

## The returned envelope

Fiction | 6 questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

The envelope arrived at the workshop with three crossed-out addresses on its front. Inside was a photograph of a wooden rocking horse and a note asking whether it could be repaired. There was no telephone number. At the bottom, the writer had signed only “E. Marsh”.

Daniel’s aunt laid the photograph beside a horse she had made years earlier. The curve of the runners was familiar, but the painted mane was different. “It might be one of mine,” she said. “Or someone might have used a similar design.”

Daniel wanted to reply at once. He had found an E. Marsh in an old village directory, and the address was only a short walk away. His aunt turned the envelope over. A newer address was printed on the back, partly hidden beneath a forwarding label. They could make out the town, but not the house number.

They wrote a reply and left it unsealed while Daniel took the envelope to the post office. The clerk looked at the label under a bright lamp and read the missing number. Daniel copied it carefully rather than relying on the directory.

A week later, a woman arrived with the rocking horse in the back of her car. She had moved twice since the old village directory was printed. Daniel recognised the faded paint immediately, but his aunt waited until she could examine a small mark beneath the seat.

“That settles it,” she said. The mark was hers. She placed the horse on the workbench, and Daniel fetched the tools. This time, no one had to guess where to begin.

# Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

**1. What useful detail was partly hidden on the back of the envelope?**

- A. A telephone number
- B. A repair price
- C. A maker's mark
- D. A newer address

**2. How was the missing house number found?**

- A. Daniel guessed it from the directory
- B. The woman telephoned the workshop
- C. A clerk read the label under a bright lamp
- D. His aunt remembered the old address

**3. What does “settles it” mean in the final paragraph?**

- A. Puts the horse on the floor
- B. Pays the repair bill
- C. Ends every future question
- D. Resolves the uncertainty

**4. Why was the old directory an unreliable basis for the reply?**

- A. It listed no one with the surname Marsh
- B. The writer's address had changed since the directory was made
- C. The horse was too old to repair
- D. The workshop had already moved

**5. Why did the aunt wait to see the mark beneath the seat?**

- A. She had forgotten how to use the tools
- B. The photograph showed the wrong animal
- C. Daniel had already confirmed the owner's name
- D. A similar shape alone did not prove she had made the horse

**6. How do the address and maker's mark connect the two parts of the story?**

- A. Both replace a plausible guess with firmer evidence
- B. Both show that old information is always useless
- C. Both prevent the horse from being repaired
- D. Both reveal that Daniel wrote the original note

# Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

## 1. D. A newer address

A forwarding label partly covered a newer printed address on the back.

## 2. C. A clerk read the label under a bright lamp

The post-office clerk used a bright lamp to read the obscured number.

## 3. D. Resolves the uncertainty

The maker's mark confirms whose work the horse was, resolving the earlier uncertainty.

## 4. B. The writer's address had changed since the directory was made

The newer address and the woman's later explanation that she had moved twice show why an older listing could mislead.

## 5. D. A similar shape alone did not prove she had made the horse

Earlier she says someone could have used a similar design; her own mark provides more specific evidence.

## 6. A. Both replace a plausible guess with firmer evidence

The readable address checks where to reply; the mark checks who made the horse. Each resolves a different uncertainty.

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