Katie's First Day of School

By Joyce Furstenau

Katie had been back-to-school shopping all week. Her mother helped her pick out several new dresses. She tried on red shoes, green shoes, and brown shoes. She got a new pair of tennis shoes, too. Katie's grandmother even sent her money to buy school clothes. She wanted Katie to look perfect for her first day at school.

Katie also needed school supplies. She got a notebook, a box of pencils, and three different sizes of markers. She got colored pencils, scissors, glue, and a giant box of crayons. She put her name on everything so she would be ready for school.

Katie found the perfect tote for her schoolbooks. Her mother wanted it to look special so she sewed an apple on it. She also embroidered her name on it in case she misplaced it during the year. Katie put everything neatly away in her room so she would be ready for the first day of school.

Katie visited her school several times before the first day. She wanted to be sure she knew where everything was. When the class lists were finally posted, she looked through all the lists. There it was. Her name was on the top of one of the lists: Katie Allen, First Grade, Room 3. She looked at the names of all the children in her classroom. She did not know any of them. Katie was getting nervous.

The night before school started, Katie laid out her school clothes. She wanted to get up early so she could be the first one there. She had a hard time getting to sleep. She thought about all the questions everyone has on the first day: What if no one likes me? What if I forget my lunch? What if I can't find anything? When she finally fell asleep, Katie dreamed she spilled her tomato soup on her dress. She dreamed she had to stay in school with a big spot of tomato soup on her dress all day.

Her alarm clock went off at six o'clock that morning. Katie did not want to get out of bed. Mr. Allen had to remind her it was time to get up for school. She said she was not ready. She told him about her dream. Mr. Allen said, "Don't worry, honey; you will have a tuna sandwich in your lunch today. You will not spill soup on yourself."

Katie got up. She showered and brushed her teeth. She combed her long red hair and told herself, "You can do it, Katie Allen!" She put on her new red dress and her new black shoes. She looked at herself in the mirror and smiled.

She ate a good breakfast so she would have energy to begin the day. "I think I'm ready," she said. She picked up her tote. Inside were a notebook, pencils,
and markers. She took a deep breath and said, "Let's go."

Mr. Allen drove her to school. He kissed her and said goodbye. Katie took another deep breath and got out of the car. She waved goodbye to Mr. Allen. "Have a great first day," he shouted as he drove off.

Katie felt butterflies in her stomach. She did not know what to expect. She walked to her classroom. Every desk had a nametag on it. She was the first one to arrive.

She went to her desk and put her things away. As children arrived, Katie introduced herself. Before long, the bell rang, and the first day of school had begun. Katie did not sit down. She went to the front of the class and said, "Good morning, class. I am your first grade teacher, Mrs. Allen. Are any of you as nervous about the first day of school as I am?"

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Questions

___ 1. Who was Katie Allen?
   A. a substitute teacher
   B. a principal
   C. a first year teacher
   D. a first grader

___ 2. Why did her mother sew her name on her tote?
   A. So she wouldn't lose it
   B. To make sure no one took her tote
   C. To make it look like it was especially made for her
   D. To make it look like all the other totes

___ 3. Why did Katie go back-to-school shopping?
   A. She had to buy new clothes for a party anyway.
   B. She wanted to look better than anyone else.
   C. She was not able to make her own clothes.
   D. Teachers want to look nice, too.

___ 4. Why did Katie eat a good breakfast?
   A. She needed energy to start the day.
   B. She was nervous.
   C. She did not like pancakes.
   D. She felt sick.
5. Why was Katie so nervous on the first day of school?
   A. She was sick.
   B. She was afraid of the children.
   C. She was afraid of the principal.
   D. It was her first day as a teacher.

6. Why was Katie's name at the top of the class list?
   A. She was the tallest.
   B. She was the teacher.
   C. Her name started with an "A."
   D. She was the oldest.