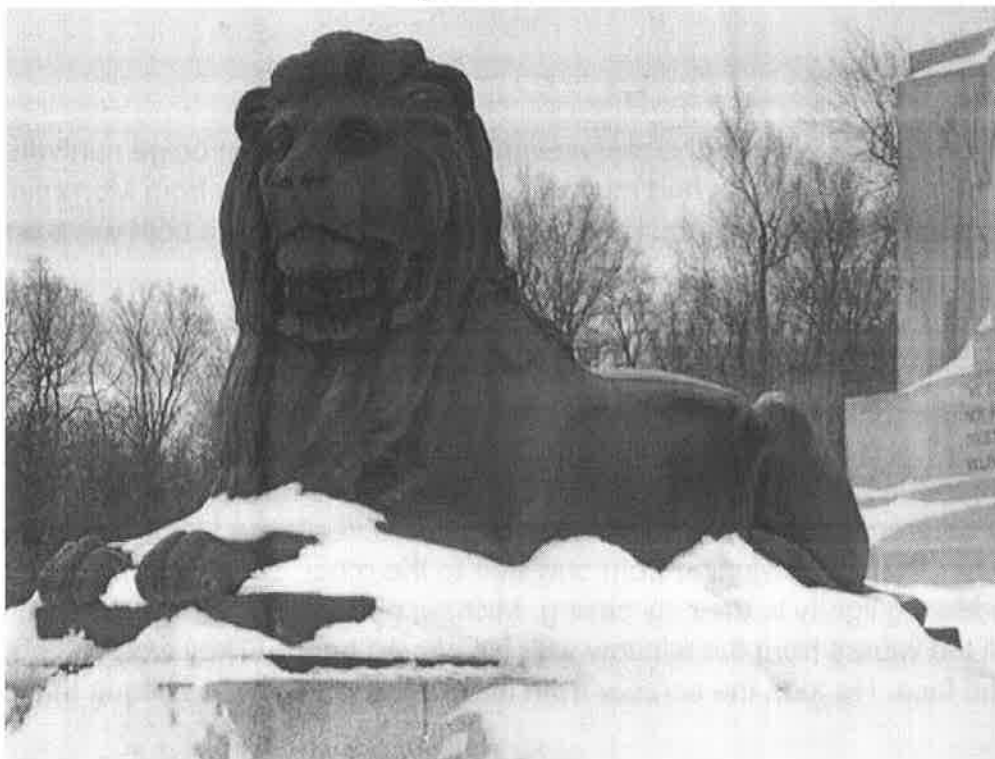


A Winter's Drive

by ReadWorks



It was raining ice. He flinched every time a hard pellet hit his windshield, threatening to crack it. They were like stones, or worse, because they were frozen. He wondered how many of them would have to strike the same spot to bore a hole in the glass. Michael was approaching the Canadian-U.S border at Plattsburgh, in upstate New York. He hadn't left the United States in nine years. He fingered his new passport, its pliant navy cover, and marveled at the date printed inside: it wasn't expired. How long since he had had an unexpired passport? He did not even know. He had thrown the last one away.

The lines of cars advancing toward the customs agents in their boxes were long. Michael knew he would choose one and immediately regret his decision. No matter which queue you chose, the other one, the one you hadn't chosen, would suddenly pick up speed, and begin to move at an incredible pace. There was no way around it. His father had always told him to aim for a female agent, that the female agents were nicer. His mother had always told him the opposite: the men are less likely to give you a hard time. It seemed, now, that he and his car were headed for a tall woman with a blonde ponytail.

What would he tell her? Michael realized that he had rented a car, packed a day's worth of clothes, picked up a lunch, spent countless hours reviewing what he would do when he arrived in Canada, but he hadn't for one second thought about what he might tell the border patrol officer. He searched his brain and found nothing. The cars inched forward. In three cars it would be his turn. In one hour, if the agent let him pass, he would be in Montreal. He ate the last of the cold French fries he had picked up from a drive-through earlier that morning and crumpled the paper bag.

It was his turn.

"Passport?" the agent stuck out her hand.

"New York City,"

"Where are you going?"

"To Montreal, Canada," he said.

"Why?" she asked.

He looked up at her and then glanced into the rearview mirror at the muddied beige minivan behind him. "Visiting some family," he lied. His parents had moved, with him, to New York from Montreal more than a decade before. "Some cousins," he lied again. He had no cousins. His parents both were only children.

"For how long?"

"Two or three days," he said. The customs agent turned to her computer with a small flip of the ponytail, stamped his unstamped passport and let him through.

He was in Canada. Before the border and after the border looked just the same—it was an imaginary line, after all—but he felt different. He turned the radio off and drove in silence for close to 30 minutes. The windshield wipers had stopped swinging from one side to the other, counting time. They were stuck, solid, to the glass, shuddering lightly in their icy casing. Michael pulled onto the shoulder, jumped out of the car and tried to pull the wipers from the window with his gloved hands. They wouldn't budge. Bits of hail stung his uncovered face. He took the scraper from his trunk and began to assault the front of the car.

When finally he pulled up to the house where he was born, he was too tired to wonder at the fact that it had been painted blue from grey or that the door was a dark wood or that the basketball net had disappeared.

Michael rang the bell. The man who bounded down the stairs and answered the door had a thick reddish beard and dark eyes that were too close together. He was 40, 45 at the most.

"Can I help you?" he asked, before the door was entirely open.

Michael had practiced. "I'm so sorry to bother you," he said, "but I used to live here. I'm in town from New York and was wondering if I might look around for a few minutes? Or I could come back later if now's not a good time."

The man was pretty pleased, it seemed. He gave Michael a tour of the house leading him from the vestibule through the kitchen, living room and dining room, then down into the basement. Michael nodded all the while, pictured himself running through these hallways, sitting cross-legged on these floors. Next, the man—his name was Earl—brought him up the carpeted stairs, to the bedrooms. First to the master bedroom where his parents slept, and then onto the next biggest room which was his sister's; and then to the smallest one, now a study, that was Michael's childhood bedroom.

Michael asked if he could have a few minutes alone there. "This room was mine," he told Earl. Earl smiled, backed out and closed the door behind him. The bunk bed was gone, of course. So were the fluorescent constellation stickers from the ceiling. The room was painted a dull burgundy and all it contained was a desk and a standing lamp. But the wood floor panels were the same his family had left behind, as he had hoped. As quickly as he could manage, heart rate rising, he moved to the back right corner of the room and crouched down. He poked at one wooden strip, then another. The strip he

repaired. The piece of wood came completely loose with one hard tug, and Michael peered into the shallow hole he had created. There, inside, was a small metal box covered in dust and cobwebs. He cleared the box's cover with his hand and without so much as opening it up, stashed it away in the knapsack he had carried in.

Earl was in the kitchen, boiling water. Michael thanked him profusely and gestured toward the door.

"Stay for tea?" Earl asked. But Michael declined.

He drove three or four blocks and parked by a snow bank. The street hadn't yet been cleared. The knapsack was bulging with his spoils. Pulling open the box, which smelled of must, made the back of his head tingle. And then, there they were. He couldn't believe how easy it had been. The hockey card collection he'd left behind when he had moved to the United States. The Wayne Gretzky rookie card alone was now worth over \$1,500. He had been young and afraid to bring his prizes with him to the new country, the strange country, across the imaginary line.

Michael wondered if 10 more years would pass before he came here again. He wondered if he would ever show this city to his children, when he had children. The cards were all that remained of his attachment to this place, and soon they would be sold. He restarted the car and tried to reverse, but the wheels were stuck in the snow. Michael rocked the car back and forth, back and forth; as his father had taught him the winter he first learned to drive. With a squeal, the car surged backward. Now he would head home.

agent a · gent

Definition

noun

1. a person who has the authority to do certain actions for another person.

A travel agent helped me to plan my vacation.

Advanced Definition

noun

1. a person with authority to perform certain actions on behalf of another.

The king sent his agent to the colonies to communicate his wishes.

If you want to have a career in acting, you will have to get an agent to represent you.

My agent negotiated a good deal for me with that company.

2. a force or means by which something occurs or specific ends are reached; instrumentality; cause.

A hurricane can be a powerful agent of destruction.

We're going to have to use a very strong cleaning agent to get out that stain.

3. a manager or employee at an agency.

We spoke to the travel agent about the tour.

4. a law-enforcement or intelligence officer.

He worked as an agent for the FBI for many years.

5. a representative, esp. a salesman.

We bought our encyclopedias through one of the company's agents who came to our home.

Spanish cognate

agente: The Spanish word *agente* means agent.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. In his mind, he rehearsed his acceptance speech to the Academy Awards. "I want to thank my agent..." he imagined himself saying to the crowd.
2. "What you put online is never truly anonymous," says Jeff Lanza, a retired FBI special agent. "With enough effort, someone can find out who sent the message or created the profile used to cyberbully someone," he says.
3. The next attempt could not be stopped. Another Black Hand agent stepped in front of the Archduke's car and fired two pistol shots. The first killed Sophie. The second hit the Archduke. The Archduke kept repeating, "It is nothing." But he died within

spoil spoil

Definition

verb

1. to damage something so that you cannot use or enjoy it.

That stain spoiled her dress.

The rain spoiled our picnic.

2. to decay or go bad.

If you don't put the meat in the refrigerator, it will spoil.

Advanced Definition

transitive verb

1. to ruin or detract from; make unusable or unsatisfactory.

She spilled her coffee and spoiled her new dress.

The rain spoiled our camping trip.

2. to instill an unhealthy sense of entitlement in (a person) through excessive indulgence, too much freedom, withheld punishments, or the like.

Having been spoiled by her parents, the young college freshman threw a tantrum at having to share a room with a roommate.

3. to indulge or overindulge (a loved one or pet).

She loves to spoil her grandchildren with candy and presents.

You've spoiled this dog, and now he's far too overweight!

intransitive verb

1. to become unusable or decayed.

Meat spoils rapidly in hot weather.

noun

1. (pl.) material goods or other benefits gained by victory, as in warfare or politics.

the spoils of war

His job was part of the spoils of his party's victory.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. On Fridays he would caramelize a whole bag of onions, enough to last him the whole week, and enough to make the whole house stink for days. It never failed to spoil Erika's weekend.
2. As much as I envied them, though, I told myself I didn't want to be them. Nora and Teeny were as spoiled as they came, and they didn't seem to treasure anything. They liked shopping and when I talked to them on the phone after I found out we were going to visit, that's all they gabbed about.
3. You can pack milk, eggs, meat, and other things that could spoil in a cooler with ice in the fridge during a blackout. That will help the food last longer.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where is Michael driving to at the beginning of the story?

- A. Plattsburg
- B. Montreal
- C. New York
- D. Ontario

2. What motivates Michael's trip to Canada in the story?

- A. He wants to retrieve his hockey cards.
- B. He wants to see his old house.
- C. He wants to visit his cousins.
- D. He wants to escape from the U.S. police.

3. Michael does not want the border agent to know why he is going to Canada. What evidence from the passage best supports this conclusion?

- A. Michael has a new passport for the trip.
- B. Michael rents a car for the trip to Canada.
- C. Michael packs a day's worth of clothes.
- D. Michael lies about his trip to the agent.

4. How does Michael most likely feel at the beginning of the trip?

- A. scared
- B. nervous
- C. bored
- D. detached

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A. Michael returns to his childhood home to find his hockey cards.
- B. Michael is nervous about crossing the border from the U.S. to Canada.
- C. Michael visits his old house in Canada and remembers his childhood.
- D. Michael gets his new passport stamped when he goes to Canada.

his windshield, threatening to crack it. They were like stones, or worse, because they were frozen. He wondered how many of them would have to strike the same spot to **bore** a hole in the glass."

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**bore**" mean?

- A. to make someone uninterested
- B. to dodge around something
- C. to make something shine
- D. to make a hole, as if with a drill

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Michael's father always told him to aim for a female border agent, _____ his mother told him to choose a male border agent.

- A. thus
- B. ultimately
- C. while
- D. for example

8. Where in his old bedroom does Michael find his hockey card collection?

9. What does Michael plan to do with the hockey card collection?

10. This trip to his old house is important to Michael. Explain two possible reasons why the trip is important to Michael. Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

LUNCH EXPRESS

Sandwiches



Jumbo Burger
\$2.73



Double Burger
\$3.81



Steak & Cheese
\$6.50



Chicken Wrap
\$4.26



Hot Dog
\$2.21

Extras



French Fries
\$1.44



Chips
\$.75



Cup of Soup
\$1.05



ORDER
HERE

Desserts



Ice Cream Cone
\$.94



Sundae
\$1.35



Cookie
\$.64



Drinks

Soda
\$.82



Milk
\$.71



Coffee
\$.90

Subtracting money is like subtracting decimals. Follow these steps to subtract money.

SUBTRACTING AMOUNTS OF MONEY

Step 1: Line up the decimal points.

Remember to place the larger number on top.

$$\begin{array}{r} \$ 1 \quad | \quad 5 \quad 5 \\ - \$ \quad | \quad 7 \quad 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Step 2: Add zeros as placeholders if necessary.

$$\begin{array}{r} \$ 1 \quad | \quad 5 \quad 5 \\ - \$ 0 \quad | \quad 7 \quad 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Step 3: Write a decimal point in the answer.

Put the decimal point under the decimal points in the numbers you are subtracting.

$$\begin{array}{r} \$ 1 \quad | \quad 5 \quad 5 \\ - \$ 0 \quad | \quad 7 \quad 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Step 4: Subtract.

If you need to regroup, do it just as you would with whole numbers.

$$\begin{array}{r} ^0 1 \quad | \quad ^1 5 \quad 5 \\ - \$ 0 \quad | \quad 7 \quad 5 \\ \hline \$ 0 \quad | \quad 8 \quad 0 \end{array}$$



Name _____



Using the Menu



Use the *Lunch Express* drive-thru menu to find the price for each item.

1. Soda _____

2. French Fries _____

3. Sundae _____

4. Hot Dog _____

5. Cup of Soup _____

6. Double Burger _____

7. Cookie _____

8. Milk _____

9. Chicken Wrap _____

10. Ice Cream Cone _____

11. Chips _____

12. Coffee _____

13. Steak & Cheese Sandwich _____

14. Jumbo Burger _____



Name _____

Drive-Thru **OPEN**

Follow these steps for each receipt:

1. Add the prices on the receipt to find the total.
2. Subtract the amount paid from the total to find the change.

LUNCH EXPRESS
THANK YOU FOR DRIVING THRU!
XX

2 JUMBO BURGERS	\$5.46
2 HOT DOGS	\$4.42

TOTAL _____

AMOUNT PAID \$10.00

CHANGE _____

LUNCH EXPRESS
THANK YOU FOR DRIVING THRU!
XX

1 CHICKEN WRAP	\$4.26
2 FRENCH FRIES	\$2.88
3 SODAS	\$2.46

TOTAL _____

AMOUNT PAID \$20.00

CHANGE _____

LUNCH EXPRESS
THANK YOU FOR DRIVING THRU!
XX

1 ICE CREAM CONE	\$.94
1 SUNDAE	\$1.35
1 HOT DOG	\$2.21

TOTAL _____

AMOUNT PAID \$5.00

CHANGE _____

LUNCH EXPRESS
THANK YOU FOR DRIVING THRU!
XX

2 CUPS OF SOUP	\$2.10
1 STEAK & CHEESE SANDWICH	\$6.50
2 COOKIES	\$1.28

TOTAL _____

AMOUNT PAID \$15.00

CHANGE _____

Name _____

2 menus

Subtracting Money

- 2 to 3-Digit Numbers
- Regrouping

ORDER
HERE

Use *both* drive-thru menus to find the price for each item pictured. Then use the prices and the information in the chart to subtract and solve each problem.

	You Have	You Buy	Your Change
1.	\$2.39		
2.	\$4.65		
3.	\$5.18		
4.	\$3.00		
5.	\$4.20		
6.	\$2.15		
7.	\$8.00		
8.	\$5.22		



Name _____

2 menus

Use *both* drive-thru menus to find the price for each item pictured. Subtract to solve each word problem.

Subtracting Money

- 2 to 3-Digit Numbers
- Regrouping

ORDER
HERE

1. Will had \$5.73. He bought a



How much money is left?

2. Andy had \$4.80. He bought



How much money is left?

3. Lynn had \$2.35. She bought



How much money is left?

4. Jane had \$7.28. She bought a



How much money is left?

5. Brett had \$1.00. He bought a



How much money is left?



Name _____







Subtracting Money



- 2 to 3-Digit Numbers
- Regrouping



ORDER
HERE



Use the *Lunch Express* drive-thru menu to find the price for each item pictured. Subtract to solve each word problem.



1.
Lisa bought 
Sue bought 
How much more did Lisa spend? _____

4.
Ann bought 
Tom bought 
How much more did Tom spend? _____

2.
Randy bought 
Sam bought 
How much more did Randy spend? _____

5.
Jill bought 
Bob bought 
How much more did Jill spend? _____

3.
Wendy bought 
Allie bought 
How much more did Allie spend? _____

6.
Ron bought 
Grace bought 
How much more did Grace spend? _____

