



Poor Henry

Josh and Larry hurried into the pet store. They'd been working for weeks, and saving up their allowance, for just this very moment. They stopped in front of the 55-gallon terrarium and gazed down at the green iguana. His round eyes rolled up in their direction beneath lazy, pale green lids.

"I think he likes us!" Josh said.

"He ought to at least recognize you." Mr. Potts, who owned the pet store, walked up behind them.

"Today is the day," Larry said. "He reached into his pocket and pulled out his money. He elbowed Josh. Josh pulled out his money too. "We want to buy Henry," Larry said.

"Are you sure? Have you checked with your parents?"

"Oh sure," Josh said. "Our mom said that getting a pet was a great idea. She said it would teach us responsibility."

"All righty then," Mr. Potts said. He lifted Henry out of the terrarium and put him in a big cardboard box. Larry gave Mr. Potts their money, and they took Henry home.

They put the box in the laundry room. "Let's get the old fish tank out of the garage," Josh said. "We'll use it for our terrarium."

While they were gone, their mother came down into the laundry room with a basket of dirty clothes in her hands. She saw the large cardboard box on the washing machine, sighed, and put down the laundry basket so she could move it out of her way. But when she picked up the box, it moved! She was so startled that she screamed, and she dropped the box, and Henry, on the floor. The box came open, Henry flopped out, righted himself, and then scuttled off behind the laundry room door.

"Larry! Josh!" their mother screeched. "Get in here right now!" The boys came running. "Get this creature out of here!"

"But Mom, this is Henry, the lizard that we were telling you about! You said we could get him!"

"This isn't a lizard," their mother said. "This thing is almost four feet tall! This is a monster! Get it out!"

Their mother perched on top of the washing machine while the boys got Henry out from behind the door and back into the box. They took it back to the pet store. When Mr. Potts saw them walking back in the door with the box, he sighed. He picked Henry up out of the box to put him back in the terrarium.

"I'm never going to get rid of you," Mr. Potts said. He went behind the register and gave Larry and Josh their money back, telling them, "You're the fourth set of boys that's bought this iguana and returned him within the hour!"

Directions: Think about the story. Then for each event in the story, write the passage from the text that is the basis for your inference.



