

Out of the Park



Drew loved playing baseball more than anything. His team, the Mets, was losing the game by two runs, but it was the bottom of the last inning, and there were two runners on base. Maybe Drew could bat in a run. He heard his dad, the coach, say, “We just need a base hit, Drew. Don’t try anything fancy!” Drew tapped his feet with the bat to knock the dirt out of his cleats. Then, he put the bat on his shoulder and got ready to hit. He stared down the pitcher.

Drew swung at the first pitch much too soon and missed. The umpire called a strike. He did not swing at the second because that pitch was too low. It was ball one. He swung at the next pitch and barely tapped the ball, and it bounced off of home plate for a foul ball. That was strike two. Drew was a little worried, but he just had to do his best.



Drew swung again. He heard a loud crack! He hit the ball harder than he had ever hit it. The ball flew through the air, over the outfield, and toward the fence. Drew ran fast, but he could not keep himself from watching the ball as he ran. It went over the fence and into the trees! His teammates ran out to pat his back and shake his hand. His dad gave him a high five. But, the best part was that he could hear his mom yelling and cheering as he ran across home plate.

► Read, Write, and Draw!

- Read the story out loud to a friend.
- Tell your friend the answers to these questions:
 1. Who was at bat?
 2. What is the name of the team?
 3. When did he hear his mom cheering?
 4. Where did the ball go?
 5. Why did Drew knock dirt out of his cleats?
- Think of a story about a friend. Choose a time when something good happened. Ask your friend the five “W” questions. Then, write the story. Draw a picture for your story.

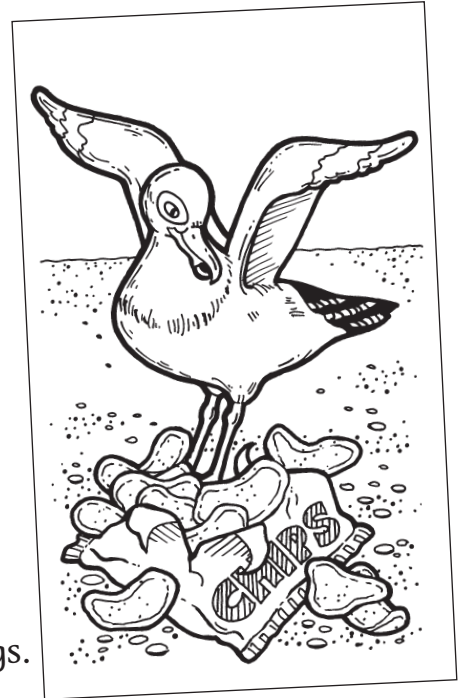
What's News

July 23, 2007

Seagull Helps Himself to Chips

(Aberdeen, Scotland, UK)—A seagull nicknamed Sam has learned to steal bags of chips. He took his first bag a few weeks ago. He waits until the sales clerk is behind the counter and the store is empty. He sneaks through the door and picks up a bag in his beak, and then he leaves. When he is away from the store, he tears open the bag. Other seagulls and birds help him eat the chips.

Sam's trick has made him famous. Shoppers want the store to let Sam keep taking the bags. The shoppers give money to pay for the stolen bags. Sam will always have plenty to eat!



► Read and Answer

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| 1. Who is Sam? | 4. When did Sam take his first bag? |
| 2. What does Sam do that has made him famous? | |
| 3. Where is the town in which Sam lives? | 5. Why do shoppers give money to the store? |

► Be the Reporter!

Talk to your family and friends to write a true story about an animal. Ask the five "W" questions to learn more. Write your story and draw a picture for it.

Garden Gnome Comes Home

Jana Whitley owns a garden gnome. The gnome just came home from a long trip. Someone took it from her yard last year. The thief left a note. It said the gnome was going to travel for a while.

The thief sent pictures to Mrs. Whitley. In one picture, the gnome is in front of Niagara Falls. In another, the gnome is at the New Jersey shore. In the third picture, he is standing in front of a tower in Toronto.



Someone put the gnome back in Mrs. Whitley's yard last Tuesday. He looks a little worn and dirty, but she is happy to have him back. She set him in the yard next to her fence. She has put a chain around him and attached it to the fence. Mrs. Whitley said, "I hope he had a good trip. But now, he needs to stay home with me!"

► Read and Answer

1. Who owns the garden gnome?

2. What did the thief send to Mrs. Whitley?

3. When did the gnome come back?

4. Where were the pictures taken?

5. Why did Mrs. Whitley chain her gnome to the fence?

► Be the Reporter!

Talk to your family and friends to write a true story about something unusual. Ask the five "W" questions to learn more. Write your story on a sheet of paper.