

# Tom Joins Uncle Max

In this story, Tom catches a glimpse of the workings at a newspaper firm.

1 “That was quite a story you wrote about the Fall Festival, Tom,” complimented Uncle Max. “It had feeling.”

2 “Thanks, Uncle Max,” answered Tom thoughtfully.

3 “If you don’t mind, I’d like to show it to my editor,” said Uncle Max.

4 “Mind? Are you kidding?”

5 “It’s my pleasure,” said Uncle Max as he carefully looked at his nephew. “Who knows? Maybe your story will appear in *The Kendall Bulletin*.”

6 Looking at his feet, Tom thanked Uncle Max again. Noting his nephew’s embarrassment, Uncle Max quickly changed the subject by asking, “Are we still on for Saturday’s homecoming game?”

7 “Sure!” Tom answered. “Mom, especially, is looking forward to it. She’s even going to take the day off. Are you covering the game for the *Bulletin* again this year?”

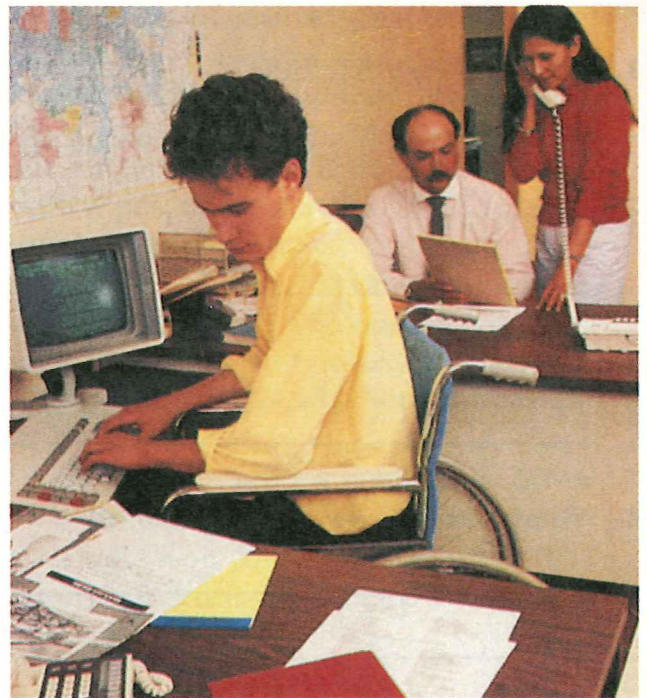
8 “I certainly am,” answered Uncle Max. “It’s one of my favorite assignments. It gives me a chance to see some old friends and to have a good time while I’m doing my job.”

9 The day of the homecoming game finally arrived. Tom, his sister Meg, and Mrs. Ellis piled into Uncle Max’s station wagon, setting off for an evening of cheering and meeting old friends. They shouted until they were hoarse. And, happy that Kendall High’s team won, they headed for home.

10 As they pulled up in front of the Ellis house, Uncle Max said, “Say, Tom, I have to file my piece on today’s game. How about keeping me company?”

11 “If it’s all right with Mom . . . ?”

12 “Just don’t stay out late, you two,” Mrs. Ellis laughed as she and Meg climbed out of the car.



13 It is said that a newspaper never sleeps. Sure enough, the newsroom was bustling with noise when Tom and Uncle Max arrived. Despite the lateness of the hour, a number of reporters were still working at their desks. Still others were scurrying around the room.

14 While Uncle Max worked, Tom wandered around the different departments. Finally, he went to see where the paper was printed. The presses were ready to roll. The delivery trucks were pulling up outside. They were ready to be loaded with the Sunday edition. Tom had seen so much that his head was swimming.

15 “Sort of takes your breath away, doesn’t it?” asked Uncle Max, coming up beside Tom. “By the way, my editor would like to run your Fall Festival story in tomorrow’s edition of the *Bulletin*—with your permission, of course.”

16 “My permission? I can’t believe it!” Tom exclaimed. “Of course you can print it. Just wait until Mom sees it,” Tom crowed.

## Knowing the Words

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

1. praised

\_\_\_\_\_

(Par. 1)

2. shy or uncomfortable feeling

\_\_\_\_\_

(Par. 6)

3. in spite of

\_\_\_\_\_

(Par. 13)

4. Check the sentence in which *off* has the same meaning it does in paragraph 7.

\_\_\_\_\_ Because I hadn't practiced for many weeks, my golf game was off.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please turn off the lights when you finish.

\_\_\_\_\_ We all had some time off because the circus was in town.

**Homophones** are words that sound alike but have different meanings. Circle the homophone with the correct meaning in each sentence below.

5. Meg wants to go with Uncle Max (too, two).
6. It took an (our, hour) for the bus to arrive with the athletes.

## Working with Words

The prefix **re-** means "again." The prefix **pre-** means "before." Read the clues. Add **re-** or **pre-** to each underlined word to form a word that matches the clue.

1. to test before \_\_\_\_\_
2. to write again \_\_\_\_\_
3. to paint again \_\_\_\_\_
4. before a game \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading and Thinking

1. Check the main idea of the story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a great football game
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tom's visit to the *Bulletin*
- \_\_\_\_\_ newspaper deadlines
2. A **summary** briefly expresses information about a topic. To summarize, you must find the most important information and put it in an order that makes sense. Read paragraph 13 from the story. Summarize the important information of the paragraph in one sentence.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think the *Bulletin* reporters were working late at night?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
4. The *Bulletin* newsroom was very busy when Tom and Uncle Max arrived. Find one sentence the author wrote to show how busy it really was. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you think Tom will ever have another story printed in the *Bulletin*? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

## Learning to Study

A newspaper **caption** is a one- or two-sentence explanation of a newspaper photo. It usually appears under the photo. Write a caption for the photo of the football game.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_