

WHAT HAPPENED TO MAYA? (DASH)

By Carole L. Cooney

Definitions

Dash: a small addition	The salad needed a dash of salt.
Dash: to complete a task quickly	Aunt Mary dashed off a letter to her friend.
Dash: to destroy or ruin	Her hopes were dashed when she heard the sad news.
Dash: to move with sudden speed	Dash through the rain so you won't get wet.

Setting: Lynn's dining room

Characters:

Narrator

Lynn

Sarah

Patty

Louise

Narrator: Maya's best friends were planning to give her a surprise Birthday Party. They met at Lynn's house to prepare for the party.

Lynn: I'm so glad you could make it. We've got to hurry if this is going to be a surprise. Sarah, did you bring the balloons?

Sarah: Yes, but I don't know how we can blow them all up in time for the party. I'll dash back to the store and get them blown up. Does anyone have any extra money?

Patty: Yes! I had some left over from buying the cake. Here take this. I think there's probably ten dollars there.

Lynn: Thanks, Patty. Okay, Sarah. Get those balloons blown up and dash back here as soon as you can. What else do we need?

Patty: Let's dash off the name tags with your new markers. Louise, you've got great handwriting. Would you do the tags? Gee, look at the time! We've got to hurry!

Louise: Of course, I'd love to. Give me the tags.

Lynn: Now, we have to string the streamers across the whole room. Patty, would you help me?

Narrator: The girls work quickly, dashing around the room hanging red and gold streamers from corner to corner. Sarah returns with the balloons and dashes into the dining room.

Sarah: Here! I almost didn't have enough money but the cashier was kind enough to blow them all up. Where do you want these, Lynn?

Lynn: Oh, just tie them to that chair. Come over here and hold this ladder will you? I can't reach the ceiling.

Narrator: Lynn climbed to the top of the ladder. She tacked several streamers to the ceiling and was on her way down to the ladder's last step, when her foot slipped. She struck the chair with the balloons and landed on the floor. The balloons were jarred loose and began to float out the window. Lynn's hopes of a great party were dashed as she watched the balloons drift into the sky.

Louise: Don't feel badly. Maya will probably think we planned the balloons to float a greeting to her on her birthday. It's kinda cool, huh?

Lynn: Oh, Louise. You think of everything! It's a great idea. Now let's finish up so this will be a surprise.

Sarah: (tasting the punch) Lynn, I think this punch could use a dash of sugar. It's a little sour.

Patty: I know where the sugar is. I'll get it.

Narrator: While the girls were putting a little more sugar into the punch, the phone rang.

Lynn: (on the phone) Hello! Maya! Oh, no!

What happened next?

Using as many definitions of dash as you can, end the play.