

EXCEL [3] STEM

# THE DEAL

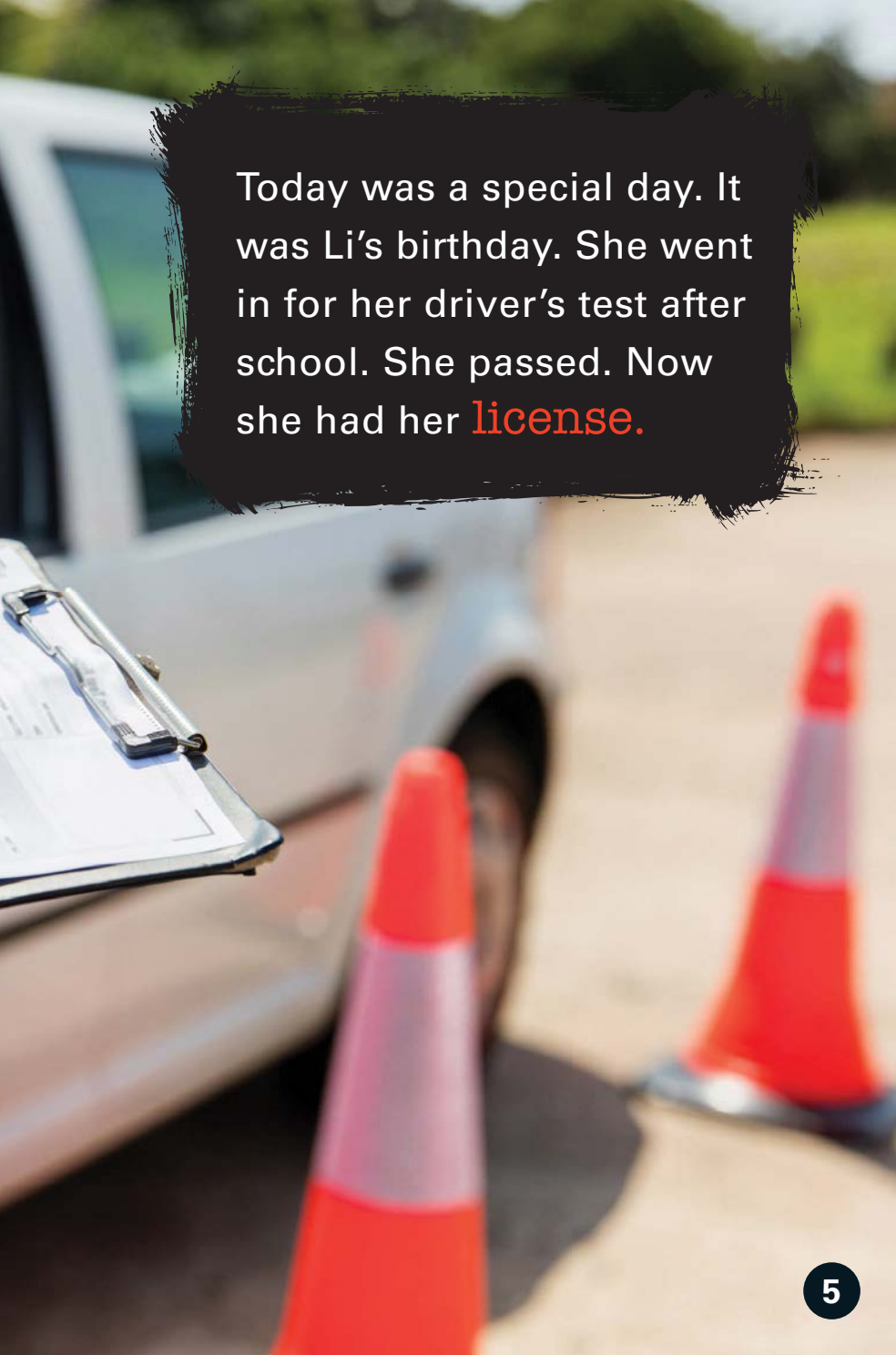
by PJ Gray

Li stood in her room. She looked in the **mirror**. *I look the same, she thought. But I feel like a new person.*


She thought back over the last year. First she turned 15. Then she got her learner's permit. Being able to drive was great. But her mom had to be in the car.







Today was a special day. It was Li's birthday. She went in for her driver's test after school. She passed. Now she had her **license**.



Li's mom was in the kitchen. She was putting away groceries. Li sat at the counter.


"Mom, I need a car," she said.

"You're almost an adult. Time to learn about adult **responsibilities**. You're going to have to buy your own."







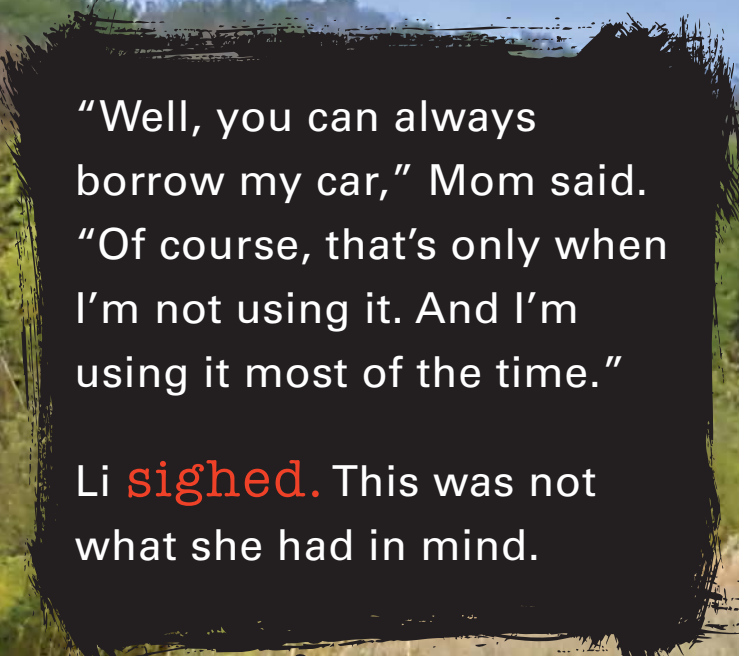


Li smiled. "Okay. I'll buy a new car."

"That will cost too much," Mom said. "You'll have to buy used."

Her smile turned into a frown. "I don't want some old **used car**," Li said.





“Well, you can always borrow my car,” Mom said. “Of course, that’s only when I’m not using it. And I’m using it most of the time.”

Li **sighed**. This was not what she had in mind.





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