

Name _____ Date _____

Tough Times

Every day after school, Thomas worked at a grocery store run	11
by Mr. Barton. It was 1931. Times were tough, and his family	23
needed his help. “Has your dad had any luck finding a job?” asked	36
Mr. Barton.	38
“No, sir,” Thomas answered quietly.	43
“Don’t you worry,” said Mr. Barton kindly. “He will.”	52
Thomas delivered groceries for Mr. Barton. As he pushed the	62
cart through the city, he noticed that people all around him were	74
struggling to make a living. He felt lucky to have his job.	86
That night, Thomas lay awake in the dark. He couldn’t help	97
overhearing his mom and dad talking. “I don’t want Thomas to	108
have to quit school,” said Dad, “but he could work longer hours if	121
he did.”	123
“You know how he loves school,” said Mom.	131
“I know,” said Dad sadly. “It’s not fair for a boy so young to	145
have to work so hard.”	150
The next day, Thomas sat by the window and studied. All	161
of a sudden, he heard a loud noise outside. A man galloped on	174
horseback through the street. “Workers wanted!” cried the man.	183
“Workers wanted to build a skyscraper!” Thomas ran to tell Dad.	194
After Thomas delivered groceries for Mr. Barton, he rushed	203
straight home. “Good news, Thomas!” said Dad. “I got the job!	214
I want to thank you. We couldn’t have gotten through this tough	226
time without you!”	229

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 Why did Thomas feel lucky to have his job?
- A He liked his boss.
 - B He lived in tough times.
 - C He couldn't go to school.
 - D He wanted to be a grocer.
- 2 Why does Thomas's dad want Thomas to work longer hours?
- F Thomas will make more money.
 - G It will keep Thomas out of trouble.
 - H He thinks Thomas is bored.
 - I Mr. Barton needs the help.
- 3 What is the meaning of the word *cried* as used in the sentence below?
- "Workers wanted!" cried the man.**
- A to demand action
 - B to shed tears
 - C to shout
 - D to beg
- 4 What led to Thomas's dad getting a job?
- F Thomas told him about the job.
 - G Mr. Barton told him about the job.
 - H He read about the job in the newspaper.
 - I He overheard a man talking about the job.
- 5 Describe Thomas and his family. Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.