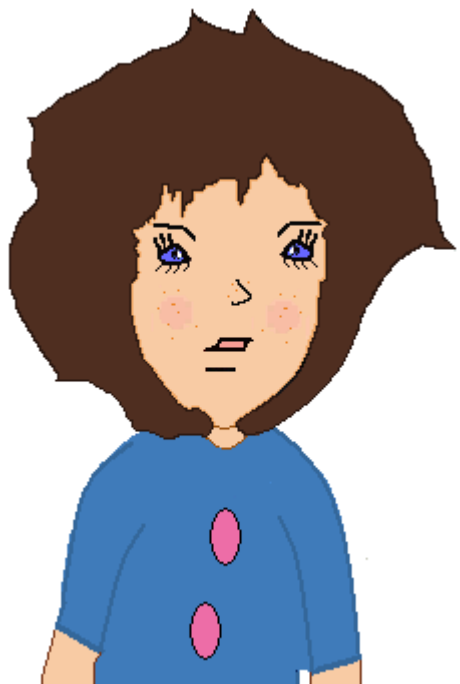


Sydney Sneaks a Peek



Sydney Sneaks a Peak!



Learn this word:
computer (kəm-pyü-tər)

Review this sound: **-ea** says ē
Learn this sound: **ear** says ēēr

More Words to sound out:

Sydney (sid-nē)	trustworthy (trəst-wer-thē)
children (chil-drən)	whatever (hwat-e-ver)
however (how-e-ver)	everything (ev-rē-thing)
sorry (sar-ē)	message (me-sij)
kitchen (ki-chən)	cabinet (kab-nit)
people (pē-pəl)	Watkins (wot-kinz)
wondered (wənderd)	storage (stor-ij)
upstairs (up-stā erz)	bottom (bo-təm)
balloons (bə-lōōnz)	suppose (sə-pōz)
suddenly (sə-dən-lē)	surprise (ser-prīz)
half an hour (haf-n-our)	email (ē-māl)

Sydney Brown was a spunky little girl with blue eyes and pretty brown hair. She was as cute as she could be, but good looks are not everything.



You see, it is far better for little girls to be praised for being trustworthy than for being good looking. Children can choose to be trustworthy, or they can choose to be sneaky. Sydney chose to be sneaky quite a bit of the time.

Sydney would often tell others, “Well, I just wanted to sneak a little peak.” She felt that sneaking was “no big deal!”

Oh, but sneaking is a big deal! Sadly, there was one day that Sydney was very sorry for all the little peaks she sneaked.

That sorry day was a Monday. That morning Sydney spotted her mother’s cell phone resting next to the kitchen sink. Sydney could see that there was a text message waiting for her mother to read.



Used to reading other people's messages, Sydney said to herself, "I'll just sneak a little peak."

It was a quick peak, but it was still a sneaky peak for Sydney to take. The cell phone message that Sydney read was:

"See you on Saturday!"

Sydney wanted to know who the message was from and why they would be seeing her mother on Saturday, but there was no time. Her mother was coming down the stairs. After making a fast exit from the kitchen, Sydney sped up the stairs.

As she trotted past her brother's bedroom, she saw an email left open on his computer screen.

Knowing her brother was at the store, Sydney said to herself, "I'll just sneak a little peak."



As she read her brother's last "sent" email, Sydney was shocked to see an email that said, "It's gonna be fun!" The email had been sent to a long list of children that went to Sydney's church.

"What is this email, and why was it sent to people that I know?" Sydney wondered.

She wanted to read more, but there was no time. Just then her brother came home from the store, and she could feel the floor jerk as he stomped up the stairs to his bedroom. Sydney tiptoed out of her brother's room and bounded down the hallway.

Drifting slowly past her mom and dad's bedroom, she spotted her dad's storage box laying open on the floor next to his side of the bed. Sydney said, "I just can't help myself. I think I'll just sneak a little peak."

In the box were two stunning dolls dressed in sweet pink and blue gowns. She also found a little pink doll van.



She wanted so badly to play with the dolls and the doll van for just a while, but there was no time. Once more hearing her mom's footsteps, Sydney fled the bedroom and pounded down the stairs passing her mom on the way down.

As Sydney reached the last step, her mom asked, "Sydney, would you like to go to Mrs. Watkin's house with me? I am leaving in half an hour."

"Yes, I would like to go, Mom," said Sydney. In half an hour Mom and Sydney got into the car and drove to Mrs. Watkin's house.

Sydney's mom and Mrs. Watkins had been close for many years. They were as close as sisters.

When they reached Mrs. Watkin's house, Sydney and her mom knocked on the back door. Mrs. Watkins was so pleased to see them. As they walked into the kitchen, Sydney saw that Mrs. Watkins had left her basement door open.

After watching her Mom and Mrs. Watkins go into the living room to chat, Sydney said to herself, "I could get down into that basement and back upstairs faster than anyone could count to ten.

Oh, how I would just love to sneak a little peak at Mrs. Watkin's basement.

When she reached the bottom of the basement steps, her eyes spotted many red, green, blue, and yellow balloons blown up and floating in the air.

Under the balloons was a big green trunk brimming with birthday cards and wrappings.

**Sydney darted over to the trunk and opened one of the cards.
The card she picked read:**

“Dear Sydney, Happy Birthday!”



**“Oh, my!” Sydney said to herself.
“Everyone must be planning a birthday party for me, and I’m not supposed to know.!”**

**Suddenly Sydney felt such shame!
She felt so sad! What was she
going to do now? She did not
have to wonder for very long, for
just then Sydney looked up to see
her mom standing over her.**

**“What have you found, Sydney,
and what are you feeling now that
you have found it?” asked
her mom.**

**I’m feeling so sad, Mom!” I have
wrecked everything for everyone,
and I have wrecked my own
birthday surprise!”**

**“What will you not do anymore,
Sydney?” asked her mom.**

**I will not sneak anymore peeks
from now on. Sneaking peaks will
tell me things that I am not
supposed to know!” Can you trust
me after this, Mom?” said Sydney.**

**“I can hope that I can, Sydney,”
said her mom. “But from now on,
whether or not I can trust you will
be up to you.”**

**Little Sydney Brown
frowned, and**



then she smiled.