

Bernice

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"Oh, yeah. The car is real neat, Uncle Mike! Real neat!"

"I'm glad you like it, Leo. Well, are you ready to do some painting?"

"Yep, I'm ready."

I was dumbfounded! Leo was going to give up more rides in the little car to do painting.

"Okay, I'll be back in a few minutes," my dad said. We stood up, so that my father could open the cellar door. Dad disappeared down the short flight of stairs.

⑦ Leo and I walked over to the side yard and watched the cousins ^② getting more confident, gunning the gas more, and also driving around trees and other obstacles ^③ with ease. They were beginning their third round of driving turns when my dad returned with the paint, wide and narrow paintbrushes, some rags, and one of his old shirts.

My dad pointed to the doghouse he had built, explaining to Leo that he just hadn't had time to paint it yet. Leo looked a little surprised; my father hadn't said earlier what he wanted Leo to paint. Leo walked around it and commented that he had never seen a doghouse quite as impressive as this one. A tall and lanky mut, our Tippy II looked like a black Irish setter. ^④ So, the doghouse was good size: about four feet high, two feet wide, and three feet deep. It had a front door flap, ^⑤ side windows, and a pitched roof with real shingles.

My dad had already given the inside a coat of paint before he nailed on the roof. Leo was nodding his head. He asked my father where he ^⑥ should start painting. My dad made sure that Leo put the large painting shirt over his clothes and then gave him a little instruction. Leo started with the back and began to paint the doghouse a nice shade of green. ^⑧

① What did Tippy II's coat feel like - what kind of hair did he have?

② what was the flap made from?

③ what kinds of obstacles were they?
Shapes / size

④ What did the paint smell like? Was it pleasant or unpleasant for Leo to use?

⑤ What color was the inside of the doghouse?

⑥ How did the large shirt feel to Leo?
Did it smell of anything? →

⑦ What sounds are associated with the little car? "burning the gas" suggests it has an engine, & would therefore be making some noise. ~~Ques~~ Following that thought, do characters have trouble hearing each other if the car is nearby?

⑧ I second comment #4 → what does the paint smell like? Does Leo like that smell? Does the narrator ("I") like/dislike it? The narrator's father? Someone who particularly likes/dislikes that scent might comment on it, & Leo, if he hasn't painted much before, might comment on it as well.

- Natalie