

Gumdrop Has a Birthday

Mr Oldcastle has invited several of his friends to help celebrate Gumdrop's birthday. After they have given Gumdrop his presents ...



... the guests gathered round Gumdrop to wish him Many Happy Returns and another fifty years of happy motoring. "For he's a jolly good fellow," they sang, and "Happy birthday, dear Gumdrop, happy birthday to you!"

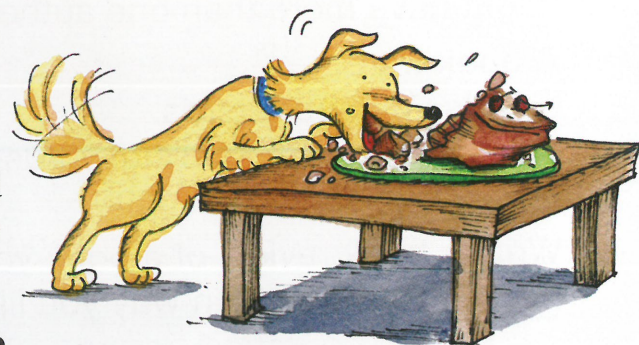
Mr Oldcastle was very happy and he thanked them all for Gumdrop's sake.

"And here is the birthday cake!" he said.

But it wasn't on the table – and it hadn't rolled away. It had vanished!

"Who took the cake!" he cried.

Horace was very happy too. He sat on the ground and he looked very fat. There wasn't a crumb to be seen, because he likes cakes.



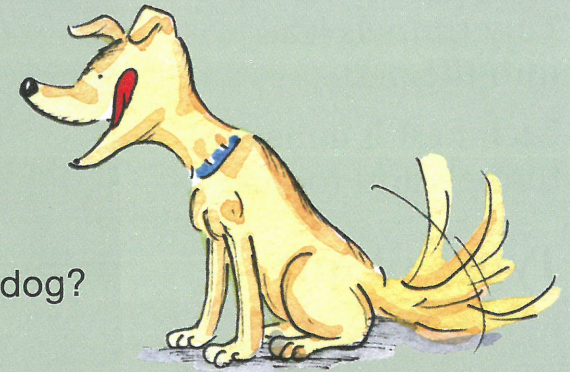
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Do you remember?

Green
Yellow
Blue

Write the correct answer to each question.

- Whose birthday is it?
 - It is Gumdrop's birthday.
 - It is Mr Oldcastle's birthday.
- What is Gumdrop?
 - Gumdrop is a van.
 - Gumdrop is an old car.
- What is the name of Mr Oldcastle's dog?
 - The dog's name is Rover.
 - The dog's name is Horace.



More to think about

Yellow
Blue

Read these sentences about the story.

Write 'true', 'false', 'probably' or 'can't tell' for each one.

- Mr Oldcastle is very fond of Gumdrop.
- Gumdrop is 50 years old.
- Mr Oldcastle is the most popular person in the village.
- The birthday cake vanished.
- The cake had rolled under Gumdrop.
- Horace had eaten the cake.

Now try these

Blue

- Mr Oldcastle invited his friends to Gumdrop's party. Write the party invitation using as many details as you can.
- Imagine you are Horace. Tell the story of the birthday party from your point of view.
- Do you think Mr Oldcastle would have swapped Gumdrop for a smart and shiny new car? Give your reasons.