

# **Broken Computer**

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

“Ahhhhh!” Greg screamed. “This silly computer has broken again.” He shouted to the next room. If mom heard him and came running, maybe he’d have some sympathy.

Greg pounded on the keyboard. Nothing worked. He played with the power switch, but the lights wouldn’t even come on. Fuming, he got up and stomped off to the kitchen.

“Mother!” He growled, ripping open the fridge door. He spied a soda. Maybe that would cool his nerves. He cracked it open and guzzled half of it.

“Mother!” He shouted again. He went looking for her. It was weird that she didn’t answer. He had a problem. Why wasn’t she coming?

He found her upstairs doing the laundry and ironing dad’s shirts. She was humming to herself and seemed pretty happy.

“What are you doing?” Greg demanded.

“Laundry.” She answered.

“I was calling you.”

“I thought if you really needed me, you’d come find me.”

Greg snorted and finished his soda. “The computer is broken.”

“I’m sorry. Can you fix it?”

He shrugged. “Maybe. I might have to wait for dad. I don’t know what’s going on this time. It’s always breaking. Can’t we get a new one?”

“Computers don’t grow on trees.”

“I know that. That is the oldest and most pointless saying ever.” Greg grumbled.

“Did you check the power cord?” Mom suggested.

“Of course I...” Greg trailed off. It couldn’t be that simple. He’d been swinging his feet when he was playing his game. Had he accidentally kicked the cable?

He bolted down the stairs and checked. Sure enough, that was it. The first rule of checking electronics, and his mother had to remind him. How sad.

Meekly, he went back upstairs. “I fixed it.”

“The power cord, right?” Mom smiled. When he said nothing, she winked. “Guess we don’t need to buy a new one after all.”



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

1. What is Greg's problem at the beginning of the story?
  - A. He lost his game.
  - B. He is hungry.
  - C. His cat ran away.
  - D. His computer broke.
  
2. Who does he look for to help him?
  - A. Mom
  - B. Dad
  - C. Brother
  - D. Friend
  
3. How does Greg feel when he can't find his mother at first?
  - A. Happy
  - B. Irritated
  - C. Lonely
  - D. Mischievous
  
4. What does mom suggest he do to fix the computer?
  - A. Check the cables
  - B. Turn it back on
  - C. Flip the breaker
  - D. Reboot the computer
  
5. Who actually figured out how to fix the computer then?
  - A. Greg
  - B. Mom
  - C. Dad
  - D. No one

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