A Success Story

Tom's busy day was a real winner! Read this story to find out why.

1   After Tom passed his driving test, Mrs. Hopple dropped him off at The Hideaway, the restaurant run by his mom since his dad's death two years before. Since it was after 4:00 P.M., the staff was setting up the tables for dinner. Tom rushed past them and into the back. He found his mother working in her office.

2   "Mom, I did it!" he shouted. The door slammed loudly behind him.

3   "Slow down, Tom, and start from the beginning," Mrs. Ellis laughed.

4   "Oh, I'm so excited, I can hardly think," said Tom. "First of all, Ms. Lopez was really impressed with my story. In fact, it's going on the front page! She said my writing style was clear and that my admiration for the athletes really showed through."

5   "Sounds a bit like your dream last night," remarked Mrs. Ellis.

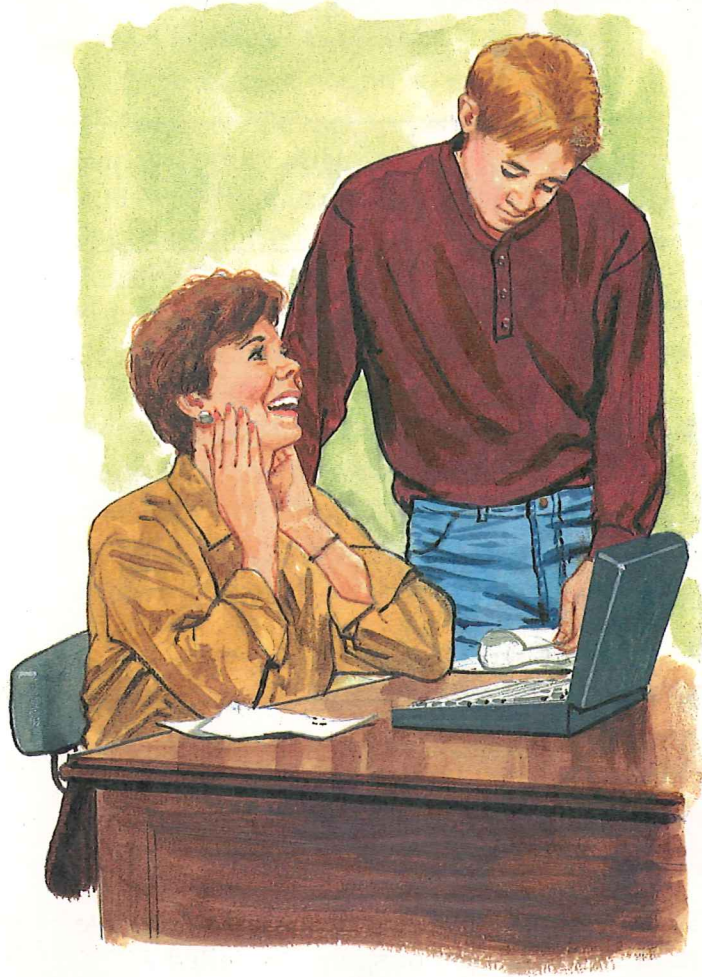6   "Yes, but that was a city newspaper, not a school paper," Tom reminded her.

7   "Don't tell me you've already forgotten what I said this morning. You have to start somewhere. And, besides, it looks to me as if you're off to an excellent start. I'm proud of you, Tom."

8   "Actually, you're right," grinned Tom. "You remember that math test I had to take this morning, don't you? Well, anyway, I think I did really well," Tom boasted.

9   "Good for you, Tom. I know how you struggle with it," she said sympathetically.

10   "Thanks, Mom. I can't wait to call Uncle Max and tell him. He gave me some study tips yesterday afternoon that were really helpful."

11   Then, leaning over, Tom whispered in his mother's ear. "Aren't you forgetting to ask me something?"

12   "My goodness, your story was accepted, and you did well on your math exam."

13   "And . . . ?"

14   "You did it, didn't you, Tom! You passed your driver's test just as I knew you would." Tom nodded, and his mother went on, "You're wrong if you think I forgot, though, Tom. I'd never forget something so important. I was just a little afraid to ask."

15   "Be afraid no more, Ma! This afternoon I became a licensed driver!" he crowed happily. "Do you want me to drive you home?" Tom asked enthusiastically.

16   "One step at a time," laughed Mrs. Ellis. "I won't be finished for another hour or so. But congratulations, Tom, I simply couldn't be happier for you."

Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. workers

   _____
   (Par. 1)

2. great liking for

   _____
   (Par. 4)

3. people who play sports

   _____
   (Par. 4)

4. understandingly

   _____
   (Par. 9)

5. A **simile** is a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared. Similes use the word *like* or *as*. For example, *as sly as a fox* is a simile. Write a simile to describe how Tom entered his mother's restaurant.

   _____

   _____

Working with Words

To form the possessive of a plural word that ends in *s*, add only an apostrophe. An example is *the girls' books*. Fill in each blank with the possessive form of the word in parentheses.

1. The _____ lunch order was taken by the headwaiter. (customers)

2. The _____ aprons were hung in the kitchen. (waiters)

3. The _____ tests were marked by the next day. (students)

4. The _____ stories were typed with word processors. (reporters)

Reading and Thinking

Write the word that best completes each sentence.

1. The _____ handed the girls a menu before seating them at a table.
   reporter   server   teacher

2. The girl knew _____ where the birds' nest could be found.
   cowardly   exactly   awfully

3. Number the events to show the order in which they happened.

   ____ Tom sees his mom at The Hideaway.

   ____ Tom takes his driving test.

   ____ Ms. Lopez praises Tom's story.

   ____ Mrs. Ellis congratulates Tom.

   ____ Mrs. Hopple drives Tom to The Hideaway.

4. Tom passed his math test because

   _____.

5. Find one sentence the author wrote to show how Tom felt after his busy day.

   _____

   _____

Learning to Study

Write the name of the reference source that would provide the information needed.

atlas   thesaurus   almanac

1. Where could Betsy look to find out how much rain fell last year? _____

2. Where could Tom look to discover the location of the Black Hills? _____

3. Where could Jill look to find a synonym for the word *carve*? _____