

Honesty, Honestly!

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

“And then, a wild bear ran up and attacked me, knocking me off my bike.” Johnny exclaimed, pointing to the thin scratches on his cheek.

“Whatever.” Someone cried. Another person groaned in disbelief.

Johnny looked around in confusion. “What?”

Chad sighed at his friend’s tall tale and his lack of ability to understand why no one ever believed him. Last week a UFO had supposedly scanned his brain and stolen his homework. “No one believes that monkey business, Johnny. It’s ridiculous.”

“Huh?” Johnny really looked surprised.

“Bears have big claws, so there’s no way your face got scratched by a bear.” Karl announced.

“A kitten maybe...” Brad offered with a snicker.

Johnny looked hurt as the accusations flew. “It really happened!” He protested, changing tactics and trying some humor this time. “You should have seen the zipper on his suit!”

“Oh, man! That is so lame.” Jenny smacked her forehead with her palm, frustrated by the turn in the story. “Stop this now, please.”

Susan put her hands on her hips, glared at Johnny, and declared, “Johnny, even your lies have lies now! Honestly, I can’t see why you just won’t tell the truth. I saw you scratch your face on the bushes as you swerved your bike to avoid a puddle.”

With that, everyone wandered off, muttering about honesty, everyone except Chad. It was his job to help pick up the pieces; that’s what friends were for.

“Why do you always have to tell weird stories?” Chad asked.

“They’re funny, aren’t they?”

“To a point, but then people want to know the real deal sometimes. Often, the truth can be just as interesting. You would have had them laughing if you told a silly story about why you can’t run through puddles or how you kissed a tree and it fought back viciously.”

“That would have been good.” Johnny agreed, grinning. “Kissed a tree with my cheek, eh?”

“That’s right. If you’re going to tell a story, at least make it believable, and you could try honesty now and then. It makes your stories funnier if you’re usually serious and then you pop out a silly one unexpectedly.”

Johnny nodded. “I’ll think about it. You’re probably right.”

“Probably?” Chad snorted. “You know I am.”



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. How did Johnny injure his face?
 - A. A bear scratched him.
 - B. A tree fought him.
 - C. He swerved his bike to miss a puddle and scratched his face on a tree.
 - D. No one knows.

2. How does Johnny claim it happened?
 - A. A bear scratched him.
 - B. A tree fought him.
 - C. He swerved his bike to miss a puddle and scratched his face on a tree.
 - D. No one knows.

3. Who knows what really happened, besides Johnny?
 - A. Chad
 - B. Susan
 - C. Karl
 - D. Jenny

4. How do the other kids feel about Johnny's stories?
 - A. They like them a lot.
 - B. They don't listen to them.
 - C. They think they are hilarious.
 - D. They are annoyed by them.

5. What advice does Chad give Johnny?
 - A. Tell the truth more and occasionally be silly.
 - B. Always tell the truth.
 - C. Stop playing around.
 - D. Ride your bike more safely.

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