

Bulletin Board

Story By: Andrew Frinkle



Henry got a bulletin board for his birthday. It didn't seem like a very cool gift - it was a board, after all. He frowned at it as it sat beside his bookshelf. What a strange present. His aunt didn't really know him that well, so she often sent weird stuff. One time she'd sent a dried piranha fish; he had it in the closet now.

Eventually, he decided to hang it on the wall. It only took two screws. It was very quick to put it up. It hung on a pair of eyelets. Now he had a brown board on the wall with a wooden frame. One part of the board was also a whiteboard he could write on with markers. He wrote his name first, because it was his, and then he drew a dinosaur eating a caveman. At least that made him laugh.



The next day, he was staring at the board, trying to think of something else to do with it. It seemed empty and dull, despite the drawing, which was still funny. He got some pushpins from mom. Then he put up a good test score he got. That was kind of nerdy though, so he looked for more stuff to put up that would make it more awesome.

Eventually, he found a few pictures he liked in magazines. One was a really expensive sports car; it was black and yellow with cool rims. The other pictures were of his favorite athletes. He also put up a fantasy picture of a dragon. These were the kinds of things he liked, and they made the board uniquely his.

His board was starting to look pretty cool, actually. Maybe it wasn't such a lame gift after all. He kept changing and adding things. It filled up very quickly, so he had to take down things that had been up too long and replace them with fresh items. It kept him busy and made his room look fun.



After a couple weeks, he sent his aunt a thank you letter. He explained how he was unsure at first, but really came to like his gift. He mentioned she could send him a matching one next year if she wanted, or even for Christmas, because he'd run out of room.



Sometimes, gifts were deceiving. You couldn't always tell how useful they were until you had them for awhile. That was what he learned.

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

1. How does Henry feel about his gift at first?
 - A. unimpressed
 - B. happy
 - C. excited
 - D. sad

2. What is another example of his aunt's weird gifts?
 - A. a necklace of teeth
 - B. a dancing bear figure
 - C. a dried piranha
 - D. a sock monkey

3. What is the VERY first thing Henry does to decorate his board?
 - A. put up a dragon picture
 - B. put up a car picture
 - C. draw a dinosaur
 - D. write his name

4. How does Henry feel about his bulletin board after a couple weeks?
 - A. He tolerates it.
 - B. He enjoys having it.
 - C. He takes it down and gives it away.
 - D. He hates it.

5. What lesson does Henry learn?
 - A. Don't whine about gifts.
 - B. His aunt is a crazy woman.
 - C. You appreciate things more if you give them a chance.
 - D. He is lucky to get presents with his attitude.

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