

Shipping a Box

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Thomas didn't live very close to his aunt and uncle or his cousins. His grandma and grandpa lived pretty far away, too. It made him sad sometimes, because he only got to see them occasionally, if they came to visit, or if someone drove down for the holidays.

This year, no one was coming to visit. The holidays would be alone with his family. No one was coming to visit. They were all busy or couldn't afford the trip.

To make himself feel more in the holiday spirit, he was making a care package for his favorite cousin, Alex. He'd gotten a box that he thought was the right size, and he'd had his mother buy a few of Alex's favorite snacks. Then he made a personalized card and signed it. That went into the box, also.

What else could he use to fill up the box? He tossed in one of his favorite books, because Alex read some of the same things he did. He put in a cool postcard as a bookmark. Even with that, it still wasn't enough. What else should go in there?

Thomas dug through his dresser drawer, the one where he kept all his cool stuff and treasures. He found some shark's teeth from his summer trip. They were cool. He packed a few of those in, as well as a neat rock he found when he went hiking in the fall. The box was nearly full, but he'd run out of ideas.

Mother saw him frowning at the box and handed him a colorfully-wrapped present. She winked as he read the label, which said: "From Uncle Gail and Marv to our Nephew Alex." Thomas smiled and packed everything in green tissue paper – Alex's favorite color. That was that!

All that was left to do was to put the address on the box and take it to the post office. They mailed it that afternoon, and Thomas rushed home to mark the date on the calendar. In three to five days, he was sure that Alex would call him, and they would talk for an hour about what he'd sent.

It was almost as good as seeing his cousin. Almost.



Shipping a Box

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. Why is Thomas sad?
 - A. He doesn't have any friends.
 - B. His girlfriend broke up with him.
 - C. His dog ran away.
 - D. No one is visiting for the holidays.

2. What does Thomas do to make himself feel better?
 - A. send a gift
 - B. eat some cookies
 - C. play some games
 - D. call his family

3. Which of these does Thomas NOT put in his box?
 - A. a post card
 - B. shark's teeth
 - C. some cake
 - D. a book

4. What is the last item he used to fill the box?
 - A. some bubble wrap
 - B. a gift from Mom and Dad to Alex
 - C. a bunch of old comic books
 - D. some Christmas cookies

5. Why is Thomas excited when the box gets shipped off?
 - A. He knows his cousin will call in a few days.
 - B. He likes to wait.
 - C. He wants to go shopping for someone else now.
 - D. He isn't excited. He's sad.

Shipping a Box

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

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

1. Why is Thomas sad?
 - A. He doesn't have any friends.
 - B. His girlfriend broke up with him.
 - C. His dog ran away.
 - D. No one is visiting for the holidays.**
2. What does Thomas do to make himself feel better?
 - A. send a gift**
 - B. eat some cookies
 - C. play some games
 - D. call his family
3. Which of these does Thomas NOT put in his box?
 - A. a post card
 - B. shark's teeth
 - C. some cake**
 - D. a book
4. What is the last item he used to fill the box?
 - A. some bubble wrap
 - B. a gift from Mom and Dad to Alex**
 - C. a bunch of old comic books
 - D. some Christmas cookies
5. Why is Thomas excited when the box gets shipped off?
 - A. He knows his cousin will call in a few days.**
 - B. He likes to wait.
 - C. He wants to go shopping for someone else now.
 - D. He isn't excited. He's sad.