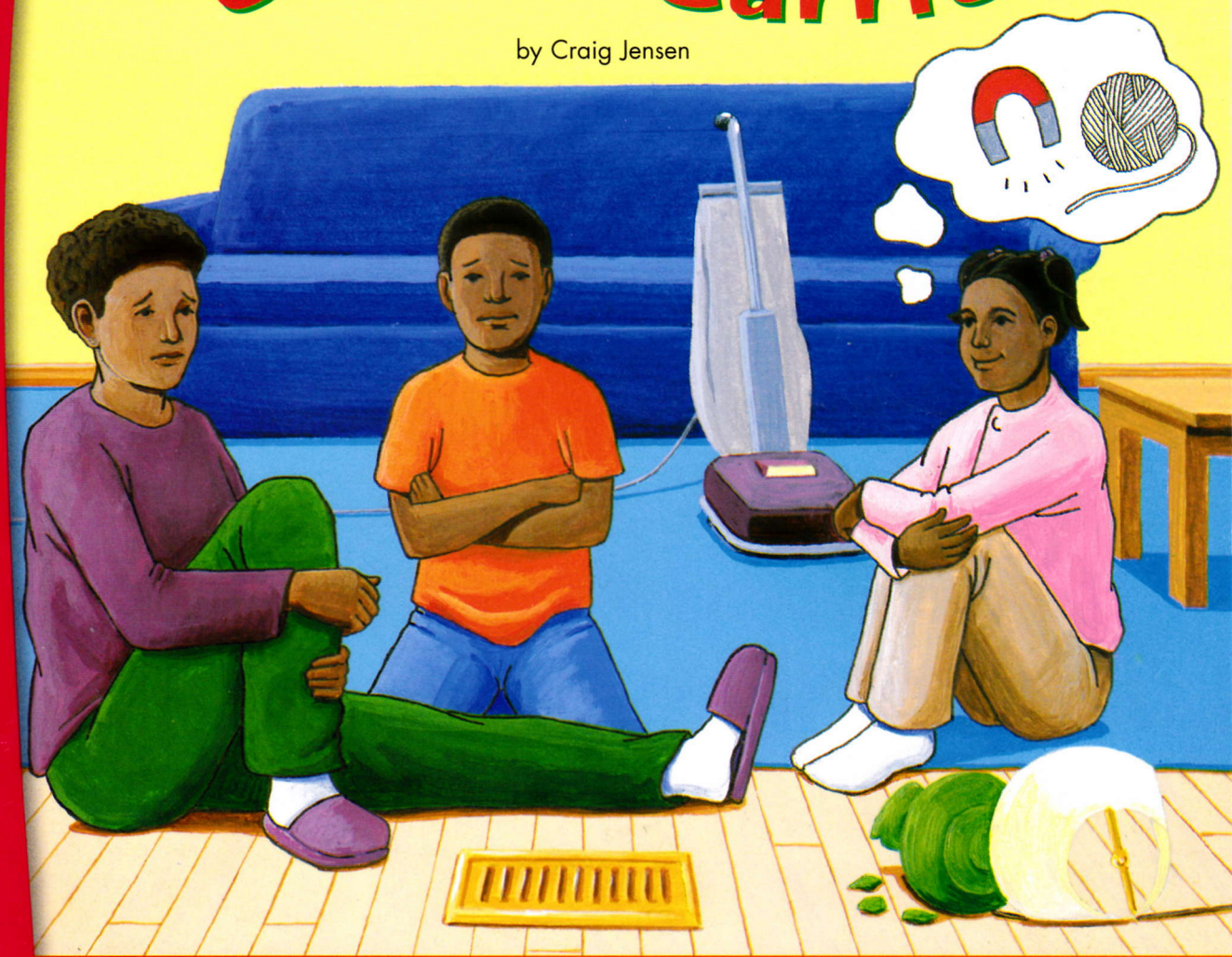


Curious Carrie

by Craig Jensen



1 Eight-year-old Carrie Trent was an average girl. She did her schoolwork, played with friends, and did chores around the house just like other kids.

2 Yet in some ways, Carrie was far from average. Her friends and family called her Curious Carrie because she was curious about so many things.

3 On Monday and Thursday afternoons, Carrie helped her grandma around the yard. She especially liked to help weed the garden. However, sometimes she got so busy examining the roots and leaves of the weeds she hardly ever finished a row.

4 "Pay attention to what you're doing!" said Grandma.

5 "I am paying attention," said Carrie. "Look at all these different shapes of leaves I found!"

6 On Tuesdays and Fridays, Carrie practiced softball with her team after school. Carrie played third base. However, sometimes she would get so interested in guessing how high and far a batter might hit a ball, she would let the runners go right by her base.

7 "You've got to think, Carrie!" said her coach.

8 "I was thinking," said Carrie. "If the ball had gone to the right, I know just where it would have landed!"

9 Sometimes, Carrie and her friend Liz volunteered at the library. They helped by putting books back in the correct places on the shelves. However, sometimes Carrie would read something interesting on the cover of a book. Then she just had to keep reading, and the other books never made it to the shelf.

10 "Carrie, you really need to concentrate on what you're doing," said Ms. Adams, the librarian.

11 "I am concentrating," replied Carrie. "I learned all about asteroids today!"

12 Carrie actually discovered lots of things by being curious. She sometimes came up with terrific ideas on her own.

13 One Saturday, Carrie and her older brother Pete were cleaning out the garage. She started to help Pete sort a wrench set, but something caught her eye. She went over to the workbench and peered into a plastic box. Inside were dozens of magnets of all different shapes and colors.

14 "Wow, Pete!" Carrie exclaimed. "Look at all of these great magnets. I didn't know that these were out here!"

15 Pete smiled at his sister. "Stop playing around and start helping, Carrie, or we'll never get this garage cleaned up."

16 "I am helping," said Carrie.

17 Carrie began to arrange the tools on a shelf. Behind a jar of paintbrushes, she noticed a huge ball of string.

18 "Pete, look at all of this! There must be at least ten feet of string here!" She began to unwind the large ball.

19 Just then, Mom came into the garage. "Carrie!" Mom cried. "You're supposed to be cleaning up, not making a mess. Honestly, honey, you have to think about what you're doing."

20 Carrie looked down at the pile of string. "I am thinking," she said.

21 Mom sighed and left the garage. A few minutes later, there was a loud crash from inside the house. Carrie and Pete went running inside to see what had happened.

22 The vacuum cleaner was sitting in the middle of the living room. The end table next to the couch had been knocked over, and the lamp that used to be on it was in pieces on the floor. Mom was kneeling next to the heating vent.

23 "What happened, Mom?" exclaimed Pete.

24 "I was vacuuming the rug and bumped into the end table. It toppled over and then the lamp fell. What's worse," Mom continued, "is that my car keys were on that table too. They fell into the heating vent on the floor."

25 Mom's voice got louder and louder. "We have eight people coming for dinner, I still have to drive to the store and shop for groceries, and now this!"

26 "Don't worry, Mom," Pete said. "We'll take care of this mess." He went to the kitchen and came back with a broom and dustpan.

27 "Carrie, will you please help me sweep this up? Carrie?"

28 But Carrie wasn't paying attention to her brother. She was thinking about the keys stuck inside the heating vent. Suddenly, she had an idea!

29 "I'll be right back," she called out as she ran to the garage.

30 Carrie was back inside a few seconds later, grinning from ear to ear. She ran over to the heating vent and showed Mom and Pete what she had in her hand. Hanging from a long piece of string was a large magnet from the box on the workbench.

31 "I found these when I was helping Pete clean the garage. I just knew they would be handy for something," Carrie said.

32 She lowered the magnet into the vent and a moment later pulled it up with Mom's keys on the end. She handed them to Mom.

33 "Good job, Carrie!" said Pete. "And to think, all that time in the garage, you really were paying attention to what you were doing."

34 Mom gave Carrie a big hug. "I'm proud of you, honey! That was such a good idea. I guess that sometimes it takes thinking about things in a different way to come up with a good solution!"

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 This story is about
 - a** a girl who does a lot of different things.
 - b** a girl who is curious about what she sees.
 - c** Both **a** and **b**
- 2 When Carrie worked in the garden, she
 - a** was angry that she was not playing instead.
 - b** wondered about the roots and leaves of weeds.
 - c** was afraid to get her hands dirty.
- 3 When Carrie and Pete were cleaning out the garage, Pete thought Carrie was
 - a** too young to help him.
 - b** helping as well as she could.
 - c** playing around and wasting time.

- 4 Mom hugged Carrie as Carrie handed her the car keys because she
 - a** was proud of Carrie's solution.
 - b** thought Carrie was silly.
 - c** remembered a funny joke.
- 5 If Carrie hadn't recovered the car keys
 - a** Mom couldn't drive Carrie to the library.
 - b** Mom couldn't drive to the grocery store.
 - c** Neither **a** nor **b**

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 inspecting closely (3)
- 2 offered to help; assisted (9)
- 3 made known or visible (12)
- 4 cried out; spoke strongly (14)
- 5 to put into order (17)
- 6 fell from or over (24)
- 7 answer to a problem (34)

C A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used.

The *fly* buzzed around the room.
The bird will *fly* to its nest.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

8 cover (9)

- a** binding or case for a book
- b** hide or conceal

9 wrench (13)

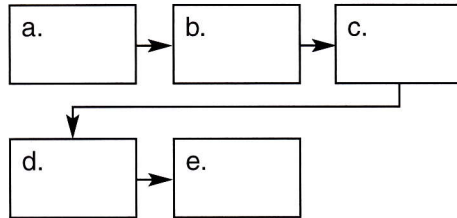
- a** move with a twist
- b** hand or power tool

10 string (17)

- a** cord used to tie or fasten
- b** arrange in a row

THINK ABOUT IT

- D** Look at the story map below. Complete the story map by writing the letter that tells in what order each event happened.



- 1 Carrie played softball and shelved books at the library.
- 2 Carrie helped her grandmother weed the garden and take care of the yard.
- 3 The car keys fell into the heating vent.
- 4 Carrie used a magnet to get Mom's keys.
- 5 Pete and Carrie cleaned out the garage.

- E** A simile is a figure of speech that makes a comparison using the word *like* or *as*.

Glenn is *as strong as an ox*.

Glenn is *like an ox*.

A metaphor compares two things without using the word *like* or *as*.

Glenn is *an ox*.

All three sentences mean the same thing. They all mean Glenn is very strong.

Read each of the following figures of speech. If it is a simile, write *S*. If it is a metaphor, write *M*.

- 6 Carrie was as curious as a cat.
- 7 When she played third base, Carrie stood like a tree while runners scored.
- 8 Many people said that Carrie was a ray of sunshine.
- 9 Mom's face was a thundercloud when she came out to the garage.
- 10 Mom was as happy as a clam to have her keys back.

- F** Some verbs do not add *-ed* to show that something happened in the past. These verbs are called irregular verbs because they do not follow a regular pattern when they tell about the past.

Today I *wear* my black sweater.

Yesterday I *wore* a blue sweater.

Read each sentence. Which verb in parentheses () makes sense in the sentence? Write the verb.

- 11 Carrie said, "I will (bring, brought) in the groceries."
- 12 "We will (drive, drove) to the softball field today," said Mom.
- 13 Yesterday, Carrie (goes, went) to the library in the afternoon.
- 14 Carrie (find, found) magnets and string in the garage.
- 15 Mom (give, gave) Carrie a hug.