

## The Case of the Missing Ray-Bans

Mrs. Brown thinks Ray-Bans are over-priced sunglasses for spoiled clientele. To her daughter Angie, however, they are her most prized possession. She saved eight weeks of allowance in order to purchase them. Before bed, she puts them on her nightstand next to her Coppertone suntan lotion, and her favorite pink fuzzy beach towel. She never leaves home without them. If it's a cloudy day, she wears them on the top of her head with the signature brand name visible to all. Angie broke that rule, however, on Saturday afternoon. She was in such a hurry to meet her friends on Main Street for a day of shopping, that she simply forgot to put them on.

Emma and Tori were waiting for her at their usual table in Starbucks. "That pink shirt does not compliment your coloring," sneered Tori.

"Well, good morning to you too, Tori. I'm glad to see that you are your normal, happy self," replied Angie.

Ignoring the jab, Tori went on. "Where is Anya? She is never late."

"She'll be here soon," said Angie, "don't worry."

Anya arrived a half hour later while they were paying their bill. "Let's go!" she yelled and pushed the others out of the door.

The first stop was Barney's Shoes. The girls spent over an hour trying on various pairs of sandals. Finally, they chose a style with flower prints and a low, wedge heel. The sandals came in four different floral prints, so they were each able to purchase a different pair. The next stop was Carrie's Cosmetics. The girls loved the new fruit scented lip glosses. It took them forever to pick out their favorite flavors. Angie settled on a melon scent, and walked over to the suntan lotion.

"Do you think I should buy some suntan lotion?" Angie asked Anya.

"No, you have plenty," Anya responded.

"Yes, you are right," replied Angie as she put the bottle down.

The final stop was the surf shop. "Maybe I'll find a shirt that will compliment my coloring," Angie said sarcastically to Tori. The girls went in and out of the changing rooms in lightning speed. Finally, Emma came out wearing a coral colored shirt with white shorts. "I love this outfit! I'm going to wear it tomorrow to the picnic at the park. Can I borrow your Ray-Bans? They would totally complete this outfit!"

"Absolutely not," replied Angie. "No one touches my Ray-Bans."

"I knew you would say that," Emma said with a huff. The sun came out as soon as they walked out of the store. Angie's right hand automatically went to the top of her head to grab her sunglasses. Then, she began to frantically pat her head. "They're gone! Where are my Ray-Bans?"

"I don't know," said Tori. "You didn't have them on when you met us at Starbucks."

"Are you sure? I never leave home without them."

"Of course, I'm sure. I notice these things," said Tori.

Angie grabbed her cell phone from her purse, and speed dialed her mother. "Can you check my room to make sure my Ray-Bans are still on my nightstand?" she asked.

"Sure, honey. Hold on."

"Did you find them?" asked Angie with panic in her voice.

"Nope. They aren't there," replied her mother.

"Someone stole my Ray-Bans!" Angie screamed as she hung up the phone.

"It wasn't me," replied Tori. "I think they make you look stuck-up."

"It certainly wasn't me," said Anya. "I've never even been in your bedroom."

"Don't look at me," said Emma. "I love them, but I would never steal from you. I'm going to get a pair for my birthday anyway."

Angie leaned against a lamppost and thought for a few minutes. "Aha! I figured it out. Dump your purse, friend, and give them back." The way she said the word "friend" didn't sound very friendly.

The suspect obediently dumped out her purse on a nearby, outdoor restaurant table, and the Ray-Bans tumbled out.

"How did you know?" she asked with tears in her eyes.

"You gave yourself away," replied Angie.

Although the authorities were never called, the friendship was ruined just the same. The trust between the two girls was broken.

1. How did Angie first get her Ray-Bans?

- A. Toni bought them for her.
- B. Her mother bought them for her birthday.
- C. She saved up her allowance and bought them herself.
- D. She borrowed them from Emma and never gave them back.

2. What can the reader infer about Angie?

- A. She can't be trusted.
- B. She has a lot in common with her mother.
- C. She has a close relationship with Toni despite their arguments.
- D. She has goals, and works toward achieving them.

3. What does the highlighted word "clientele" above mean?

- A. children
- B. customers
- C. store owners
- D. brats

4. Which word BEST describes the relationship between Tori and Angie?

- A. friendly
- B. close
- C. respectful
- D. stormy

5. How did the narrator maintain the mystery?

- A. She provided four suspects.
- B. She didn't provide any clues.
- C. She had Angie refer to the suspect as "friend" instead of using her name.
- D. She referred to the suspect as "friend" to show Angie's true feelings

6. What does the highlighted word "jab" mean in the passage above?

- A. a poke in the ribs
- B. a question
- C. an insult
- D. an apology

7. Why did the author choose to put the highlighted word "friend" in italics?

- A. To emphasize that the suspect wasn't really Angie's friend.
- B. To emphasize that Angie was surprised with the theft.
- C. To emphasize that Angie wanted the suspect to empty her purse.
- D. To emphasize that Angie wished she had more friends.

8. Which is the BEST theme for this story?

- A. Bad behavior can ruin a friendship.
- B. Never buy expensive sunglasses.
- C. A pair of sunglasses gets stolen.
- D. Friends go shopping together.