

The Post Office

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Danny really wanted to go to the post office. He wanted to figure out where his letters went. He knew he put it in the mailbox and put the flag up. Then it was gone the next day, but where did it go? Mom said it was the post office. He wanted to go see this post office.

They drove down there and parked. The building didn't seem like anything special. Inside it seemed normal, too. There were people in lines, but they were not buying things. It was weird. They paid money to have people take their things.

Danny frowned in confusion. "Why are they paying? They are giving away things."

"You pay the post man to carry the package to where it needs to go." Mom explained.

"Why?" It seemed unfair to pay and lose your packages or letters.

Mom chuckled. "He has to pay for gas. This is his job. Then there is this building. It is not free. The lights are not free."

"Why can't we just put stamps on things?" Danny asked.

"Stamps are not free. They show we paid for the delivery."

Danny shook his head and watched package after package disappear behind the counter. After awhile, another man came and took away the packages in a cart. Where did they go?

"Where do those packages go? Is he taking them to his car?"

Mom smiled. "Some of them, maybe, but they have to be sorted first. Some might go far away, like where your uncle lives. Some might go to our house or the house down the street, but they can't have one guy driving everywhere."

"So one guy doesn't deliver all the mail?"

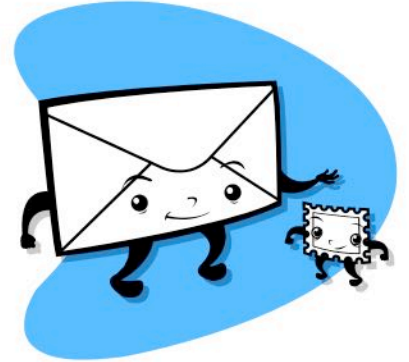
"Heavens, no! There are too many packages even in our town for one man. There are thousands of workers all over the country. Every city and state has some postal workers."

Danny watched a few more letters disappear over the counter and smiled. "I've got it. Thanks, Mom."

"Time to go home?"

"Yeah. I've got to write some letters to keep these guys busy."

Danny grinned.



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

1. Where does Danny want to go?
 - A. the store
 - B. school
 - C. the bank
 - D. the post office

2. Why does Danny want to go there?
 - A. He wants to see if his package has arrived.
 - B. He is looking for a birthday gift grandma sent.
 - C. He wants to see where his letters go.
 - D. He wants to work there.

3. At first, how many post men does Danny think there are that deliver the mail?
 - A. one
 - B. two
 - C. three
 - D. many

4. Does Danny finally understand how the post office works at the end?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Not really.
 - D. It doesn't say.

5. What is Danny going to do when he goes home?
 - A. write letters
 - B. watch tv
 - C. go to sleep
 - D. read the paper

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