

Mommy's Gonna Love It

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Stacey's mother worked at home. She spent all day at the computer. Sometimes she typed. Sometimes she clicked. Sometimes she looked at videos. She was a writer, so being at the computer was her job. The computer was her most important tool. It worked very well. There was only one problem.

It was boring.

The computer was grey. It had black keys and a smudged screen. It was not pretty at all. Stacey's mother never complained about this. But Stacey could tell it bothered her. Anyone would be bothered if they had to work all

day on such an ugly computer. And so, one day while her mother was taking a bath, Stacey decided to help.

She was going to make her mother's computer beautiful.

"Mommy's gonna love it," she said to herself as she got to work.

The first problem was the color. Grey simply would not do. If Stacey were allowed to have a computer, she would want it to be pink. But Mommy's favorite color was purple. So Stacey got out her purple marker and started coloring.

As the marker dragged across the plastic computer, it made a *squinch squinch* noise. Stacey did not like the sound. But she loved the way it looked.

"Much better!" she said as she finished. "Now we need some sparkle."

Stacey took out a bottle of glue and spread big globs of it on the computer's shell. She tipped whole handfuls of glitter—blue and pink and red—all over. Most of it stuck, and she only got a little glue in her hair.

"This looks almost perfect," said Stacey. "But what's missing?"

It only took her a moment to guess the answer: stickers!

Stacey's mom liked to wear hats. And Stacey had *lots* of stickers with hats. She had pink hats, blue hats and orange ones. She had fedoras and top hats and cowboy hats and even a funny hat called a "porkpie hat." She put them all over Mommy's computer—right on the screen. She knew it was perfect when there was no part of the computer that wasn't covered in hats, glitter or purple marker.

"Stacey? What are you doing with my computer?" Stacey's mom stood in the doorway, wrapped in a bathrobe, her hair dripping wet.

"Look Mommy! I made it beautiful."

Stacey's mom screamed as loud as she ever had. She tried to peel off the stickers, but they wouldn't come. She scraped at the glitter, but it was stuck. She was never going to get the marker off.

"Stacey Miller," shouted Mom. "You are in *so much trouble!*"

Stacey began to think that maybe Mommy didn't love it after all.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does Stacey decide to make beautiful?

- A Mommy's computer
- B Mommy's room
- C Mommy's writing

2. When decorating the computer, what does Stacey do first?

- A put glitter on the computer
- B color the computer purple
- C put stickers on the computer

3. Stacey thinks she is helping her mother by making her computer look beautiful. What sentence from the story best supports this conclusion?

- A "'This looks almost perfect,' said Stacey. 'But what's missing?'"
- B "Stacey's mother never complained about this. But Stacey could tell it bothered her."
- C "And so, one day while her mother was taking a bath, Stacey decided to help."

4. Based on the story, how does Stacey's mother feel about what Stacey has done to her computer?

- A She is angry.
- B She is thankful.
- C She is confused.

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A how a girl tries to help her mother
- B how a mother uses a computer for work
- C how a girl is different from her mother

6. Read the following sentences: "She was a writer, so being at the computer was her job. The computer was her most important **tool**. It worked very well."

As used in the passage, what does the word "**tool**" most nearly mean?

- A an object used to make things beautiful
- B **an object used to do work**
- C an object that stops you from finishing something

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Stacey wanted to make Mommy's computer beautiful, _____ Mommy did not like how Stacey changed her computer.

- A so
- B after
- C **but**

8. What is Stacey's mother's most important tool?

9. How does Stacey make her mother's computer beautiful?

10. Stacey and her mother have different opinions about how beautiful the computer is by the end of the story. Use evidence from the story to explain whether this statement is true or not.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 500

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8. What is Stacey's mother's most important tool?

Suggested answer: Stacey's mother's most important tool is her computer.

9. How does Stacey make her mother's computer beautiful?

Suggested answer: Stacey covers her mother's computer in purple marker, glitter, and stickers.

10. Stacey and her mother have different opinions about how beautiful the computer is by the end of the story. Use evidence from the story to explain whether this statement is true or not.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage. Students should indicate that the statement is true. They should explain that while Stacey thinks she's made her mother's computer look beautiful by covering it with a purple markings, glitter, and stickers, her mother does not hold the same opinion. This is evident by the fact that Stacey's mother screams when she sees the computer, tries to peel off the stickers, scrapes at the glitter, and tells Stacey that she is in big trouble.