

A Red Elephant

1 Amber followed her mother and brother to the check-out line at Misty's Minute Market. Inside a cardboard box on the floor beside the cash register, she saw a little, red elephant. It was so pretty. Amber reached inside the box and pulled it out. As she held the precious elephant in her small hand, she knew she had to have it. She carefully placed the elephant in her pocket.

2 When Amber got into the backseat of the car with her older brother, she pulled the elephant from her pocket and examined it closely. The red elephant appeared to have once been a ring, but now the band was broken off. She didn't mind. The elephant was so pretty on its own. Amber looked up and noticed her brother watching her. "Where did you get that?" he inquired. Amber didn't answer and quickly put the elephant back in her pocket.

3 As the car pulled into the driveway at her home, Amber's stomach began to feel sick. She thought about the elephant and how she had taken it from the box.

4 A little later, her father's head appeared in her doorway. "Why the sour face?" he asked. Amber placed the elephant on the bed. Her voice cracked as she told her father about taking the elephant from the box at the store. "That elephant doesn't belong to you, and yet, here it is," he said. "What are you going to do about it?" Amber looked sorrowfully up at him with tearful eyes. She knew what she had to do. She could see the writing on the wall.

5 The next day felt like the longest day of her life. Amber couldn't eat, she didn't feel like playing with her toys, and she didn't want to see her friends. At last, her father came home from work. Amber climbed into his car, and they drove to Misty's.

6 Amber's hands were shaking as she walked slowly into the store. She waited in line to talk to Misty, imagining herself in handcuffs. Misty turned to her, and Amber began to sob. She pulled the elephant from her pocket, handed it to Misty, and whispered, "I'm sorry I took this."

7 Without hesitation, Misty came around the counter and kneeled down beside Amber. "I forgive you," she said as she hugged Amber. "I had thrown this away because it was broken. You can keep it if you'd like to."

8 Amber looked over to her father, and he nodded his head. She looked at Misty. "Next time, I'll ask before I take something. Even if it's in a box of trash, it isn't mine to take." Misty gave her a wink and smiled again. Amber smiled back.

1. In this online dictionary entry, select the definition of feel as it is used in paragraph 5.

feel

v. 1. be aware of (a person or object) through touching or being touched
2. experience (an emotion or sensation)
n. 3. an act of touching something to examine it
4. a sensation given by an object or material when touched

A. definition 1
 B. definition 2
 C. definition 3
 D. definition 4

2. In paragraph 4, all of the following help the reader understand the meaning of sorrowfully EXCEPT--

A. tearful eyes
 B. a father's head
 C. sour face
 D. voice cracked

3.

v. 1. To inspect someone or something in detail.
2. To test the knowledge of someone by requiring them to answer questions and perform tasks.
3. To question in regard to one's conduct.
4. To test or observe in order to evaluate someone's general health or determine the cause of illness.

In this online dictionary entry, which word from paragraph 2 would best match the definitions given?

A. examined B. appeared C. noticed D. waited

4. Which words would appear on the same dictionary page with these guide words?

scissors		sticky

study	stencils	supplies	sleep
syrup	setback	sandals	scenery

5. Match each sentence to its correct dictionary definition.

charge

n. 1. the price required for something
n. 2. an assigned responsibility
v. 3. to accuse of wrong-doing
v. 4. to rush or attack

Aunt Pat was livid when she saw the charge on her phone bill. _____

While the British were sleeping, General Washington prepared the colonists to charge their unsuspecting enemy. _____

Angel was left in charge of her little brothers until their parents returned home. _____

The criminal was charged with reckless driving and running from the police. _____

6. A thesaurus is different from a dictionary because it --

- A is used to give meaning to a word
- B.a word reference material
- C.found in the back of most textbooks
- D used to find synonyms for words

The Mail's Gotta Go Thru

WANTED — young, skinny, tough fellows not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Apply at the Pony Express Stables.

1 A new kind of mailman was being recruited. The new nation was quickly expanding. Almost half a million settlers lived in the western states. They hungered for news of the relatives and friends they had left behind in the East. Steamship mail took up to six weeks to arrive. Ships sailed down the Atlantic coast from New York to the Isthmus of Panama. Mail sacks had to be moved across the Isthmus by railroad. Then they were flung onto another ship. It sailed up the Pacific coast to San Francisco, California. Stagecoach mail also provided regular communication between the East and West. Stages took a safer route to the south. Mail took an average of three weeks by stagecoach.

2 With the motto "The mail's got to go thru!", the Pony Express Company proposed to cover the distance between St. Louis, Missouri and Sacramento, California, in ten days! How could they achieve this incredible feat? The company believed that a central route was better than the longer, southern one. Many people were skeptical that the company could back up its claim. "Ten days!" they cried with disbelief. "Impossible! It simply can't be done!" The Pony Express did launch its service on April 3, 1860. It proved them wrong!

3 The route began in St. Joseph, Missouri, where the country's railroads ended. It extended for 1,966 miles. First it followed the Oregon Trail into Wyoming. Then riders swung south of the Great Salt Lake. They headed due west across the Salt Desert to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Finally, they rode into Sacramento.

4 The Pony Express route was a relay race against time. There were 190 relay stations along the route. Here a rider would trade in his exhausted horse for a fresh mount. He rode to the next relay station and quickly traded again. A rider might change horses as many as five times before he reached his "home" station. Once there he would pitch the mail bags to a new rider. This man would spur his horse toward the next station. Like the baton in a relay race, the mail was transported across the desert and mountains.

5 On October 24, 1861, the Pony Express went out of business. It was no longer needed. Telegraph lines had been raised all over the country. Messages could be sent from coast to coast instantly over the telegraph wires.

6 The Pony Express operated for 18 months. Pony Express riders covered 650,000 miles, but the mail was lost only one time. It helped settlers feel less isolated from their family and friends in the East. Over 150 years have passed since these brave men and boys rode the trails, but they continue being reminders of the true pioneer spirit.

7. In this online dictionary entry, select the definition of launch as it is used in paragraph 2.

launch (lawnch)

v. 1. To set a ship in water.
2. To start something in motion.
3. To send spacecraft into orbit.
4. To throw with force.

A. To set a ship in water C. To send spacecraft into orbit
 B. To start something in motion D. To throw with force

8. What would be the best resource for the author to use if they wanted to replace the word "exhausted"?

A. an atlas C. an almanac
 B. a dictionary D. a thesaurus

9. What does the word feat mean as it is used in paragraph 2?

A. an amazing journey C. a surprising purpose
 B. a remarkable accomplishment D. an unfavorable position

10. Select the meaning of save as it is used in this sentence.

After any large meal, the family likes to save the leftovers to use for another meal.

A. to rescue from harm or danger
 B. to treat with care by avoiding danger
 C. to prevent the waste of something
 D. to set aside for future use