

Beginning Short Stories – “Happy Birthday”

Directions: First read the basic version of the story below. Next, read the advanced version of the same story. Then, try to answer the questions about the story.

Basic Version

“Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday dear Jose. Happy birthday to you!” the people at the party sang.

Jose smiled and blew out the candles.

“How old are you Jose?” Jessie asked.

“I am 29” Jose answered.

“Wait, are you telling the truth?” Jessie asked.

“Yes, I am telling the truth. I am 29 years old.” Jose answered.

“No he is not! He is 30!” someone said in a loud voice.

“How do you know?” Jessie asked.

“Because I am his mother!” she answered.



Advanced Version

“Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday dear Jose. Happy birthday to you!” the people at the party sang.

Jose smiled and blew out the candles.

“How old are you Jose?” Jessie asked.

“I am 29” Jose *replied*.

“Wait, are you telling the truth?” Jessie asked.

“Yes, I am telling the truth. I am 29 years old.” Jose *replied*.

“No he is not! He is 30!” someone *shouted*.

“How do you know?” Jessie asked.

“Because I am his mother!” she *replied*.

Questions:

1. How old is Jose?
2. How does the woman know the age of Jose?

Vocabulary:

To find word definitions: First, find the word in the advanced version of the story. Then, compare this part of the advanced version of the story to the same part of the basic version of the story. This will give you a general definition of the word.

1. What does “*replied*” mean? (*paragraph 4, 6, and 9*)
2. What does “*shouted*” mean? (*paragraph 7*)