

Elena and the Lost Ring

It was Elena's best friend's 45th birthday. Elena went to downtown to buy something to wear for the party. She chose a beautiful, green, sleeveless dress. She took it to the cashier to purchase it. She looked in her tote bag for her purse, but her purse was not there! She told the shop assistant and the shop assistant said she thought a pickpocket had stolen it because the same thing had happened to a customer the day before.

Elena was desolate because she could not buy the dress. She put it back on the rack. Also, not having any money, she couldn't buy a bus ticket home! It was three miles and she had to walk! She walked through the park, feeling pretty miserable. She looked down and she saw something shiny on the ground. She bent down and picked it up. It was a diamond ring! It sparkled beautifully in the sunlight. She slipped it on her finger and it fit! Elena had three choices. She could keep the ring. She could sell it and get a decent sum for it... or, she could take it to the police station. Someone had stolen her purse, so maybe it was a form of justice that she had found an expensive ring?

Elena didn't hesitate; she went straight to the police station and handed the ring in. She felt proud of herself, actually. Someone had done a bad thing to her, but she had done a good thing.

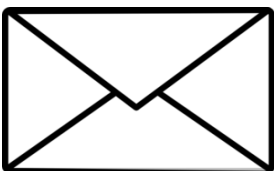
The policeman thanked her for handing the ring in and then he said, 'The owner will be delighted. It is her engagement ring and she has had it for thirty years. Oh, and she left an envelope for the finder.'



He handed a small white envelope to Elena and she opened it, expecting to find a 'thank you' note. However, there were five \$50 bills inside! The owner had left a reward!

Elena was thrilled! She went straight back to the shop and bought the lovely green dress for the birthday party. And with the rest of the money, she bought an extra present for her friend.

Answer the questions TRUE or FALSE:



- 1) It was Elena's friend's sixteenth birthday.
- 2) Elena was invited to the party.
- 3) Elena went to town to meet her friend for coffee and a chat.
- 4) She picked a beautiful green sleeveless dress.
- 5) When Elena went to pay for the dress, she realised that her purse had been stolen.
- 6) The shop assistant thought that Elena must have left her purse at home.
- 7) She caught the bus home.
- 8) Elena found a sparkling diamond ring in the park.
- 9) She decided to keep the ring because it fitted her.
- 10) The lady who had lost the ring had left a reward at the police station.
- 11) The reward was for \$50.00.
- 12) Elena decided to put the reward money straight into the bank.

Answer the questions in full sentences:

- 1) Why did Elena go to town?
- 2) Where did she want to wear the dress and why?
- 3) What shock did she get when she looked in her bag?
- 4) What did the shop assistant think had happened to Elena's purse?
- 5) How did Elena feel when she couldn't buy the dress?
- 6) How far away from downtown does Elena live?
- 7) What did she find in the park?
- 8) What three choices did Elena have?
- 9) What did she do with the ring?
- 10) What did the policeman hand Elena and what was inside?
- 11) How did Elena feel when she opened the envelope?
- 12) What did she do with her reward money?



pickpocket/thief

TASK ONE:

List the words in the passage used as synonyms for:

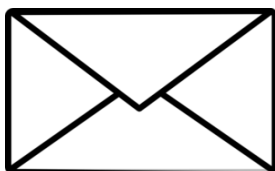
A. happy B. sad.

How many more can you think of?

TASK TWO:

How would you feel if someone stole your purse? What would you do?

Did Elena do the right thing? What would you do?



These images are from the story. Answer the 'wh' questions about each one. The first one (park) has been done for you as an example.



Where? The park
Who? Elena
What? She walked through it.
How? Feeling sad! Head down.
Which? (not applicable)
When? Before the birthday party
Why? On her way home. She had to walk because she had no money for bus fare.



Replace the missing VERBS. Your verbs don't have to be exactly the same, as long as they make sense.

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