



In the quiet town of Stayner, where the streets were lined with maple trees and the air smelled of freshly baked cookies, something extraordinary happened. It was a sunny morning, and the townspeople were going about their usual business—walking dogs, sipping coffee, and chatting with neighbors. But little did they know that just around the corner, a daring bank robbery was about to unfold. The Stayner Savings Bank stood at the heart of the town square, its red-brick walls adorned with ivy. The bank manager, Mrs. Thompson, was a kind woman with silver hair and round glasses. She greeted every customer with a warm smile, making them feel like family. But today, her smile faded as the door swung open, and three masked figures burst in. The robbers wore black ski masks and carried bulging canvas bags. Their leader, a tall man with a scar across his cheek, pointed a gun at Mrs. Thompson. “Nobody move!” he shouted. The bank’s customers froze, their eyes wide with fear. The second robber, a shorter woman with fiery red hair, leaped over the counter. She yanked open drawers, stuffing cash into her bag. Meanwhile, the third member of the gang—a lanky teenager—stood guard by the door, nervously shifting from foot to foot. Mrs. Thompson’s heart raced. She knew the silent alarm had been triggered, but help wouldn’t arrive in time. She glanced at the children huddled near the toy train set in the corner. Tim, the youngest, clutched his stuffed bear tightly. Mrs. Thompson whispered, “Stay calm, kids. Everything will be okay.” Outside, Officer Rodriguez was patrolling the streets. He loved Stayner—the friendly faces, the smell of blooming flowers—but today, his radio crackled with urgency. “Bank robbery in progress!” the dispatcher said. Officer Rodriguez’s heart pounded as he sprinted toward the bank. Back inside, the red-haired robber finished emptying the cash drawers. She turned to Mrs. Thompson. “You’ve been a good sport,” she sneered. “Now, hand over the vault key.” Mrs. Thompson hesitated. The vault held not only money but also precious heirlooms and important documents. She glanced at the children again. “I won’t give you the key,” she said firmly. “You can take the money, but leave the rest.” The scar-faced leader growled. “Fine. Let’s go!” The trio dashed out of the bank, their bags overflowing with bills. As they fled, Officer Rodriguez burst through the door, gun drawn. But it was too late—the robbers had vanished into the bustling streets. The townspeople gathered outside, whispering and pointing. Mrs. Thompson emerged, her hands trembling. Officer Rodriguez patted her shoulder. “You did well,” he said. “We’ll catch them.” And catch them they did. The scar-faced man turned out to be an ex-con named Jack, the red-haired woman was his sister, Ruby, and the lanky teenager was their cousin, Benny. They’d planned the heist for weeks, but greed had blinded them. They were caught counting their loot in a nearby alley, laughing as if they’d won the lottery. The Stayner Gazette ran the headline: “Heroes Among Us: Bank Manager and Officer Foil Robbery.” Mrs. Thompson became a local legend, and Timmy’s stuffed bear was forever known as “Brave Bear.” The townspeople celebrated with a picnic in the park, grateful that their quiet little town had survived its first—and hopefully last—bank robbery. And so, in the heart of Stayner, where maple trees rustled in the breeze and children played tag, the story of “The Great Bank Heist” became a tale told by generations. It reminded everyone that even in the face of danger, courage and community could prevail.

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Small Town Bank Heist

Answer according to the reading passage:

- 1. What was the name of the bank in Stayner?**
 - a. Ivy Bank
 - b. Stayner Savings Bank
 - c. Maple Tree Bank

- 2. Who was the bank manager?**
 - a. Mrs. Thompson
 - b. Officer Rodriguez
 - c. Benny

- 3. What did the fiery red-haired robber steal from the bank?**
 - a. gold coins
 - b. bonds
 - c. cash

- 4. What did the young boy Tim clutch during the robbery?**
 - a. stuffed bear
 - b. baseball cap
 - c. toy train

- 5. What did Officer Rodriguez do when he entered the bank?**
 - a. tied up the robbers
 - b. called for backup
 - c. arrested the robbers

Small Town Bank Heist

Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. Describe the atmosphere in Stayner after the bank heist. How did the townspeople react?
2. How did Mrs. Thompson's refusal to give up the vault key impact the outcome of the robbery?
3. Reflect on the theme of courage in the reading passage. How did Mrs. Thompson and Officer Rodriguez demonstrate courage and bravery?
4. Describe how the people in the bank would look and react?
 - If you were to continue the reading passage, what consequences might the robbers face after being caught?
 - Imagine you were one of the townspeople witnessing the robbery. How would you feel and what actions would you take?
 - Why do you think the robbers chose Stayner for their small bank heist. What made it an attractive target?
 - What lessons can be learned from this bank heist.
 - Describe the type of people Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Rodrigues are and explain why you think this.