope

Robert lived in a flat in a tall grey building in the city centre. From his window, he could only see other enormous skyscrapers, lots of taxis and other noisy traffic in the **busy** streets, and far away, the motorway.

Sometimes this made Robert feel **unhappy**. He liked watching television programmes about exploring countries where there were waterfalls, lakes or **wonderful** beaches. His favourite stories were about sailing across the ocean to have adventures with people who lived on **amazing** islands or in other unusual and exciting places.

"Why must we live in the middle of a city?" he asked his mother.

"Because my job at the hospital is here, Robert. But perhaps we can have a quiet holiday somewhere in the countryside next summer. Would you like that?" "Oh yes," Robert laughed.

After Robert put on his pyjamas and went to bed that night, he thought about going on holiday. But then he remembered something. Last year, his mother said the same thing, but they spent the summer at home in the city again because they didn't have enough money to buy tickets or to stay in hotels. "Oh well," he thought. "One day, perhaps."

On the school bus the next morning, Robert looked through the window and saw a boat on the river.

I'd like to travel down the river on a boat or across the sea on a huge ship one day, perhaps" he thought. Then he saw a train on a bridge near the city station. "I'd like to go over a high bridge on a fast train one day, too" he thought. Then he looked up into the sky and saw a plane. "I'd like to fly on a plane one day as well. I could look out of its windows at the woods and mountains below," he thought.

When school finished, Robert didn't want to go home by bus. He decided to walk. He walked past the shoe factory, the chemist's and then past the police station and around the corner at the bottom of the hill. But after he walked past the sports stadium, too, he began to feel tired so he sat down for a minute on the **low** wall outside the post office.

Then a strange thing happened. A black and white bird flew **down** from the sky and dropped an envelope between Robert's feet and then flew away again. Robert picked it up. On the front of the envelope, it said, "Read me," so Robert did.

Robert opened the envelope. There was some writing on a blue piece of paper inside. Robert read it very carefully.

"If you find this message, go and look in your biggest, oldest book."

Robert couldn't understand the message so he put it in his pocket and when he got home, he read it again. "**In your biggest, oldest book.** What does that mean?"

Robert decided to try something. He got a chair from the kitchen and carried it into the living room and stood on it. Their biggest and oldest book was on the **top** shelf of the bookcase. It was really heavy. When Robert opened the book, a thin envelope fell out. Inside the envelope was a strange card. It looked really old. When Robert opened it, he saw lots of numbers inside. Robert jumped off the chair and went to show the card to his mother. "What's this, mum?" he asked.

"it's the kind of card that banks wrote in a long time ago," she said. This person was **rich**. They saved lots of money. Oh look! There's a name on the front – Helen Bird. This is amazing! That was my grandmother's name. We must go to the bank tomorrow and show this to Mr. Flag."

When Mr. Flag saw the card the next day, he picked up his telephone and spoke to someone in an excited kind of way. He had a **big** smile on his face.

"Well," he said to Robert's mother when he finished talking on the phone, "you must thank your son for finding this. Your grandmother left all this money in our bank for you a long time ago, but we didn't know that until now. What would you like to buy with it?"

Robert's mother smiled, too. "Something that Robert wants very much."

When Robert came home from school later that afternoon, he found a bigger envelope on the kitchen table. "Open it if you want," his mother said.

Inside the envelope, there were two plane tickets, two train tickets, and two boat tickets.

"Mr. Flag says we've got enough money now. We can have a really great holiday."

"Because of your grandmother's **little** bank card?" Robert asked. "Yes," his mother said.

Robert looked out of the window at the **beautiful** sky. He couldn't see the black and **white** bird high in the clouds, but he knew it was there.

"And all because of the big black and white bird," Robert smiled.

"What do you mean?" his mother asked. "That's my special secret," Robert answered.

Answer the questions

- 1) Where did Robert live?
- 2) What could Robert see from his window?
- 3) What did he like watching?
- 4) Where did his mother work?
- 5) What did the bird drop between Robert's feet?
- 6) What was the message about?
- 7) Where was the oldest book?
- 8) What did Robert find inside the book?
- 9) Who was Helen Bird?
- 10) What did Helen leave them?
- 11) What did they do with their money?

Read and write True(T)/ False(F)

- 1) Robert lived in a flat in a tall blue building.
- 2) His mother works in a bank.
- 3) Robert went to school by bus.
- 4) The bird dropped an envelope between Robert's feet.
- 5) Robert found a small old book on the top shelf of the bookcase.
- 6) His grandmother was rich and she left them some money.
- 7) Robert's mother bought two plane tickets and two train tickets.
- 8) Robert went on holiday to Italy.

Read and complete the words

- 1) People often go up to the top floor of this in a lift because it's so high! **s** _____
- 2) This is a word for all the cars, lorries and buses that travel on our roads **t** _____
- 3) People can travel very quickly between cities on this kind of road. **m** _____
- 4) Doctors work here and people who are ill might stay here. **h** _____
- 5) It has rooms in it for people to sleep in when they are on holiday. **h** _____
- 6) You can walk or drive over a river on this and not get your feet wet! **b** _____

Find the opposite words in the story

1. small –	2. quiet-	3.happy-
4.terrible-	5.boring	6.high-
7.poor-	8.huge	9.ugly-
10.bottom	11.black	12.up-

What does Robert want to do? Tick (v) the correct boxes.



travel along the river
go fishing in the mountains
cross a high bridge

sail across the sea
live on an island
fly somewhere in a plane

Match the words with their definitions

tickets	a large area of trees growing near each other.
skyscrapers	a long, flat board fixed horizontally, usually against a wall
bridge	a vehicle with wings and one or more engines, which can fly through the air.
shelf	a small, official piece of paper or card which shows that you have paid to enter a place
plane	very tall buildings in a city.
traffic	between two places is a piece of land that joins or connects them.
waterfall	the vehicles coming and going in a street, town,
ship	a thin paper cover in which you put and send a letter
chemist's	is a large boat which carries passengers
envelope	difficult to lift or move
pocket	a place where water from a river or stream falls down over a cliff or rock
heavy	a main road for fast-moving traffic
motorway	a place where medicines are sold
wood	a place where you can put your money

Match words with pictures

chemist's heavy pocket wood envelope tickets ship waterfall
traffic shelf motorway bridge skyscrapers plane





Complete the sentences with the word

skyscrapers waterfall traffic chemist's tickets motorway
heavy bridge envelope shelf pocket ships wood plane

- 1) Is it possible to land a _____ on this island?
- 2) They built a _____ across the river.
- 3) The _____ are in the center of the city.
- 4) What's the speed limit on the _____?
- 5) An _____ and a stamp, please.
- 6) There is a _____ above the bridge.
- 7) My wallet's in my _____.
- 8) _____ is heavy on this street.
- 9) We saw many _____ in the harbor.
- 10) Are airplane _____ expensive?
- 11) We bought this medicine at the _____ shop.
- 12) There's a dictionary on the _____.
- 13) Dry _____ burns quickly.
- 14) My suitcase isn't as _____ as Tom's.