

My Computer Died!

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Henry's computer began to act funny. It did this sometimes. It might start acting slow, or programs would crash. That usually meant it was time to reboot. Except, this time when he rebooted, the screen stayed black a long time. When the screen finally showed something, it was an error message.

Henry's blood ran cold, and a chill ran down his spine. He swallowed hard and rebooted again, only to get the same error. "Okay, calm down," he thought, "there must be an explanation or an easy fix."

He tried the few tricks he knew. He tried unplugging some of the devices. He tried booting a different way. He tried running some recovery software. NOTHING WORKED. A sick feeling welled up in his guts. His brain was telling him he was going to lose everything.

There was so much stuff on the computer he couldn't afford to lose. There were songs he liked, pictures from his vacations, homework files, stories he'd written, and pretty much his entire life was on there! What would he do if he lost everything? Panic set in.

He worked furiously for a couple more hours, but the answer was always the same. Even if he got the computer running, he would lose everything on it. He needed to start over. It was a horrible thought, and yet, if he had to start over, why not upgrade?

Suddenly, the idea of a new computer wasn't bad, and it kind of soothed the pain of losing every file on his old machine. He could start over with a faster, nicer, newer machine. He had the money, but he hadn't planned on buying one today.

A few hours later, he had a new computer. It was pretty slick. It was brand-spanking new, with all the toys and stuff that he could desire built into it. Now, he could even play the most recent video games, things his old machine just hadn't been good enough to play.

He still missed his old files, but Henry was quickly falling in love with his new computer. Sometimes, good things come of disasters, good enough to overlook the losses.



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

1. What happens to Henry?
 - A. His TV breaks.
 - B. He loses his video game.
 - C. His computer screen blows up.
 - D. His computer dies.

2. How does Henry feel at first about the computer problems?
 - A. He feels scared and worried.
 - B. He feels completely confident he can fix it.
 - C. He feels sad.
 - D. He feels excited about a new computer.

3. How does Henry feel after he realizes he can't fix the old computer?
 - A. He feels scared and worried.
 - B. He feels confident he can fix it.
 - C. He feels sad.
 - D. He feels excited about a new computer.

4. TRUE OR FALSE: Henry waits a few days to get his new computer?
 - A. True
 - B. False

5. What benefit comes from having to get a new computer?
 - A. He gets a good sale price.
 - B. He can finally play some of the newer games.
 - C. He can return the old computer.
 - D. Nothing good comes of it.

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