



Shopping for Mom



On Saturday, Carlos asked his grandfather to take him to the mall. It was his mom's birthday, and he wanted to get her the perfect gift. He had been mowing lawns all summer to earn money. He had no idea what to buy, though. He hoped a trip to the shopping mall would help.

Carlos went to look at the perfumes. He smelled three different bottles, but none of them seemed right. His mom did not really wear much perfume anyway.

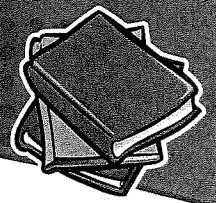
He then saw a beautiful blue sweater that he thought she might like. He touched it and changed his mind. It would be too itchy for his mom. Also, it was still too hot for her to wear the sweater.

The scarves were pretty, but he had never seen his mom wear one.

He was almost ready to give up when he saw the photo studio. Carlos decided to have his picture taken for his mom. He combed his hair and fixed his clothes. Carlos smiled, and the man snapped his picture. Then Carlos bought a pretty frame for the picture. He knew he had found the perfect gift.



Sally Ride



A young girl's love of the stars led her to become an astronaut. Sally Ride loved looking through telescopes as a child. She was fascinated by the stars and space. When she grew up, she became the first American woman in space.

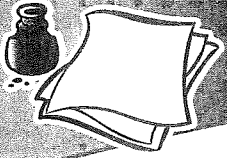
To learn more, Ride studied science in high school and college. While she was still a student, she heard NASA was looking for scientists. They wanted to train them to be astronauts. Ride jumped at the chance to become one of them.

Her dream came true five years later. In 1983, Ride flew aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*. She was the first American woman and the youngest astronaut ever to go into space. Her job was to operate a robotic arm. The arm launched satellites and brought them back.

Ride flew aboard the *Challenger* again in 1984. It became her last flight. The *Challenger* exploded in 1986 but Ride was not on board that flight. She helped investigate the accident. She never flew into space again, however.

Today, Ride teaches science in college. She has also written many children's books about her experiences in space.

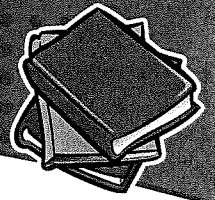
My Fortune



| | | | |
|--|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|
| I paid a fortune teller. | 5 | But I'll be tall and strong, I said. | 110 |
| What did she say to me? | 11 | That will surely come to be. | 116 |
| She said that in her crystal ball | 18 | My mom said no doubt I'll grow, | 123 |
| My future she could see. | 23 | My dad is six-foot-three. | 129 |
| I'd grow up strong and tall, | 29 | I'll get a job and travel far, | 136 |
| She said, with eyes of brightest blue. | 36 | It's in the crystal ball. | 141 |
| I'd take a job and work real hard. | 44 | "But most people work," my mom said, | 148 |
| She said she knew it's true. | 50 | That was an easy call." | 153 |
| I would travel from here to there; | 57 | "And when it comes to traveling, | 159 |
| I would take a bus or train. | 64 | We visit every year | 163 |
| And if I had the money, | 70 | Your grandma in Ohio. | 167 |
| I might go there by plane. | 76 | You always did, my dear." | 172 |
| I raced right home to tell my mom | 84 | "We only know what's in the past, | 179 |
| My future would be great. | 89 | But I'll tell you something true. | 185 |
| Blue eyes, Mom said, I had right now, | 97 | If you go to school and study hard, | 193 |
| It wasn't up to fate. | 102 | Your future's up to you." | 198 |



The Gulf Stream



Could there be a river in the ocean? The Gulf Stream is a strong current in the Atlantic Ocean that acts like a river. The warm Gulf Stream is created by winds, the rotation of the Earth, and energy from the sun's heat.

In some places, the Gulf Stream is wider than any river on Earth. At its widest, it is 120 miles across. It runs as deep as 2,600 feet.

Traveling along the east coast of the U.S., the Gulf Stream carries warm water up from the Gulf of Mexico. When it reaches North Carolina, it turns east and splits in two. As it crosses the Atlantic Ocean, the cooler current heads toward Spain and Africa.

The warmer water travels northwest to Britain and Europe. Mild winters in England and Western Europe are a result of the warmth of the Gulf Stream.

It flows along the coasts of Britain and Norway to the north. Even though it cools as it flows, it still has an effect on their climates. The west coast of Norway is 50 degrees warmer than the eastern part of the country.



The Wallet



- One day, on the way to school, Mike and Adam found a wallet on the sidewalk. 15
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- “See if there’s any money,” Adam said as Mike picked it up. 28
- Inside, there was a lady’s driver’s license and some money. 38
- Mike counted and said, “There’s 60 dollars.” 45
- “Wow!” said Adam. “We can buy a lot of stuff with that!” 57
- “I don’t know,” Mike said slowly. “It’s not our money.” 67
- “Finders, keepers; losers, weepers,” said Adam. “It’s ours now.” 76
- Mike looked at Adam and said, “But what if this lady is really poor and has 10 kids or something? She probably really needs it.” 90
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- Adam didn’t say anything. Finally he said, “You’re right. It’s not ours. We should return it.” 113
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- At school, the boys brought the wallet to the principal’s office and told him where they found it. 129
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- Later, the principal called them back to the office. “I called the lady who owned the wallet, and she picked it up,” he said. “That’s good,” said Mike. 148
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- “She was so happy,” the principal added, “that she wanted to reward you boys.” Then he handed each of them 20 dollars. 175
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- Mike and Adam just looked at each other and smiled. 195



Animal Camouflage



In nature, animals have many different ways to escape predators. Some, like turtles and crabs, have hard shells that make them difficult to eat. Gazelles and rabbits can run very fast. Prairie dogs disappear into burrows.

Color is good protection for other animals. Their color lets them hide in plain sight. Toads do this. Their skin is green, brown, or gray. These are common colors in nature. Toads blend in with their surroundings. This makes it hard for enemies to see them. Blending in is called camouflage.

Some animals have fur that changes color as well. As the colors in nature change, their fur changes, too. The Arctic fox's fur is pure white in winter like the snow. It changes to gray-brown when the snow melts in spring. In either season, it is hard to see.

Other animals can change color very quickly to match their surroundings. Cuttlefish can match the sea floor. If they are swimming over sand, they are light tan. Their skin changes to a gray and brown over rocks. They can even match the pattern of the rocks. They can do this in a few seconds. This makes them almost impossible to see.

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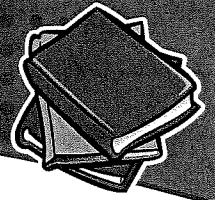
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Antarctica



Antarctica is the coldest, highest, and driest continent on the planet. It is so cold that about 98 percent of it is covered with ice. The rest is bare rock. No plants or trees grow there.

But now we know Antarctica wasn't always cold. More than 100 million years ago, it was warm enough for plants to grow. The continent was green and lush. Even palm trees grew there.

Animals that eat plants lived there, too. We learned this from fossils. Scientists found fossils of different plants and plant-eating dinosaurs near the South Pole. Fossils of meat-eating dinosaurs were found on Antarctica, too.

Antarctica may also have Earth's largest crater. A 300-mile-wide crater was detected by satellites in space. You can't see it from the ground because it is buried more than a half-mile under the ice sheet.

Scientists think the crater was made 250 million years ago when a huge meteorite hit Earth. The meteorite may have caused an enormous explosion. Scientists think the explosion created a huge cloud of dust. Earth would have become dark and cold. That may have killed off most life on the planet.

Making a Difference



As Danny walked along the beach, he discovered a tidal pool near the shore. The pool was like a little pond that would get deeper when the tide came in and finally disappear under the surf. Right now, high tide was still hours away, so there was not much water in the tidal pool.

When Danny looked into the pool, he saw a fish at the bottom with a piece of a fisherman's net wrapped around it. It was having difficulty swimming.

Danny picked up the fish. He gently removed the net from the thrashing fish. He placed it back in the tidal pool and let it go. The fish swam away without any trouble.

Danny noticed that there was a lot of trash in the sand. If it got into the ocean, the trash could harm the sea life. There were a lot of plastic bottles and cans.

Later, Danny told his friends about the mess on the beach. They went to clean it up together on Saturday. When the beach was clean, Danny looked around at what they had done. He was proud that he had helped make a difference.