

Just then, an engine rumbled in the distance. Carl strained to look down the street. There it was! The mail truck was coming.

There were four other houses on the street before Grandma's house. Carl watched as the truck stopped at one, two, three, four.

At last, the truck pulled to a stop in front of Grandma's house. Instead of opening the mailbox, the driver parked. The mail carrier stepped out of the truck

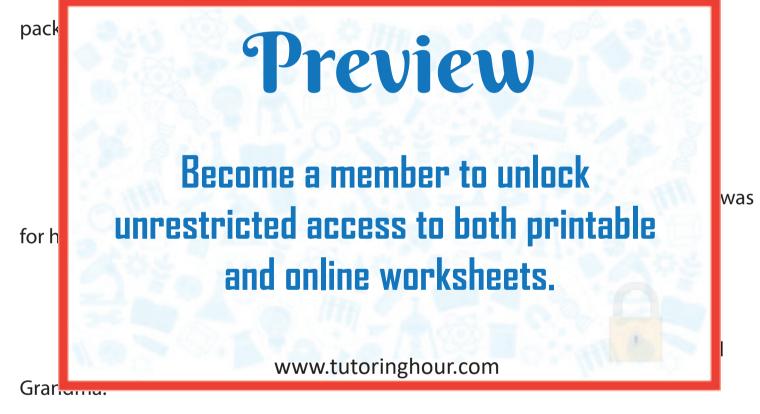
A cool wind blew across Carl's cheeks.

and approached Carl. He carried a stack of letters as well as a package.

Could it be for Carl? He held his breath as he waited.

"Special delivery," said the mail carrier.

Carl could hardly keep from jumping as the mail carrier handed him the



Carl opened it quickly and found a box full of goodies inside. His favorite was a picture of him and Mom together.

"Grandma," he said, "have I ever told you how I love the mail?"

Grandma laughed.

- 1) Why did Carl brave the dropping temperatures to wait for the mail?
 - a) He wanted to see the mail truck.
 - b) His grandma told him to.
 - c) It was his birthday, and he was expecting a special letter.
 - d) He needed to mail a letter to his mom.



4) Who and what is the story about? What do you learn from the story?

5) List out the details that support the importance of family connections.

