



The Disappearing Backpack

Robin and her brother Theo were walking to the school bus stop. Suddenly, their pet dog dashed by.

"Kramer has escaped!" Robin shouted.

Theo lay his backpack down on a trash can at the end of a nearby driveway. He chased after the canine, managing to grab him by the collar. While he was struggling to keep Kramer in his grasp, he spotted his father running up the street with a leash.

"He got away from me," Dad explained breathlessly. Giving his kids a hug, he marched Kramer back home.

When Theo went to retrieve his backpack, he discovered that it was nowhere to be found. Then, he noticed a large truck driving away in the distance. A look of panic crossed Theo's face. Peering into the empty trash can, he began racing down the street after the vehicle.

Complete the following.

1. What probably happened to Theo's backpack? _____

2. What clues led you to that conclusion? _____

Robin quickly deduced what had happened to Theo's books. While Theo chased after the truck, Robin ran and caught up to her father. She explained the situation. Her dad promised to make some phone calls as soon as he arrived home.

Two hours later, while Theo was sitting in his classroom, there was a knock on the door. A

student messenger entered. The student was carrying Theo's backpack!

"Special delivery from the main office," the student smiled. "Or should I say, SMELLY delivery!"

Theo was overjoyed. His books were unharmed. But, they certainly did have a distinct odor!

Complete the following.

1. Whom did the father call? _____

2. What does the student messenger mean by *smelly delivery*? _____

3. How might Theo's classmates feel about sitting near him that day? _____