A Day At the Circus
by Katie Clark

Today was our class field trip to the circus. We’d been waiting weeks to see the clowns and acrobats, and the tricks they would perform. I had even saved all my birthday money from last month so I could buy a souvenir.

Our teacher loaded us onto the school bus, and we made the drive across town to the arena where the circus was being held. My friends and I told jokes on the bus.

“What’s brown and furry and flies through the air?” I asked.

That stumped my friends.

“A circus monkey!” I said. We all laughed, but Mrs. Harris, our teacher, told me to stay in my seat while the bus was in motion.

When we arrived at the parking lot of the circus we saw that a giant tent had been constructed in the middle of a large field. We filed off the bus and moved toward the tent. Other schools had arrived to watch the show, so Mrs. Harris told us to stay together so no one would get lost.

The chatter in the air grew louder and more excited as we came closer to the tent. Everyone pressed close together and I smelled something delicious. I took a big sniff and grinned at my friends.

“Popcorn!” I said.

Inside the tent, carts had been set up. The carts were selling food, drinks, and souvenirs. The souvenirs included tall top hats, colorful bouncy balls, and spinning light up toys.

Which one would I choose to buy with my birthday money? I would have to think about that and decide before the circus ended.

Mrs. Harris guided us to our section. Benches were lined up in long rows, and we took our seats. Once everyone had been seated, loud music played over the speakers.

“Welcome to the circus!” a voice shouted. The ringmaster came out to greet the
I thought about it for a few more moments before I settled on a bouncy ball. I dug inside my pocket to find my money, but it was gone.

What happened to my savings? It had been in my pocket and taking care of it was my responsibility.

Mrs. Harris helped me retrace my steps. We checked all the places we had been since arriving at the circus. The money wasn’t in the line for the souvenirs, back at our seats, or outside the tent.

At last we checked the bus. The envelope with my money sat on the floor under my seat. It must have fallen out when I jumped up and pretended to be a circus monkey.

I hurried back inside and bought a giant bouncy ball, then it was time to head back to school. I was sad it was over but I couldn’t wait to play with my souvenir. Maybe someday I would join the circus. Then the fun would never have to end!
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1) What souvenir does the child want to buy looking at the following?
   a) ringmaster
   b) group of seals
   c) acrobats

2) Who helps the child find the money? Where do they find it?

3) What would have happened if the child had not found the money?

4) How would the story be different if he had tried to buy his souvenir before the circus started?

5) Which souvenir would you buy if you were at this circus?
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1) What souvenir does the child want to buy looking at the following?
   a) ringmaster - a top hat
   b) group of seals - a bouncing ball
   c) acrobats - a spinning light up toy

2) Who helps the child find the money? Where do they find it?
   Mrs. Harris, the teacher, helps the child find the money. They find the envelope with the money in the bus.

3) What would have happened if the child had not found the money?
   If the child had not found his money he would not have been able to buy a souvenir.

4) How would the story be different if he had tried to buy his souvenir before the circus started?
   If he had tried to buy his souvenir before the circus started he might have missed a part of the show because he would be looking for his money.

5) Which souvenir would you buy if you were at this circus?
   Answers may vary.