

Name: _____

Friday the 13th

by Kelly Hashway

Maxine walked to the bus stop, dreading the math test she had today. She'd studied and studied, but she was still worried.

"Whoa!" Adam said. "You stepped on a crack."

Max looked down. "So what?"

"It's Friday the 13th. That's bad luck already and you just added to it by stepping on that crack."

Bad luck? Max didn't need bad luck. She needed good luck, and a whole lot of it, if she was going to get a good grade on her math test.

"Do you really believe in that stuff?" Max asked.

Adam shrugged. "There has to be a reason so many people are superstitious about Friday the 13th, right?"

Max thought about that all morning and was careful not to step on any more cracks before her math test.

"Hey, look out!" Adam yelled.

Max looked up from her math book, which she was glancing at one more time before the test. She almost bumped right into the leg of a tall metal ladder.

"You walked under a ladder!" Adam said. "Are you trying to get all the bad luck you can before this test?"

Oh no! Max lowered her head as she walked into the classroom and slumped into her seat. This test was going to be a nightmare with all the bad luck she had.



Max's hand shook as she wrote her name on the test paper. Mr. Saunders told everyone to begin. She scanned the problems, and to her surprise, they didn't look too hard. She took her time and worked out each problem. When she finished, she brought her paper up to Mr. Saunders's desk.

Max gulped when Mr. Saunders started grading it right away. Max sat down and stared out the window. She'd thought the problems weren't bad at all, but what about her bad luck?

"Maxine, could you come here?" Mr. Saunders asked.

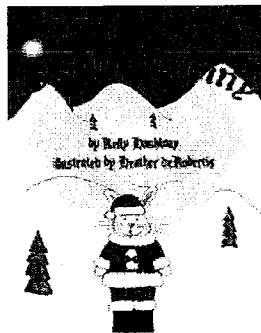
Max held her breath as she walked up to Mr. Saunders's desk. She peeked at her paper, expecting to see a lot of red marks on her incorrect answers. Instead she saw a big letter A.

"I got an A?"

"Yes," Mr. Saunders said. "I'm very impressed with your improvement. I thought you should see this right away."

Max smiled for the rest of the day, and when a black cat walked in front of her on the way home from the bus stop, she just smiled wider. Friday the 13th certainly wasn't bad luck for her.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *Santa Bunny*, is now available!

When the Easter Bunny feels children love Santa more than him, he decides to take over the Christmas holiday. The Easter Bunny shows up on Christmas Eve to deliver baskets to all the good children, only Santa is delivering gifts, too. But little Tommy catches them and wants to know who will hide eggs on Easter? Can Tommy convince the Easter Bunny he's loved before it's too late?

Hashway, Kelly. *Santa Bunny*. ISBN: 978-1470072353

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1. Throughout most of this story, Maxine believes...
- a. that Friday the 13th brings good luck
 - b. that she needs good luck to pass her math test
 - c. that she will have good luck if she steps on cracks
 - d. that Adam is not being honest with her

2. Max probably got an A on her test because...
- a. Friday the 13th is lucky for many people.
 - b. She stepped on a crack on her way to school.
 - c. She walked under a ladder.
 - d. She studied for the test.

3. Do you think Maxine usually does well on math tests? How can you tell?

4. Reread the sentence below from the story and choose the best definition for the underlined word.

There has to be a reason so many people are superstitious about Friday the 13th, right?

The underlined word means...

- a. becoming worried about things
- b. believing in working hard
- c. believing in things that cause good and bad luck
- d. feeling very sad on a certain day

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In the story, "Friday the 13th," Maxine is superstitious. She believes that stepping on cracks and walking under a ladder will bring her bad luck, and cause her to fail her math test.

According to people who are superstitious, certain things can bring good luck or bad luck. Are you a superstitious person? Explain why or why not.
