

## Homer Price, by Robert McCloskey

### Character List

#### **“The Case of the Sensational Scent”:**

**Homer**—A boy who lives 2 miles from Centerburg, with his father, who owns a tourist camp and filling station, and his mother, who cooks and takes care of the cabins

**Tabby**—the family cat

**Aroma**—the skunk Homer turns into a pet

**Mr. Dreggs**—Creator of Dreggs Lotion, and sponsor of the local radio program

**The Sheriff**

**4 Robbers**

**Homer’s Mom and Dad**

#### **“The Case of the Cosmic Comic”:**

**Homer**

**Freddy**—Homer’s good friend

**Louis**—Freddy’s little brother

**Uncle Ulysses**—Homer’s uncle, who owns a lunchroom

**Super-Duper**—the comic book hero

#### **“The Doughnuts”:**

**Homer**

**Homer’s mother**

**Aunt Agnes**—wife of Uncle Ulysses

**Mr. Gabby**—An advertising man/ “sandwich man”

**Lady in limousine (Miss Enders)**

**Charles**—chauffer

**Sheriff**

**Rupert Black**—winner of contest, finds bracelet in doughnut

#### **“Mystery Yarn”:**

**Homer**

**Sheriff**

**Miss Terwilliger**

**Telemachus (Homer’s Uncle Telly)**

**Judge Shank**

#### **“Nothing New Under the Sun (Hardly)”**

**Michael Murphy**—The Stranger with the long beard, old clothes and mysterious old car

**Homer**

**Sheriff**

**Uncle Ulysses  
Barber**

**“Wheels of Progress”**

**Miss Naomi Enders**

**Uncle Ulysses**

**Homer**

**Dulcey Dooner—the Sign-putter-upper**

## **“The Case of the Sensational Scent”**

What is Homer’s hobby? (Building radios)

What animal was drinking the milk Homer left out for Tabby? (Skunk)

What did Homer decide to do with the skunk? (make it a pet)

What did Homer name the skunk? (Aroma)

Where had the skunk made a home? (under the House beneath Homer’s window)

How did Homer bring Aroma up to his room? (He pulled him up in a basket through the window)

What town did Homer live near? (Centerburg)

What happened at the radio broadcast? (N.W. was robbed of the \$2,000 and lotion he had just won.)

What reward did N.W. offer to get his prize back? (½ the prize--\$1,000 and 6 bottles of lotion)

Where did Homer and Aroma stumble upon the robbers? (in the woods)

At the robbers’ camp, where did Aroma curl up to sleep? (in the suitcase on top of the stolen money)

What did the robbers use to try to coax Aroma out of the suitcase? (bacon on a stick)

What happened when one of the robbers threw a rock at Aroma? (6 bottles of lotion were broken and Aroma sprayed)

Why did Homer get suspicious of the 4 men renting the cabin at his family’s camp? (they smelled like shaving lotion and skunk)

Since the robbers didn’t trust each other to not run off with the \$ in the night, how did they sleep? (all 4 slept in 1 bed)

The sheriff couldn’t come to arrest the robbers right away—why? (he was getting his hair cut)

How did Homer get the robbers to stay put until the sheriff got there? (he sent Aroma in)

Homer decided to help round up the robbers when the sheriff was taking too long. What Did he do with them? (marched them to the Barber Shop)

## **“The Case of the Cosmic Comic”**

What was the name of the comic book hero? (Super Duper)

How much did each Comic Book cost (10cents)

What was Homer’s criticism of the S.D. comic books? (They’re all the same)

What snack did Homer and his friends stop to pick up on the way to the Super Duper movie? (doughnut from Uncle Ulysses’ lunchroom.)

What color was Super-Duper’s car? (red, with SD monogram))

What was the name of the movie? (The Super Duper and the Electric Ray)

Who was the special star at the movie? (Super Duper in person)

How did Homer, Freddy and Louis get to the movie?

- A) by taxi
- B) they rode their bikes
- C) by wagon, pulled by Freddy's horse, Lucy \*\*

On the way home from the movie, whose car did the boys find in a ditch?

- A) Uncle Ulysses'
- B) Super Duper's\*\*
- C) The Sheriff's

When SD became caught on the barbed wire, what did he say that surprised the boys?

- A) That tickles!
- B) I can conquer this!
- C) Ouch!\*\*

How did SD get his car out of the ditch?

- A) he lifted it out
- B) Lucy pulled it out\*\*
- C) He called a tow truck

What caused the Super Duper to go into the ditch?

- A) The Electric Ray
- B) A skunk in the middle of the road\*\*
- C) SD fell asleep driving

Once Freddy realized the SD wasn't quite as super as he'd thought, he decides he might want to trade his SD comic books for Artie Bush's \_\_\_\_\_

- A) rock collection
- B) Louisville Slugger\*\*
- C) Baseball cards

### **"The Doughnuts"**

What does Uncle Ulysses have a weakness for? (Automatic, labor-saving devices. He has Automatic toaster, coffee maker, dishwasher)

What is Uncle Ulysses' new automatic machine? (a doughnut making machine)

When Uncle Ulysses had to leave, what did he ask Homer to do to the doughnut machine for him? (Put a final part into machine and start a batch of doughnuts)

What did Mr. Gabby, the Lady, and Charles drink with their doughnuts? (coffee)

What did Homer drink? (milk)

Whose recipe did Homer use in the doughnut maker? (The lady's—a family recipe)

What happened when Homer pushed the "Stop" button on the doughnut machine? (nothing—it kept making doughnuts)

Uncle Ulysses hired Mr. Gabby to

- A) Sell sandwiches
- B) Advertise doughnuts\*\*
- C) Clean the lunchroom

When the Lady came back to the lunchroom, she claimed she lost what?

- A) Her recipe for the batter
- B) Her ring
- C) Her diamond bracelet\*\*

Homer realizes where the bracelet must have been lost--where?

- A) In the doughnut batter\*\*
- B) In the coffee pot
- C) Stolen by Mr. Gabby

Homer's plan to find the bracelet was:

- A) To call in police dogs
- B) Sell doughnuts and offer a reward to the finder \*\*
- C) Eat every doughnut himself until he found it

How much was the reward for the finder of the bracelet?

- A) All the doughnuts you could eat
- B) \$150
- C) \$100\*\*

### **“Mystery Yarn”**

Miss Terwilliger was very good at what craft?

- A) sewing
- B) knitting\*\*
- C) painting

The color of Miss Terwilliger's favorite, and well known, dress was:

- A) Easter Egg Pink
- B) Canary yellow
- C) Robin's Egg Blue\*\*

What meal is Miss Terwilliger famous for cooking?

- A) Meatloaf
- B) Fried Chicken\*\*
- C) Spaghetti and Meatballs

Who are Miss Terwilliger's 2 admirers? (The Sheriff—she has him over for dinner every Thursday-- and Uncle Telly—she has him over for dinner every Sunday)

What is a hobby Uncle Telly and the Sheriff have? (collecting string)

The Sheriff and judge Shank visited telly's house to suggest a contest for the county fair.

What was the contest they suggested? (A string unrolling contest, to see who had the most string)

Telly agreed to the contest on what conditions? (If Telly won, the Sheriff would have to leave town on Thursdays so Miss Terwilliger could make up her mind about Telly and the sheriff would have to give all his string to Telly).

Who became the 3<sup>rd</sup> contestant in the string-saving contest? (Miss Terwilliger)

How many days did it take for the balls of string to be unrolled? (4)

At the beginning of the contest, what color dress did Miss Terwilliger wear? (Pink—a new dress she had knit for the occasion)  
At the end of the contest, what color dress did she have on? (Robin's egg blue)  
Who won the string unrolling contest? (Miss Terwilliger)  
What was Miss Terwilliger's secret to winning? (She let her new pink knitted dress unravel while wearing her blue one underneath)  
Who did Miss Terwilliger decide to marry? (Telly)  
Who was the best man? (Sheriff)  
Where did Telly and his new wife go on their honeymoon? (Niagara Falls)  
Who mixes his words up in the Homer Price stories? (Sheriff)

### **Nothing New Under the Sun (Hardly)**

What was the name of the long-haired, odd stranger who came to town?  
A) Mark Murray  
B) John Johnson  
C) Michael Murphy\*\*

What storybook character did the stranger remind people of when they first saw him?  
(Rip Van Winkle)

How many years had Michael Murphy been in the hills and away from people? (30)

What kind of project was Michael Murphy working on in the hills for so many years?  
(A mousetrap that wouldn't hurt the mice)

What type of mousetrap did Michael Murphy finally invent?  
(A musical trap)

How much did the town of Centerburg pay Mr. Murphy to get rid of all the mice? (\$30)

What was under the canvas in Michael Murphy's truck? (Musical mousetrap)

When all the children continued to follow the musical mousetrap on mice removal day, what did the Sheriff and other adults fear? (That the stranger was like the Pied Piper, trying to take all the children)

What had the children done to protect themselves from being drawn in by the stranger and his machine? (They put cotton in their ears)

Why did Mr. Murphy have to hand over the \$30 payment to the sheriff?  
A) He was unable to get all the mice  
B) His license on his truck had expired\*\*  
C) He had to pay for a speeding ticket

### **Wheels of Progress**

The lady who had helped Homer make doughnuts by using her family recipe just moved into town. What is her name? (Miss Naomi Enders)

What type of project did Uncle Ulysses work on with Miss Enders? (Building a new suburb with 100 new mass produced houses)

How old was Centerburg? (150 years)

What was the name of the week celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Centerburg as a town?  
(“150 years of Centerburg Progress Week”)

What did the Sign-putter-upper drink? (Cough Syrup and Elixir Compound)

What was the name of the Sign-Putter-Upper? (Dulcey Dooner)

When Dulcey Dooner found the elixir, drank it, and fell asleep, what important job did not get done? (the street signs were not put up. All the streets and houses look exactly the same, and people could not find their homes)

What was the name of the new suburb? (Enders Heights)

Enders Heights was built on:

A) A tall hill

B) A flat piece of land\*\*

C) Along the river

What was the name of the street named after Homer’s uncle? (Ulysses Terrace)

What was the original name of the town of Centerburg, 150 years ago? (Edible Fungus)