

# A Long Time to Wait

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Rob tapped his foot on the ground impatiently. His friend, Steve, was supposed to meet him in five minutes. They were going to meet and watch a movie together, and Rob didn't want to miss a single minute of the show.

Both of them really liked movies and tried to see one almost every week, but lately Steve had been arriving later and later. If he didn't show up soon, they wouldn't have time to get popcorn and drinks before the movie started. They might even miss the previews! Rob grumbled about late friends under his breath while he waited.

To avoid looking at his watch, he began pacing back and forth. When pacing didn't calm him, he looked at his watch anyway. There were only three minutes left before he went in without his friend, Rob decided. Pacing was making him more impatient, so he watched cars pull into the parking lot instead. He watched each one, trying to spot Steve's blue car.

Watching cars made him more irritated. He wondered why Steve couldn't be on time. He wondered what excuse Steve would have this time. Last time Steve had said it was because his dad needed help in the garage. What would it be this time? Did the dog need walking or did the cat need feeding? Maybe Steve's mother needed help with the dishes? There would be an excuse. He was certain of that.

Rob checked his watch one more time. There was only one minute left. Time sure felt like it was moving slowly. How could five minutes take so long? It felt like an eternity, and his mouth was getting dry. He really wanted a soda and some hot, buttery popcorn.

Then, as he was looking at his watch once more, he heard a familiar voice. "Rob, I made it!"

Rob turned around and saw his friend Steve. He glanced back at his watch. Steve was on time. "You made it, and you're on time, too!" Rob said excitedly.

"Of course," Steve replied, "I really wanted to see this movie and the previews."

"Well let's go then." Rob suggested. He reached for his wallet then, so he could buy a ticket from the ticket booth. Where was his wallet? He looked around in alarm.

"What's wrong?" Steve asked.

"I don't have my wallet." Rob replied worriedly.

Steve frowned. "Go check in your car."

"I might be late then." Rob answered, feeling foolish. Here he'd been standing around waiting, and he was going to be the late one now. He ran across the parking lot.

By the time he got his wallet from his car and bought a ticket, he'd already missed the previews and he didn't have time to get popcorn or a drink. Steve shared his popcorn, but Rob could hardly eat it. He felt guilty during the whole movie.

When the movie was over, he apologized to Steve. "I'm sorry, Steve."

"Why?" Steve looked puzzled.

"I was grumbling about you being late, but then I was the one who was late."

Steve shrugged. "Don't worry. It happens to all of us."

"I see that now. Thanks for understanding."

"That's what friends are for." Steve replied.



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

1. Why is Rob waiting outside the theater?
  - A. His date hasn't arrived yet
  - B. He can't decide which movie to watch
  - C. He left his money at home
  - D. He's waiting for his friend Steve
  
2. Which word describes Rob best?
  - A. Patient
  - B. Handsome
  - C. Impatient
  - D. None of the above
  
3. What did Rob forget to bring?
  - A. His wallet
  - B. His ticket
  - C. His car keys
  - D. His coupon
  
4. Who was really late to the movie?
  - A. Steve
  - B. Mark
  - C. Rob
  - D. None of the above
  
5. How would you describe Rob at the end of the story?
  - A. Sorry
  - B. Angry
  - C. Irritated
  - D. Impatient

# A Long Time to Wait – Answer Key

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