

GINGER

Matt was running late for school as usual, so he grabbed a doughnut and quickly hugged Mom and Dad goodbye. On the way out the door, [it/ he/ as] patted the head of Lucky, his [slam/ tries/ black] cocker spaniel that Mom and Dad had [given/ toast/ pine] him when he was five years [and/ the/ old]. When he came home, he bounced [is/ up/ tan] the front steps and inside the [trunk/ skate/ front] door and from there began hopping [to/ and/ is] the kitchen. He poured a glass [in/ to/ of] milk and chose a banana for [or/ a/ by] snack while wondering where Mom was. [Ton/ She/ And] was usually home in the afternoon, [fan/ rice/ and] she had not left a note saying [store/ where/ clean] she was. Matt also noticed that Lucky [stew/ arts/ was] not around either. Maybe Mom had [thing/ taken/ stand] her to the vet for a [shot/ when/ there] or something.

Then Matt heard Mom [whale/ drive/ train] up in the driveway. "Hi, Mom. [Where/ Face/ Wrist] have you been, and have you [time/ seen/ rain] Lucky?" asked Matt. Mom's face was [vine/ pale/ cave] and drawn as she said, "Matt, [A/ Of/ I] have some bad news. Lucky got [line/ pens/ hit] by a car today and she [home/ did/ race] not survive. The vet will bury [her/ bite/ met] in the morning, and we can [top/ ate/ go] visit her grave if you would [wind/ like/ rake] to."

Matt could not believe what [ice/ tick/ Mom] had just told him, and he

[cane/ jam/ ran] to his room, slammed the door, [fun/ fell/ pail] onto his bed, and began to [trim/ cry/ desk]. He was so upset that poor Lucky [pie/ had/ girl] been hit by a car, and [it/ by/ he] hoped she had not suffered too [busy/ worn/ much].

Much later he came out of [his/ bet/ port] room and Mom welcomed him into [her/ toe/ sun] arms. She understood how Matt felt.

[Car/ Ask/ The] next day Mom came home with [a/ to/ by] surprise for Matt in a large [crumb/ brown/ whine] box. Matt peered inside and saw [be/ a/ it] small, furry ball with a little wagging [come/ halt/ tail]. It was a mutt that Mom [had/ stew/ arm] gotten for him to take care [at/ of/ is]. Matt told Mom that he did [ran/ red/ not] want another dog, especially a mutt. [Mom/ Win/ Run] said she'd take the puppy back [ate/ in/ of] the morning if Matt still thought [it/ he/ no] did not want a new dog.

[That/ Host/ Play] night as Matt lay in his [true/ yet/ bed], he heard the puppy whimpering. She [and/ was/ the] probably lonely and homesick, so Matt [high/ went/ that] down to the kitchen to give [and/ are/ the] puppy something to eat. All he [pound/ real/ could] find was a gingerbread man cookie. [The/ Are/ Say] puppy loved the cookie and ate [from/ went/ gone] Matt's hand.

Matt told Mom that [to/ at/ he] had decided to keep the puppy after [all/ come/ out], and he wanted to call her Ginger because [use/ and/ she] liked to eat gingerbread man [cookies/ purple/ tables].