

A Visit to the Farmer's Market

By Susan LaBella



Tara and Todd were at the farmer's market with their mom. The children liked looking at the fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade breads, and jars of jam. Tara noticed Mr. Walsh at a table with big bags of potatoes.

"Hi, Mr. Walsh," she called. "You have a lot of potatoes!"

"Yes," replied the farmer. "I have been growing potatoes for years. My farm is perfect for that."

"What do you do with all those potatoes?" Todd asked.

"I sell them!" Mr. Walsh replied. "I sell some to grocery stores. I sell others to factories that make potato chips. The stores and factories pay me for my potatoes. They order more from me each year."

"Wow," said Tara. "What do you do with the money they pay you?"

"I use it to buy supplies for my farm," he answered. "I also use it to pay the people who work for me."

"But do you grow anything besides potatoes?" asked Tara.

Just then, Tara's mom walked over. "Mr. Walsh," she asked, "may I please have two bags of potatoes? And do you have any of your great carrots this week?"

"Yes, indeed," Mr. Walsh replied. "See, Tara, I grow carrots, too!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Whom does Tara notice at a table with big bags of potatoes?

- A) her mom
- B) Todd
- C) Mr. Walsh

2. Where does this story take place?

- A) at a grocery store
- B) at a farmer's market
- C) at Mr. Walsh's farm

3. Read these paragraphs from the article.

"Hi, Mr. Walsh," she called. "You have a lot of potatoes!"

"Yes," replied the farmer. "I have been growing potatoes for years. My farm is perfect for that."

What can you conclude from these paragraphs about Mr. Walsh?

- A) Mr. Walsh grows carrots as well as potatoes.
- B) Mr. Walsh sells some of his potatoes to grocery stores.
- C) Mr. Walsh is a farmer.

4. Based on the story, what is the best definition of a farmer's market?

- A) A farmer's market is a place where farmers go to buy the supplies they need for their farms.
- B) A farmer's market is a place where farmers grow fresh fruits and vegetables.
- C) A farmer's market is a place where farmers sell food they have grown themselves.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A) Tara and Todd learn about potatoes and farming when they visit a farmer's market.
- B) Mr. Walsh uses the money he makes from selling his potatoes to buy supplies for his farm and to pay the people who work for him.
- C) Tara's mom walks over to Mr. Walsh's table and asks him for two bags of potatoes.

6. Read these paragraphs from the story.

"But do you grow anything besides potatoes?' asked Tara.

"Just then, Tara's mom walked over. 'Mr. Walsh,' she asked, 'may I please have two bags of potatoes? And do you have any of your great carrots this week?'

"Yes, indeed,' Mr. Walsh replied. 'See, Tara, I grow carrots, too!'"

Why might Mr. Walsh have used the word "too" at the end of the last sentence?

- A) because he grows carrots as well as potatoes
- B) because Tara's mom asked for two bags of potatoes
- C) because Tara also grows carrots

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"I sell some to grocery stores. I sell others to factories that make potato chips."

How can these sentences best be combined?

- A) I sell some to grocery stores after I sell others to factories that make potato chips.
- B) I sell some to grocery stores, and I sell others to factories that make potato chips.
- C) I sell some to grocery stores, so I sell others to factories that make potato chips.

8. What do Tara and Todd like looking at when they are at the farmer's market?

9. What is Mr. Walsh's farm perfect for?

10. Is it likely that Mr. Walsh grows anything besides potatoes and carrots? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

At the Lake

By Linda Ruggieri



Layla and her family were driving to the town park. It was a hot day. She wanted to swim in the lake. As they got out of the car, Layla saw her friends.

“Let’s go into the water!” she called.

Layla always had fun at the park in the summer. Families had picnics. The kids played and went swimming in the lake.

In the spring, Layla’s dad took her fishing at the lake. They went early in the morning. The lake water was still. It was different from the river, which had water that rushed by.

One morning in the fall, the lake had fog over it. Layla’s dad told her how fog formed. He said hot summer days had warmed the water. Then cooler fall air moved over the lake’s warm water. The water vapor, or the gas form of water, in the air became cool. That caused condensation. It changed the gas into tiny drops of water. We can see those drops of water hang in the air as fog.

Layla loved winter at the park, too. The cold temperatures made the lake freeze. When the ice was thick and safe, people went ice-skating.

The lake changed from season to season. But it was always a place to have fun!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where does this story take place?

- A) at the lake in the town park
- B) at a river near the town
- C) in Layla's family's car

2. During what season does this story begin?

- A) winter
- B) fall
- C) summer

3. Layla likes swimming in the lake during the summer because it's hot outside.

What evidence from the text supports this statement?

- A) "In the spring, Layla's dad took her fishing at the lake. They went early in the morning. The lake water was still."
- B) "Layla and her family were driving to the town park. It was a hot day. She wanted to swim in the lake."
- C) "As they got out of the car, Layla saw her friends. 'Let's go into the water!' she called."

4. Why might Layla have only seen fog over the lake in the fall?

- A) because the air is cool and the water is still warm in the fall, which helps fog form
- B) because fog only forms on one day a year, and that day is in the fall
- C) because Layla only goes to the lake during the fall, not during other seasons

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A) Layla has the most fun at the lake during the summer, when she can go swimming.
- B) Layla enjoys spending time at the lake, but she likes the river even better.
- C) Although the lake changes every season, Layla always enjoys spending time there.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Layla and her family were driving to the town park. It was a hot day. She wanted to swim in the lake. As they got out of the car, Layla saw her friends.

"Let's go into the water!" she called."

Why might the author have started the story in this way?

- A) to introduce the reader to the lake
- B) to show why hot days are the most fun
- C) to make the reader want to go swimming

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Layla loves summer at the park, _____ she loves winter at the park too.

- A) so
- B) because
- C) but

8. What do Layla and her friends do in the lake during the hot summer?

9. Why are people able to go ice-skating on the lake in the winter?

10. How do the changing seasons affect what Layla can do at the lake? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Building a Better Bicycle

By Linda Ruggieri



Bicycles have a long, interesting history. The first bicycle was developed more than two hundred years ago. Early bicycles, however, did not look like today's bikes.

One of the first bicycles was called the hobby horse. It was made of wood! People rode by pushing their feet along on the ground.

Later, a bicycle that had pedals and metal tires was invented. It was not comfortable. It was called the boneshaker. Inventors kept working to make bicycles more comfortable.

Next, the high wheeler was developed. It had a very big wheel in the front. This bicycle was not easy to ride, because the rider sat high up on the bike. The rider could be badly hurt in a fall.

Then bicycles began to have two wheels that were the same size. Those bikes looked more like bicycles today.

More than one hundred years ago, bicycles began to have rubber tires filled with air. That was a solution to the problem of a bumpy ride. The new tires made riding smoother.

Today, children's bicycles and racing bikes are popular. People ride bikes to get exercise. Bicycling is safer, too. Now people wear helmets, and bikes have reflectors on them.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What was developed more than two hundred years ago?

- A) the first bike with pedals
- B) the first bicycle
- C) the first high wheeler

2. One problem with early bicycles was that they were bumpy to ride. What was used as the solution to this problem?

- A) wooden bikes without pedals
- B) bikes with metal tires and pedals
- C) bikes with rubber tires filled with air

3. Early bicycles were very different from today's bicycles.

What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

- A) The first bicycle was developed more than two hundred years ago.
- B) The hobby horse was made of wood, and people rode it by pushing their feet on the ground.
- C) People today ride bicycles to get exercise, and wear helmets as they ride.

4. The bicycle with pedals and metal tires was called the boneshaker. What can you infer about the bicycle based on this name?

- A) It was smooth to ride, but the seat made people's bones hurt.
- B) People liked riding this bicycle more than earlier bicycles.
- C) It was bumpy, shaky, and not comfortable to ride.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A) Bicycles have changed and gotten better in many ways since they were first developed.
- B) The first bicycle was developed more than two hundred years ago.
- C) Rubber tires are very important to bicycles today because they make riding smoother.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Bicycles have a long, interesting history. The first bicycle was developed more than two hundred years ago. Early bicycles, however, did not look like today's bikes."

What does the word "developed" most nearly mean here?

- A) created
- B) found
- C) broken apart

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

The high wheeler was developed _____ a bicycle that had pedals and metal tires was invented.

- A) then
- B) after
- C) before

8. What was one problem with the bicycle called the boneshaker?

9. Why isn't the high wheeler bicycle used by many people today? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

10. This article is called "Building a Better Bicycle." How have today's bicycles solved the problems of earlier bicycles? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Hiking the Appalachian Trail

By Kate Paixão



Eight-year-old Maya and her parents were on vacation. They were hiking in the Appalachian Mountains. The Appalachians are the longest group of mountains in eastern North America. These mountains start in the northern U.S. state of Maine. They end in the southern state of Georgia.

Maya's family was walking on a road that goes from one end of the Appalachians to the other. It is called the Appalachian Trail. Maya and her family had started near their home in Maryland. A **native** of Maryland, Maya had never left her state before. A native is someone who was born in a place. The family's first stop was in West Virginia.

Every evening, Maya and her family would make a campfire. She loved that! She also enjoyed sleeping in a tent each night. Maya wanted to remember everything that happened on her vacation. Whenever she came across a new animal, such as a beaver or a quail, she would draw a picture of it in her journal.

Maya learned that she had to be quiet if she wanted the animals to stay. She also drew a field of daisies. Maya thought that flowers were easier to draw than animals. They didn't run away!

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What were Maya and her parents doing on their vacation?

- A) sleeping
- B) hiking
- C) driving

2. Where does this story take place?

- A) in a town in Maryland
- B) on a trail in the Appalachian Mountains
- C) on a highway in West Virginia

3. The Appalachian Mountains start in the northern state of Maine and end in the southern state of Georgia. Maya and her parents started hiking the Appalachian Trail near Maryland.

Based on this evidence, what can you conclude about where Maryland is?

- A) It is between Maine and Georgia.
- B) It is south of Georgia.
- C) It is north of Maine.

4. Based on the information in the story, how could Maya and her parents be described?

- A) They are good at drawing flowers.
- B) They like to spend time in nature.
- C) They don't like Maryland very much.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A) Maya has fun while hiking on the Appalachian Trail with her family.
- B) Maya likes making campfires and drawing flowers and animals.
- C) The Appalachian Trail goes from one end of the Appalachian Mountains to the other.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Maya's family was walking on a road that goes from one end of the Appalachians to the other. It is called the Appalachian Trail."

Based on these sentences, what does the word "trail" mean?

- A) state
- B) mountain
- C) road

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Maya wanted to remember everything she saw on her vacation, _____ she drew the animals she came across.

- A) so
- B) because
- C) but

8. What two states did Maya and her family hike in?

9. How did Maya feel about her vacation on the Appalachian Trail? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

10. If Maya went hiking on the part of the Appalachian Trail in Maine, would she be likely to have a good time? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Seeds Need to Move

by Rachelle Kreisman



A plant starts life as a seed. When that seed grows into a plant, that plant makes new seeds. Those seeds, too, can grow and turn into more new plants.

But did you know that not every seed grows into a plant? To become a plant, a seed has to travel. That is because seeds need room to grow. A seed has to be far enough away from other plants so that it gets the sunlight and water it needs. If a seed falls to the ground too close to its parent plant, it may not grow.

Of course, wind can spread the seeds for many plants. But some plants depend on animals to move their seeds. Those seeds are called hitchhiker seeds. They travel on something else that moves!

Many hitchhiker seeds are prickly. They have tiny rows of hooks. The hooks can stick to fur or feathers. Hitchhiker seeds can travel for miles on an animal's body. Then they fall off or are removed. If they fall in a place that is good for growing, the seeds will grow into plants, too!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What do seeds need to do to become a plant?

- A. stay near other plants
- B. make new seeds
- C. travel away from other plants

2. What kind of seed does this passage describe in detail?

- A. sunflower seed
- B. hitchhiker seed
- C. an animal's seed

3. Some plant seeds are made a certain way so that they will be able to travel.

What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

- A. If a seed falls to the ground too close to its parent plant, it may not grow.
- B. Not every seed grows into a plant, because a seed needs to travel to become a plant.
- C. Hitchhiker seeds have tiny hooks so they can stick to animal fur or bird feathers.

4. Why might a seed not grow if it falls to the ground too close to its parent plant?

- A. The parent plant might take up all the sunlight and water that the seed needs to grow.
- B. The seed might not get pushed into the soil if it falls too close to the parent plant.
- C. The parent plant might give the seed all of its water, which is not good for the seed.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. A seed has to move far away enough from other plants to become a plant because seeds need room to grow.
- B. Hitchhiker seeds can travel for miles on an animal's body, then fall off and grow into a plant.
- C. All seeds grow into plants, but only some plants are able to make new seeds.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"But some plants depend on animals to move their seeds. Those seeds are called hitchhiker seeds. They travel on something else that moves!"

What does the phrase "depend on" most nearly mean in these sentences?

- A. move
- B. need
- C. hold

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"Of course, wind can spread the seeds for many plants. But some plants depend on animals to move their seeds."

What does the word "their" refer to?

- A. some plants
- B. animals
- C. the wind

8. What are hitchhiker seeds?

9. Why do seeds need room in order to grow?

10. Read these sentences from the text.

"Hitchhiker seeds can travel for miles on an animal's body. Then they fall off or are removed. If they fall in a place that is good for growing, the seeds will grow into plants, too!"

What would a place that is good for the hitchhiker seed to grow be like? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

How Not to Save a Sand Castle

By Linda Ruggieri



Gavin and Lily were working hard on their sand castle. They decorated it with shells. They built towers and doors. Their castle was gigantic!

Lily built a high wall to protect the sand castle from the **wind**. Gavin said he thought the wall would stop people from accidentally stepping on the castle and smashing it.

People walked by and said nice things about the sand castle. Lily and Gavin's mom took a photograph of it. Then she said it was time for lunch. Lily and Gavin ran with their mom to the snack bar. "We will finish our castle when we get back," they said.

After lunch, the children went back to the beach. But where was the sand castle? Did the wind blow it down? Did someone step on it?

Lily and Gavin's mom explained what had happened. The ocean waves had moved up the beach. The rise and fall of the big waves had pushed water farther up onto the shore and the sand. The water must have washed away their castle.

"Some of our shells are scattered around here," said Lily. "We should build another sand castle."

"Okay," Gavin agreed. "Let's get started!"

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What are Gavin and Lily doing at the beginning of the story?

- A) They are swimming in the ocean.
- B) They are working on a sand castle.
- C) They are taking a photograph.

2. Where does this story take place?

- A) at a skating rink
- B) at a park
- C) at the beach

3. Read this sentence from the story.

"Gavin and Lily were working hard on their sand castle."

What evidence from the story supports the idea that Gavin and Lily were working hard?

- A) Their sand castle was washed away by the ocean waves.
- B) They could not find their sand castle when they came back after lunch.
- C) Their sand castle was gigantic.

4. How do Gavin and Lily feel when they learn that their sand castle has been washed away?

- A) Gavin and Lily are eager to build another sand castle.
- B) Gavin and Lily are upset and never want to build a sand castle again.
- C) Gavin and Lily are surprised that the ocean was strong enough to wash away their sand castle.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A) Gavin and Lily build a big sandcastle, but the waves wash it away.
- B) Lily, Gavin, and their mom go to a snack bar for lunch.
- C) The people who walk by Gavin and Lily's sand castle say nice things about it.

6. Read this paragraph from the story.

"After lunch, the children went back to the beach. But where was the sand castle? Did the wind blow it down? Did someone step on it?"

Why does the author start writing questions in this paragraph?

- A) to show that none of the characters know what has happened to the castle
- B) to show that even authors sometimes do not know what is happening in a story
- C) to show readers what the children are thinking

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

The big ocean waves moved up the beach, _____ they washed away the sand castle.

- A) so
- B) because
- C) but

8. Why does Lily build a wall?

9. What does Gavin think the wall that Lily builds will stop people from doing?

10. Do Lily and Gavin do a good job of protecting their sand castle? Why or why not? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

Martin's Birdhouse

By Rachelle Kreisman



Drawing a picture can be fun. Drawing can also help people communicate. Putting an idea on paper is sometimes a good way to solve a problem.

Here is an example. Martin wanted to build a new birdhouse. The last one he had built fell apart after one windy night. This time, Martin knew he had to make a stronger birdhouse. He just was not sure how to do that.

Martin asked his friend Diego for help. Diego was good at building things. Martin explained his idea about the birdhouse, but Diego was confused. So Martin drew a picture to show what he was thinking.

Diego looked at the sketch carefully. "Why does the hole for the bird need to be so big?" he asked Martin. "It doesn't," said Martin. "You're right." Diego also suggested that the birdhouse could be attached to the tree in a much better way. He drew another picture to show Martin how that attachment would work.

After talking a while longer, Martin and Diego drew one more sketch. Then they began building the birdhouse together. "We are a good team," Martin told Diego. "I think your ideas will make my birdhouse stronger!"

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What does Martin want to build?

- A) a birdhouse
- B) a tree house
- C) a dog house

2. When in the story do Martin and Diego begin building a birdhouse together?

- A) at the beginning of the story
- B) in the middle of the story
- C) at the end of the story

3. Martin says that he and Diego are a good team.

What evidence from the story supports the idea that Martin and Diego are a good team?

- A) The last birdhouse Martin built fell apart, so he asks his friend Diego for help.
- B) Martin explains his idea about the birdhouse to Diego, but Diego is confused.
- C) Martin and Diego communicate and work together to make the birdhouse stronger.

4. What does the first picture that Martin draws probably show?

- A) Diego's face
- B) a bird
- C) a birdhouse

5. What is the theme of this story?

- A) Drawing a picture can help people communicate.
- B) The last birdhouse Martin built fell apart after a windy night.
- C) Diego is good at building things.

6. Read these sentences from the story.

"Martin explained his idea about the birdhouse, but Diego was confused. So Martin drew a picture to show what he was thinking.

"Diego looked at the sketch carefully. 'Why does the hole for the bird need to be so big?' he asked Martin."

What does the word "sketch" mean here?

- A) book
- B) sentence
- C) picture

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Martin asks Diego for help _____ he wants to build a stronger birdhouse.

- A) so
- B) because
- C) but

8. How does Diego feel when Martin first explains his idea about the birdhouse?

9. What does Martin do to show Diego what he is thinking?

10. How can drawing help people communicate? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

My Bean Plant

By Rachelle Kreisman



My grandfather loves to grow plants. He raises vegetables and fruits, and he takes great care of all of them. Last week, Grandpa gave me some green bean seeds. Now I can grow my own green bean plant.

I brought my seeds home and showed my mom. She helped me get my green bean project ready. First, we put some soil in a pot. Then we planted a few seeds. I remembered that Grandpa told me that plants depend on water and sunlight to grow. So I put the pot in a sunny spot by the window, and I added some water.

I checked on my plant every day. When the soil felt dry, I added more water. Today, I saw a tiny stem. The plant is growing! Over the next few weeks, more stems and leaves will grow. Then flowers will grow, too.

What am I most excited about? I cannot wait to eat the beans! I think they will taste even better because I grew them myself.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What did Grandpa give to the main character?

- A) green bean seeds
- B) a fully-grown bean plant
- C) some green beans

2. The main character planted the seeds, put the pot in a sunny spot, and added water. What was the effect of these actions?

- A) The soil got dry right away.
- B) A tiny stem grew after some time.
- C) The seeds quickly turned into green beans.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"I put the pot in a sunny spot by the window, and I added some water.

"I checked on my plant every day. When the soil felt dry, I added more water. Today, I saw a tiny stem. The plant is growing!"

What conclusion can you draw from this evidence?

- A) The main character has taken care of many different plants in the past.
- B) The main character is doing a good job of taking care of the bean plant.
- C) The main character doesn't really care about the bean plant.

4. Read these sentences from the text.

"I cannot wait to eat the beans! I think they will taste even better because I grew them myself."

Why might the main character think the beans will taste even better because he or she grew them?

- A) because the main character normally hates the taste of green beans
- B) because the main character is way better at growing plants than Grandpa
- C) because the main character put work into taking care of the beans

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A) The main character takes care of a green bean seed and helps it start growing into a plant.
- B) The main character's grandfather loves to grow vegetables, and he takes great care of all his plants.
- C) The main character is excited to eat green beans because they are a tasty vegetable.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"I remembered that Grandpa told me that plants depend on water and sunlight to grow. So I put the pot in a sunny spot by the window, and I added some water.

"I checked on my plant every day. When the soil felt dry, I added more water. Today, I saw a tiny stem. The plant is growing!"

Based on this text, what does the phrase "depend on" most closely mean?

- A) need
- B) like
- C) change

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"I remembered that Grandpa told me that plants depend on water and sunlight to grow. So I put the pot in a sunny spot by the window, and I added some water."

Now read this sentence about the same information. Then, choose the answer that completes the sentence without changing the meaning from the story.

I put the pot in a sunny spot by the window, and I added some water _____ Grandpa told me that plants depend on water and sunlight to grow.

- A) so
- B) because
- C) but

8. What do plants need so they can grow?

9. What are two things the main character did to the bean plant to help it grow?

10. What would happen to the bean plant if the main character forgot to give it water? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Playgrounds for Everyone

Linda Ruggieri



Playgrounds are places built for kids to have fun in. The best playgrounds are set up so that children can play safely while getting exercise. Lots of playgrounds include swings, slides, climbers, and other things.

Playgrounds were not always fun for all kids, however. Children in wheelchairs and kids with vision or hearing problems found it difficult to get around a playground. Some could not walk up or down steps. Others could not sit on the swings. The playgrounds were not safe places for them.

A few years ago, some people wanted to fix that problem. They found a solution. They raised money to build playgrounds where all kids can play together.

New playgrounds were built with low steps or ramps. Those changes have made it easier for some children. The new equipment also has handrails for kids to grab and pull themselves up.

Other changes have made playgrounds more fun for all children. Some playgrounds now have drums, chimes, and other instruments to play. Kids can turn a rain wheel and listen to the sound of rain.

These new playgrounds help everyone get in on the fun!

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What are places built for kids to have fun in?

- A playgrounds
- B steps
- C ramps

2. Playgrounds were not safe for some children. What was the solution to this problem?

- A People raised money to build playgrounds where all kids can play.
- B Children in wheelchairs found it difficult to get around a playground.
- C Lots of playgrounds include swings, slides, and climbers.

3. Playgrounds were not always fun for all kids. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

- A "Some playgrounds now have drums, chimes, and other instruments to play. Kids can turn a rain wheel and listen to the sound of rain."
- B "Children in wheelchairs and kids with vision or hearing problems found it difficult to get around a playground."
- C "Lots of playgrounds include swings, slides, climbers, and other things."

4. Read this paragraph from the article.

"New playgrounds were built with low steps or ramps. Those changes have made it easier for some children. The new equipment also has handrails for kids to grab and pull themselves up."

Based on this paragraph, what have changes to playgrounds made it easier for children to do?

- A The changes have made it easier for children to see and hear at playgrounds.
- B The changes have made it easier for children to play on swings at playgrounds.
- C The changes have made it easier for children to get around playgrounds.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A New playgrounds have been built with low steps, ramps, and handrails.
- B New playgrounds have been built that allow all children to have fun.
- C Kids can have fun and get exercise by playing on climbers and swings.

6. Read these paragraphs from the article.

"Other changes have made playgrounds more fun for all children. Some playgrounds now have drums, chimes, and other instruments to play. Kids can turn a rain wheel and listen to the sound of rain.

"These new playgrounds help everyone get in on the fun!"

What does the phrase "get in on" mean here?

- A stand next to
- B go away from
- C join in

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Some kids found it difficult to get around a playground _____ they could not walk up or down steps.

- A so
- B because
- C but

8. What children were playgrounds not safe places for?

9. Name three changes made to new playgrounds.

10. Choose one change made to playgrounds, and explain how it has made playgrounds safer. Support your answer with evidence from the article.

A Lion in the Bedroom

by ReadWorks



When James woke up, he found a lion sleeping on the floor next to his bed. Because he was five years old, he thought this was awesome.

"Hello, lion!" he yelled.

The lion, a female with a patchy coat, opened one eye and stared at him lazily. Then she turned over and fell back asleep.

James considered petting the lion or scratching its belly - Trixie, his old cat, loved belly scratches - but he was proud enough of his new pet that he wanted to tell his parents first. So, he jumped out of bed and walked into the kitchen. His father was eating breakfast.

"Do you want me to strip the bathroom moldings this weekend?" his father asked his mother. "Or can it wait a week?"

"It can wait," she said, frowning. "But you should really *want* to strip the moldings."

"I got a lion!" yelled James.

"That's nice, dear," said his mother.

"Well played, son," said his father. "Most five-year-olds go with something showier, like an ocelot or a puma. But you've gone the classic route."

"I'm naming it Trixie II: Return of Trixie," said James. "I want to ride her to school."

"Sure," his father said, "everyone wants to ride their lion to school. But where will you park it?"

"Bill," his mother said. "We've talked about your sarcasm."

"It's not sarcasm," his father. "I'm being fu-"

James's father didn't get to finish his sentence. It was interrupted by an ear-splitting roar, coming from James's bedroom.

For a few seconds, neither one of his parents said anything.

"Maybe I'll name her Tiger," said James. "To confuse people."

"James," said his father quietly. "What was that?"

"That was Trixie II."

"Oh dear me," said his mother, crossing herself.

James's father craned his head to peer down the hall towards James's bedroom. After a moment, he knelt down in front of his son and put his hands on his shoulders.

"James," he said. "I need you to be completely, 100% honest with me. No make-believe, no story-time? Can you do that?"

James nodded. "Sure I can." He noticed a droplet of sweat dripping down his father's forehead.

"OK, great," said his father, in a strange, small voice. "James. Is there a lion...a real lion...in your bedroom?"

"Dad," said James, patiently. "We've been over this."

His father stared at him.

James sighed. "Of course there is, dad."

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!" his mother screamed. "Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

"Helen, stop it!" snapped his father. His father stood up. "This is ridiculous. I don't know what that noise was, but there is not a lion in your bedroom."

James's father walked angrily to the broom closet. He opened the door, pulled out a mop with a long wooden handle and began marching towards the hallway.

"For gosh sake, Bill," his mother said, grabbing him by the shoulder. "Let's just get out of here and call the police. Or animal control. Or someone. *Please*."

"And tell them what?" His father wheeled around to face her. "What? That we have a *lion* in the house? Oh, I'm sure they'll send a car right out."

"Tell them her name is Trixie II," said James. "Someone might have met her before."

"Bill..."

"I'm not calling *anyone*," his father said. With that, he turned and stomped down the hallway. James and his mother looked down after him.

"Do you think dad and Trixie II will get along?" James asked his mother. "Dad is so moody these days and Trixie II is just kind of...mellow."

"Quiet," his mother hissed.

They watched his father approach the door. He reached for the handle and, holding the mop high in his other hand, gently swung the door open and poked his head around the corner.

James barely had time to be curious about his father's reaction before his father turned on his heels, slammed the door shut and went sprinting down the hallway towards James and his mother.

"*Get out of the house right now!*" his father hollered as he ran. "*Go! Run! Now! Move! Move! Move!*"

His father practically shoved James and his mother through the living room and out the front door. When they were outside, his father doubled over, panting for breath.

"Where in the world did you get a *lion*?" he yelled at James.

"You mean it's *real*?" his mother screamed, her eyes bugging. "Ahhhhhhhhhh!"

"They come from Africa, right?" said James.

By this time, neighbors had heard the commotion and begun gathering. Their next-door neighbors were the Horowitzes. Mr. Horowitz walked up to James's father.

"Bill, is something the matter?"

James's father turned and stared at Mr. Horowitz. "There's a lion in my son's bedroom."

Mr. Horowitz threw a quick, worried glance at his wife, who was standing on their front lawn. His wife shrugged.

"O.K.," said Mr. Horowitz, slowly. "Do you want us to call somebody?"

"Her name is Trixie II," explained James. "Or maybe Ms. Botticelli. I like how that name sounds."

"Call somebody!" his father yelled. "Call anybody! There's a lion in my son's bedroom."

"Helen," said Mr. Horowitz quietly. "Should we call somebody?"

"I don't even know," said James's mother, breaking down in sobs. "I never know."

By this time a dozen neighbors had gathered in front of James's house. All of them were yelling at each other, trying to figure out what had happened, when suddenly everyone froze. There, at the front door of James house, was a massive African lion. Everyone stared at it, completely silent.

For a few moments, the lion stared back. Finally, she let out a long sigh.

"Guys," the lion said, "I know I'm a guest and I don't mean to be a pain, but I had a really late night last night and I have a client meeting at 10, so I was really hoping to sleep in. Do you think you guys could keep it down just a little bit? Thanks."

And with that, the lion turned and walked back in the house.

"What about Rambo?" said James. "That's a cool name. *Rambo*. Yeah, I like that."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does James find in his bedroom?

- A. a tiger
- B. a lion
- C. Trixie, his old cat

2. How do James's parents change in the story?

- A. At first they don't believe there is a lion in their house. Then they become scared that there might be a lion in their house.
- B. At first they are scared that there might be a lion in their house. Then they don't believe there is a lion in their house.
- C. At first they don't want James to have a lion, and then they change their minds.

3. When James tells his parents that he has a lion, they do not believe him. Which details from the passage support this conclusion?

- A. James's father grabs a mop and goes to look in James's room.
- B. James's mother wants to call the police or animal control.
- C. James's mother says, "That's nice," and his father makes jokes.

4. Read the following sentences:

"James," he said. "I need you to be completely, 100% honest with me. No make-believe, no story-time? Can you do that?"

"James nodded. 'Sure I can.' He noticed a droplet of sweat dripping down his father's forehead.

"OK, great," said his father, in a strange, small voice. "James. Is there a lion...a real lion...in your bedroom?"

How does James's father feel at this point in the story?

- A. annoyed
- B. frightened
- C. happy

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. James finds a lion in his bedroom and tells his parents.
- B. James misses his cat Trixie, so his parents buy him a lion named Trixie II.
- C. James is scared of the lion in his bedroom, and his father hits it with a broom.

6. Read the following sentences: "'It's not sarcasm,' his father said. 'I'm being funn-'
James's father didn't get to finish his sentence. It was **interrupted** by an ear-splitting
roar, coming from James's bedroom."

In this sentence, what does "**interrupted**" most nearly mean?

- A. became louder
- B. kept going
- C. stopped

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

James tells his parents that there is a lion in his bedroom, _____ they do not believe him.

- A. but
- B. so
- C. because

8. How does James feel about the lion in his bedroom?

9. What does the lion do at the end of the passage?

10. What makes this story unrealistic, or unlike real life?
