



A New Telescope Story

By: Judie Eberhard

It was coming up on Marty's birthday. He would turn ten in just three days. His mom had asked him what he wanted as a gift this year. Marty thought for the past few weeks about what he would like. He thought maybe a new bicycle, or maybe a new camera, a new basketball, or a telescope. He told his mom his choices and asked that he be surprised." Any of those gifts would be great," he said. Secretly, he hoped for the telescope. Marty loved space, stars, and learning about the planets.

Marty's mom and dad talked about the list of gifts one night after Marty went to sleep. Dad said, "I think Marty will just get tired of the basketball, and he doesn't take many pictures." Mom said, "We just bought him a new bicycle last Christmas." However, it was getting a little small for Marty since he was growing so fast. "I think we should get Marty the telescope," said dad. "He's so interested in space and the planets, he would like that the best." "Sounds good," said mom. Dad told her he would stop by the store the next day after work and pick out a telescope for Marty.

Marty's dad had the telescope in the trunk of his car. He waited until Marty was asleep and brought it into the house. "Wow!" said Marty's mom after dad put it together. "This is wonderful." "Now where are we going to hide it until Sunday?" "How about in the attic?" "Marty won't find it there."

Sunday morning came and Marty was so excited about his birthday, he ran down the stairs into the kitchen. His gift was usually near his chair at the table, but this year he didn't see anything. "Happy Birthday!" yelled mom and dad from the next room. They came into the kitchen and saw Marty was looking around for a gift. "I bet you think we forgot to get you a gift," said mom. Marty looked confused. "Well, you usually put my gift in the kitchen," Marty said. Dad told Marty to follow him outside to the side of the house. "This is fantastic!" yelled Marty. "I was hoping to myself that you would get the telescope." "I don't take many pictures, and I probably wouldn't use the basketball much, and my bike is okay for now." "But I will use the telescope!" "Thanks so much." "You're welcome," said mom and dad. That night, Marty saw many beautiful stars and even the planet Mars. Marty loved his new telescope!

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

1. How old was Marty going to be?
A. Six B. Nine C. Ten D. Twelve
2. What gift did Marty secretly hope to get?
A. A telescope B. A camera C. A basketball D. A bicycle
3. Where did Marty's parents hide the telescope?
A. In the garage B. In the car C. In the tool shed D. In the attic
4. What day of the week was Marty's birthday?
A. Monday B. Wednesday C. Saturday D. Sunday
5. How would you describe Marty at the end of the story?
A. Happy B. Sad C. Bored D. None of the above