

Name: _____

Uncovered Treasure

by Kelly Hashway

Colin flinched as the backhoe raised its claw-like arm over the sandbox. Colin hadn't used the sandbox in years, but he had so many memories of digging and looking for dinosaur fossils. He never found any, and once he was old enough to know that it was impossible to find



dinosaur fossils.

"Thinking

Colin said,



~ PREVIEW ~

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der.

il."

The backhoe scooped the sand and dirt beneath it, piling it aside. The lawn was a soggy mess.

"That leak in the water pipe must be pretty bad," Colin's father said.

Colin barely heard him. He was staring at the spot that used to be his favorite play area.

The backhoe stopped and Joe, the man operating it, stepped out. "I've found the leak."

Colin and his father walked over to the big hole in the yard. Colin peered inside. He could see the pipe and the spot where the water was leaking out, but his eyes wandered to something sticking out of the dirt and mud.

"What is that?" Colin asked.

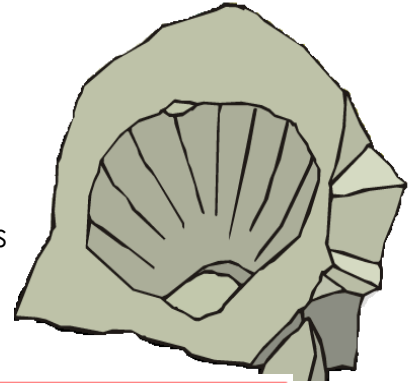
His father leaned over the hole. "It looks like a fossil."

"A real fossil?" Colin's eyes widened. He glanced at the hole that was once his sandbox, and for the first time in years, he thought he'd get his wish of finding a dinosaur bone.

"Is it okay if we pull out that fossil?" Colin's father asked Joe.

"Yeah, I'll get for you." Joe reached into the hole.

Colin imagined all kinds of dinosaur bones, but when Joe handed him the fossil. Colin sighed with disappointment. "It looks like a piece of rock with seashell imprints on it."



"Fossils

said.

"I'd say

Colin told

room?"



"Absolutely," his father said. "You found it, so it's yours."

Colin carried the fossil into his house. Every time he looked at it, he'd remember the fun he used to have in his sandbox.

Note from the Author

Kelly Hashway

This story is actually a combination of two real events in my life. We recently had a leak in one of the water pipes in our yard and had to have the lawn dug up. It reminded me of the time my parents were digging in their backyard and found a fossil exactly like the one Colin discovers in his yard. I hope you like it.

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1. When Colin was younger, what did he like to do in his sandbox?
 - a. make sand castles
 - b. bury his toys and dig them up
 - c. bury his feet in the sand
 - d. look for dinosaur fossils
2. How did Colin feel when he saw the backhoe digging up his sandbox?
 - a. He didn't care because he never plays in it anyway.

b.
c.
d.



~ **PREVIEW** ~

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3. Why did

4. Who was Joe?

5. What did Colin find in the hole?

- a. a seashell
- b. a dinosaur bone
- c. a fossil
- d. worms

Now try this:

Write a descriptive paragraph about a something you played with when you were younger, but have outgrown.

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.

Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. _ _ e _ e d

clue: looked

1. _____

2. _ a _

clue: la

3. _ _

clue: liz



4. _ o g _ _

clue: soft and watery

4. _____

5. _ o _ _ _ d _

clue: made at home; not bought from a store

5. _____

6. _ i _ _ _ o _ _ t _ e n _

clue: feeling let down

6. _____

7. _ _ w _

clue: area covered with grass

7. _____

ANSWER KEY

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1. When Colin was younger, what did he like to do in his sandbox? **d**
- a. make sand castles b. bury his toys and dig them up
c. bury his feet in the sand d. **look for dinosaur fossils**

2. How did Colin feel when he saw the backhoe digging up his sandbox? **b**
- a. He didn't care because he never plays in it anyway.

3. Why did Colin dig up his sandbox?
- PREVIEW**
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4. Who was Joe?

Joe was the backhoe operator.

5. What did Colin find in the hole? **c**
- a. a seashell b. a dinosaur bone
c. **a fossil** d. worms

Note: He did not find an actual seashell. A fossil had an imprint of the seashell.

Now try this: Write a descriptive paragraph about a something you played with when you were younger, but have outgrown.

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.

Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. p e e r e d

clue: looked

1. peered

2. b a c

clue: la

3. d i n o

clue: liz



4. s o g g y

clue: soft and watery

4. soggy

5. h o m e m a d e

clue: made at home; not bought from a store

5. homemade

6. d i s a p p o i n t m e n t

clue: feeling let down

6. disappointment

7. l a w n

clue: area covered with grass

7. lawn