

The Super Mind Special



This is Nicholas. He is not a very tall child. In fact, he is quite short. Nicholas is used to hearing about how little he is and seeing how l_____ he is, especially when he stands next to someone his own age.

little

Sometimes Nicholas is teased about being so small, but he doesn't mind. He has some very special ideas of his own and he has been able to do some very spec_____ things better than even the tallest children his age.

special

What do you think this story will be about?

- 1. how tall children can do more than small children
- 2. the special things Nicholas does
- 3. the day Nicholas grew ten feet tall

2.

short

If Nicholas is not very tall, he is quite sh_____.

We usually notice things that are special
because they are quite ordinary.
unusual and different.

unusual
and different

Find the word **special** in **especially**.
Underline it: especially.

especially

The Number Wizard

$$6 \times 6 = 36$$
$$43\text{¢} + 92\text{¢} = \$1.35$$
$$7 \times 9 = 63$$
$$212 - 20 = 192$$



Nicholas was a wizard with numbers. Whenever his teacher called on him in arithmetic class, he worked the problems around in his head faster than anyone else. It was almost as if he had a little box in his head where the answers were just waiting to come popping out.

It seemed that Nicholas did not give the answers any forethought at all. He just opened his mouth or picked up his pencil and out came the correct an_____, like magic. Nicholas was very serious about his a_____metic, and he was very proud that he could come up with the answers so fast.

answer

arithmetic

We say that Nicholas is a wizard with numbers because

2.

- 1. he has to think for a long time before he gets the right answer.
- 2. he can work the problems so fast it seems like magic.
- 3. he thinks arithmetic is silly.

wizard

A wizard
A dunce is someone who is very clever and smart.

Nicholas didn't give his answers any forethought. This means he did not have to

1.

- 1. think about them before he gave them.
- 2. tell them to anyone.

important

If Nicholas is serious about his arithmetic,
it is very important to him.
unimportant

The Hilltop Pastry Shop

Nicholas' family owned a pastry shop. It was a little shop where you could buy all kinds of baked goods like cakes, pies, sweet rolls, buns, and loaves of bread. And there were little tables where you could sit down to eat one of the delicious little cakes and have something to drink. Above the shop was the apartment where Nicholas and his family lived.

Pastry

Nicholas had always been very eager to be an important part of the Hilltop P__stry Shop. All the other members of his family worked or helped in the shop in some way.

shop



Nicholas' mother did the baking and waited on people who came in the sh_____.

She was the best cook in the whole neighborhood.

apartment

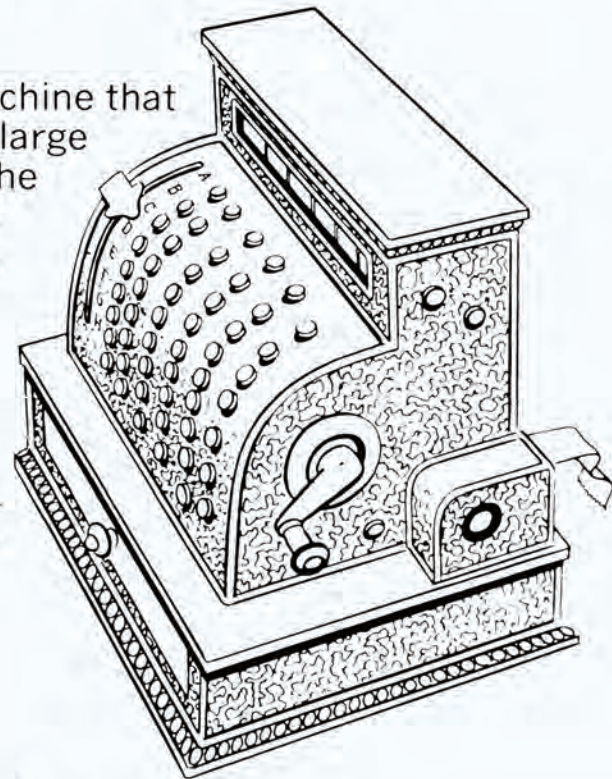
Nicholas' father was an artist. He sketched and painted most of the day, but he helped manage the shop from the a_____ment upstairs.





Nicholas' older sister helped his mother wait on customers. And once in a while, when Nicholas' mother was especially rushed, she worked behind the counter at the beautiful old cash register. She took the money that the customers owed and gave them their change.

A cash register is a machine that looks something like a large box. Shop clerks lock the money they receive from their customers in a cash register. Nicholas' sister put the money the customers gave her in the beautiful old cash register.



customers

cash

register

A customer is

- 1. a shop clerk.
- 2. someone who buys something in a shop.
- 3. a wizard.

What things are sold in a pastry shop?

- 1. cakes and pies
- 2. flowers
- 3. meat and fruit
- 4. loaves of bread
- 5. buns

2.

1.

4.

5.