

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

# Swing Set Time Machine

by Kelly Hashway

Alex positioned the swing on its lowest setting, just barely off the ground when he sat on it. He held onto the chains with both hands and leaned back as far as his arms would reach. In his reclined position, he walked his feet back and began his countdown.



"Five, four, three, two, one, blastoff!" He picked up his feet, and the swing whipped forward. Alex watched the blades of grass blowing inches beneath him. "Next stop, the jungle to meet up with Tarzan!"

Alex closed his eyes as the wind washed over him. Images raced through his mind. Swirling colors marked the years he was traveling back in time on his swing set time machine. As far as he knew, he was the only kid who owned a swing set time machine. And it only worked with the swing positioned on the lowest setting.

The sound of the neighbor's barking dog transformed into gorillas grunting. The swing slowed to a stop, and Alex opened his eyes.

The jungle stood before him. Trees, vines, gorillas, and the face of his good friend Tarzan.

"Hi, Tarzan," Alex said, jumping off the swing.

"Right on time, Alex. I was just about to go on an adventure."

"Yes!" Alex yelled, raising his fist in the air.

"Alex," a voice called from far away.

"Not again," Alex said, turning toward the house. "What, Mom?"

"Becca's on her way over."

"I was playing on my swings." He'd never told Mom about his time machine or his adventures

with Tarzan.

"Great. I'm sure Becca would love to play on the swings with you."

Play with a girl? And on his time machine? Alex wasn't so sure about that.

Becca walked over from next door. "Hi. What are you doing?"

"Playing on the swings."

"Oh. I was reading, but my mom said I should come play with you."

"Reading what?" Alex asked.

"A book about Tarzan and Jane."

Jane! Alex had forgotten all about Jane. "You like Tarzan?"

"Yeah. I wish I could go to a jungle."

Alex looked at the swings. He adjusted the second swing to the lowest setting. "Here," he said.

"Isn't that a little low?" Becca asked.

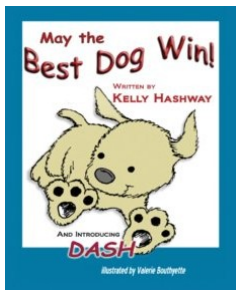
Alex whispered, "It's a swing set time machine. It will take us back to Tarzan's time and we'll be in the jungle."

Becca's eyes widened. "Don't you mean Tarzan and Jane?"

Alex smiled. "Yeah, Tarzan and Jane."

## Note From the Author

I used to pretend my swing set could take me anywhere, and I always had to set my swing on the lowest setting, just like Alex does in this story.



## May the Best Dog Win

Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available! Ask for it at your library or local bookseller.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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

# Swing Set Time Machine

by Kelly Hashway



1. What is this story mostly about?
  - a. a boy who can travel in time using his swing set
  - b. a boy who doesn't want his friend to know about his swing set
  - c. a boy who likes to pretend his swing set is a time machine
  - d. a boy who visits the jungle and finds a swing set
  
2. Why did Becca come over to visit Alex?
  - a. She wanted to see how the time machine worked.
  - b. Her mother told her to.
  - c. Alex's mother invited her.
  - d. She wanted to tell Alex about the book she was reading.
  
3. Where does Becca live?
  - a. across the street
  - b. down the street
  - c. across town
  - d. next door
  
4. Describe the type of place where Tarzan and Jane would live.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Re-read the following sentence from the story.

*The sound of the neighbor's barking dog transformed into gorillas grunting.*

Which is the best definition for the underline word?
  - a. changed
  - b. disappeared
  - c. moved
  - d. stopped making noise
  
6. How did Alex feel when his mother first told him Becca was coming over?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.



\_\_\_\_\_ 1. positioned

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. barely

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. jungle

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. adventure

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. images

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. raced

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. forgotten

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. gorillas

a. an exciting trip

b. rainforest

c. large monkeys

d. hardly

e. not remembered

f. put in a certain place

g. pictures

h. hurried

◆ **Now try this:** Write three sentences on your own. In each sentence, use one of the vocabulary words above.

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

# Swing Set Time Machine

by Kelly Hashway



In the story, "Swing Set Time Machine," Alex pretends his swing set is a time machine.

If you had a time machine, what year would you travel to? What would you see and do when you arrived there?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

## ANSWER KEY

# Swing Set Time Machine

by Kelly Hashway



1. What is this story mostly about? **c**
  - a. a boy who can travel in time using his swing set
  - b. a boy who doesn't want his friend to know about his swing set
  - c. **a boy who likes to pretend his swing set is a time machine**
  - d. a boy who visits the jungle and finds a swing set
  
2. Why did Becca come over to visit Alex? **b**
  - a. She wanted to see how the time machine worked.
  - b. **Her mother told her to.**
  - c. Alex's mother invited her.
  - d. She wanted to tell Alex about the book she was reading.
  
3. Where does Becca live? **d**
  - a. across the street
  - b. down the street
  - c. across town
  - d. **next door**
  
4. Describe the type of place where Tarzan and Jane would live.  
**Tarzan and Jane live in the jungle, surrounded by vines, trees, and gorillas.**
  
5. Re-read the following sentence from the story.  
*The sound of the neighbor's barking dog transformed into gorillas grunting.*  
Which is the best definition for the underline word? **a**
  - a. **changed**
  - b. disappeared
  - c. moved
  - d. stopped making noise
  
6. How did Alex feel when his mother first told him Becca was coming over?  
**He was disappointed because he wasn't sure he wanted to play with a girl and he wasn't sure he wanted to tell her about his imaginary time machine.**

## ANSWER KEY

# Swing Set Time Machine

by Kelly Hashway



Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.

**f** 1. positioned

**a.** an exciting trip

**d** 2. barely

**b.** rainforest

**b** 3. jungle

**c.** large monkeys

**a** 4. adventure

**d.** hardly

**g** 5. images

**e.** not remembered

**h** 6. raced

**f.** put in a certain place

**e** 7. forgotten

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**c** 8. gorillas

**h.** hurried

- ◆ Now try this: Write three sentences on your own. In each sentence, use one of the vocabulary words above.