

Student Level 130

Reading Comprehension Intervention Passages

Andrew

It had snowed last night and Andrew couldn't wait to get outside and build a snowman. It was Saturday and he had all day. He called his friends Joe and Nick and told them to meet in his yard. They were going to build the biggest snowman ever!

First they asked Andrew's neighbors if they could use snow from their yards too. If the snowman was going to be as gigantic as they hoped, they would need a lot of snow. The neighbors agreed with smiles. They remembered building snowmen when they were young too.

The boys started making the bottom and biggest part of the snowman. They took turns rolling the ball back and forth through the snow. Soon it got so big that all three had to push together. Finally, when it was so big and heavy that they couldn't move it any further, it was done. They repeated their efforts for the snowman's middle. This section was smaller but Andrew, Joe and Nick together could barely lift it onto the bottom section. With two parts of the snowman finished, it was as high as their shoulders.

Then it was time to make the snowman's head. For a third time they rolled a ball around the snowy yards. By now the boys were quite tired. They were cold and hungry too. After just a few minutes, they decided it was big enough. This time Andrew was able to lift the head all by himself. The cold, tired and hungry boys stepped back to look at their snowman. It did not look like they had expected. Their biggest snowman ever had the smallest head ever! Laughing, they decided to meet again the next day.

Questions for Andrew

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What was Andrew excited to do in the snow?
2. Why did Andrew have all day to work on the snowman?
3. Why did Andrew, Joe and Nick need snow from more than just one yard?
4. Why was it a good idea to ask for permission from the neighbors?
5. Why did the neighbors smile when they remembered their own snowmen?
6. How did the boys know when they were finished with the bottom of the snowman?
7. How much smaller was the middle section than the bottom?
8. How were the boys feeling by the time they were making the head?
9. How could you tell that the snowman's head might not be the right size?
10. Why did the boys decide to meet again the next day?

Brett

Brett couldn't wait for the end of the school year. He and his father were going to build a tree fort in their yard. Brett had wanted one for a long time. Now it was finally going to happen!

Brett had all kinds of plans for what he wanted. He wanted it to be as high as possible in the old oak tree in their yard. He wanted a roof and four walls and windows with real glass so he could see anyone coming near. Brett asked his dad if they could put in a stove for warmth so he could use the fort in winter too. Brett's dad laughed and told him to be practical.

Finally summer break arrived. Brett and his father went to the lumberyard for supplies. Brett described to the salesman what he wanted. As he did, the salesman wrote numbers on a piece of paper. When Brett finished, the salesman showed the figures to Brett's dad. With everything Brett wanted, the tree fort would be very expensive. Brett's dad looked at Brett and sadly shook his head.

The salesman saw how disappointed Brett was. He made some suggestions for saving money. Instead of using fancy lumber for the walls and roof, they could use less expensive boards. He said that they were just as strong. He also suggested that they not put glass in the windows. Since Brett wouldn't be using the fort in the winter anyway, it didn't need glass to keep the cold out. Finally, he suggested building the fort lower in the tree so they wouldn't need as much lumber to keep it in place.

Brett and his dad headed home with their supplies. When they finished building, Brett couldn't even remember what the old plan was. He thought the tree fort was perfect.

Questions for Brett

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Why was Brett excited for the end of the school year?
2. What did Brett want in his tree fort?
3. Why did Brett's dad laugh when Brett asked for a stove?
4. Where did Brett and his dad go for supplies?

Why was the salesman writing numbers as Brett told him what
5. he wanted?
6. Why did Brett's father look sad when the salesman showed him the figures?
7. What did the salesman do when he saw how disappointed Brett was?
8. How did the salesman know that Brett was disappointed?
9. Why did he suggest they build the fort lower in the tree?
10. Why did Brett forget all about the old plans once the tree fort was finished?

Connor

Connor and some friends played soccer on a park team. Connor liked his coach and he looked forward to practice and games every week. Sometimes his team won games and sometimes they lost. Connor didn't care much, he just liked to play.

Some of the kids on the team cared about winning more than Connor did. When they lost a game, they felt really bad. Their coach tried to explain to those kids that winning wasn't the most important thing. She reminded them that it was fun just to run and play outside with friends. But Connor's teammates still felt bad and sometimes got angry when they lost.

Near the end of next game, one of Connor's teammates kicked the ball towards the goal. Everyone held their breath as the ball hit the goal post and rolled a few feet. The referee said that it was not a goal. Some of Connor's teammates started shouting at the referee. They were angry because that goal would have tied the game. Since it didn't count, the other team won. Their coach told them that shouting at the referee was not okay. She was very unhappy with them.

At the next practice, the team was surprised to find their coach waiting for them with a blanket and picnic basket. She said that she wanted to talk to them. The team ate snacks while she talked about their behavior at the last game. She reminded them again that winning was not the most important thing. Most important was that they did their best and respected everyone on the field. She said she hoped they would never shout in anger again. The team promised to be more respectful and their coach smiled.

Questions for Connor

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What sport did Connor play?
2. Was winning important to Connor?
3. Some kids on Connor's team cared much more about winning. What happened when they lost?
4. Why did their coach talk to them about their feelings when they lost?
5. What happened at the next game?
6. Why was their coach so unhappy with them?
7. What did the coach bring to the next practice?
8. Why did she bring those things?
9. What did the team promise to do?
10. Why did the coach smile when they promised?

Gina

Gina was always late in the mornings. Her sister Mary was tired of waiting for her so they could walk to school together. One morning, Gina's sister left without her. Gina did not like walking to school by herself. She wanted to walk with Mary. What could she do to be ready on time?

After school, Gina talked to her mother and asked for help. Gina's mother told her to think about why Mary was never late. That afternoon and evening, Gina watched her sister carefully. She saw Mary put her homework into her backpack as soon as she was finished. Gina knew that being organized would help her in the morning. When she finished her homework, she put it away in her own backpack. It would be ready to go in the morning.

Before bed that night, Gina saw Mary pick out the clothes for the next day. Mary put the clothes at the end of her bed so she would see them when she woke up. Gina knew that picking an outfit in the mornings sometimes made her late. She did the same thing as Mary and put her clothes out where she would see them in the morning. As she fell asleep, Gina felt good about the changes she had made.

In the morning, Gina opened her eyes and saw her clothes. She got dressed and went downstairs for breakfast. Mary was surprised to see Gina already dressed. Gina finished eating and then grabbed her backpack. She was ready to go to school. Gina and Mary both laughed. For the very first time, Gina had to wait for Mary.

Greta

It was lightly snowing when Greta woke up. She thought it looked pretty covering up the dirty snow in her yard. She had been wishing for this snow because she wanted to go sledding. Snow conditions on the hill by her house were terrible.

As she got ready for school, the snow started to come down harder. Her Mom heard that they were starting to delay opening some schools and closing others in her area. This made Greta even more excited. Now she was hoping for a snow day. A day off of school would be just the thing she'd need to go sledding.

They did not delay or cancel her school. Oh well! She started for the school bus stop. A group of children were there and were buzzing that they might get out of school early. They all talked about what they might do if school were to close. Each child had a story; Greta began daydreaming about an afternoon of sledding.

As they rode to school, the snow was coming down in sheets. They saw cars slipping and sliding all over the roads. As they pulled up to school, their principal met them at the bus. All the children were very confused because they saw buses turning around with children in them. The principal told them that school was canceled and the driver was taking them home. Everyone cheered! The sound could be heard for blocks.

Questions for Greta

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Why did the new falling snow look pretty to Greta?
2. What did Greta's mom tell her as she was getting ready for school?
3. Why did Greta want a snow day?
4. Who met Greta's bus as it pulled up to school?
5. What did the principal tell the bus driver?
6. What do you think Greta was going to do when she got home?
7. What were the children at the bus stop buzzing about?
8. What would you do on a snow day?

Jack

Jack's family spent a lot of time outdoors. There were a number of things they would do together. They would ski, snowshoe, and sled in the winter. They would swim, hike, and camp in the summer. It seemed like they were always doing something active. Jack enjoyed all the family activities because he knew they would have fun.

But Jack's favorite activity was not always done outdoors. It was not active, but it was still fun. He could do it with his family, but he enjoyed doing it by himself. He could go anywhere he wanted to go and he could be anyone he wanted to be. It is an adventure he loved and could be an adventure that everyone could love.

People might think it was playing a game on the computer or a game station or watching his favorite show on TV. Those would be fun, but they didn't take him very far. He didn't need any kind of machine for his adventures, but he did need something. He could easily take his adventure with him in the car, to school, and even to bed. Jack enjoyed talking to other children about the adventures he was having.

Have you figured it out? Do you know what it is? It is not active and it is not a machine. You don't have to do it outdoors, but yet he can go anywhere and be anyone. He likes sharing it with friends. You get better and faster the more you do it. Give up? It is what you are doing right this second.

Questions for Jack

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Name 3 active activities Jack liked to do with his family.
2. What was the nonactive activity Jack's family like to do together?
3. Why did he like this mystery activity?
4. Why do you think it's important for everyone to be able to do this activity?
5. What might people think this activity is?
6. What did he need for his adventure?
7. Name 2 places the story said he could take his adventure.
8. What is his nonactive, activity?

Trent

Trent loved to watch ants in summertime. Trent was amazed by how busy the ants were. He was also amazed by how strong they were. They could carry things that were almost as big as themselves.

One summer morning, Trent went out to play in his backyard. On the sidewalk between his house and the garage was the biggest anthill Trent had ever seen! Trent figured the ants must have been working all night. The anthill stretched from one edge of the sidewalk to the other edge. It was so big that Trent couldn't step over it, he had to go around it.

Trent ran back to the house for a blanket to sit on. Then he got some bread to feed the ants. When his mom saw him, she asked what he was doing. Trent explained about the huge anthill. Trent's mom was not thrilled about a huge anthill so close to their house. She told Trent that he could watch but that the ants would have to find their own food. Trent understood and didn't complain.

All that day Trent watched the ants go in and out of their anthill. They were so busy and he wondered what they were doing. Sometimes they carried crumbs of food into their home. Then he knew exactly what they were doing. Other times they carried bits of sand or dirt out of the hole. Then he wondered if they were making their home even bigger. Trent thought about how many ants could live in an anthill that big. He asked his mom how many she thought could live in an anthill that big. She got a funny look in her eyes. Trent watched the ants until bedtime. That night both Trent and his mom dreamed about ants.

Questions for Trent

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What kind of bug did Trent like to watch?
2. How big was the anthill Trent saw in his backyard?
3. Why did Trent figure the ants must have worked all night?
4. What did Trent go back to the house for?
5. Why wasn't Trent's mom pleased about the anthill?
6. Why did Trent understand when his mom said the ants would have to find their own food?
7. What did Trent watch the ants doing that day?
8. What did Trent think when he saw the ants carrying out sand and dirt?
9. Why do you think Trent's mom got a funny look in her eyes when Trent asked her how many ants could be in the anthill?
10. Do you think Trent and his mom had good dreams about ants that night?

Jasper

Jasper was so excited to start third grade. He got to school early and found his seat at the back of the room. He was sitting between two of his best friends. He thought this was going to be the best year ever.

Jasper's teacher asked the children to write down the rules from the board. Everyone took out paper and began to write, everyone that is, except Jasper. He tried to write, but he could not see the board. He knew it was important, so he squinted and then looked at his friends' papers. His teacher came over to his desk and asked Jasper what was wrong. He said he could not see the board. So she moved him to a table spot closer to the board, in the front of the room. Jasper was so sad to move away from his friends.

Later that day, the teacher sent Jasper to the nurse for an eye test. They found he could not see things far away. The nurse sent a note home to his family. His Father took him to the eye doctor and the doctor said he needed glasses. Now everything was much clearer to him.

Jasper was worried about going to school the next morning because he thought the children might make fun of him. He sat down at his new table spot. All the children came around him and they thought his glasses were really cool. His teacher thought so too. So she moved him back to the spot between his two best friends. Jasper said this is going to be the best year ever.

Questions for Jasper

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What grade is Jasper in?
2. Why did Jasper think this was going to be the best year ever?
3. What was Jasper's problem?
4. How did the teacher know something was wrong?
5. What did the teacher do when she found out Jasper couldn't see the board?
6. Why was everything now clearer to him?
7. What was Jasper worried about?
8. Why does Jasper feel that this is going to be the best year ever at the end of the story?

Kara

Kara knew she was in trouble. She had been kicking a ball in the house and broke a glass vase. Kara wasn't supposed to kick a ball in the house. She had been told many times by both her parents. She wasn't sure why she had broken the rule on this day. Maybe because it was raining outside and she was bored.

The moment Kara kicked the ball, she could see it was headed towards the vase. The ball barely touched it but the vase wobbled back and forth. For one second, Kara thought the vase would stay standing. One second later though, she saw the vase fall and heard it shatter. Kara's stomach hurt. All she wanted to do was get into bed and pull the covers over her head.

The vase was special because her mother and father had bought it together on a trip to the seashore. They said the vase reminded them of that wonderful trip. The vase made beautiful rainbows when the light from the sun caught it just right. Kara looked down at the broken glass and saw that it could never be put back together again. She began to cry.

The sound of the crash brought Kara's parents running. Their first concern was that Kara was not hurt. Once they saw that she was fine, they looked down at the smashed vase. Then they saw the ball nearby. They asked Kara to explain what happened and she told them. Kara's parents were sad to lose the vase but even sadder that Kara had broken their rule. Kara tearfully promised she would never kick a ball in the house again. Kara's parents hugged her and told her they believed her.

Questions for Kara

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Why was Kara in trouble?
2. Why did Kara break the rule about not kicking a ball in the house?
3. For one second Kara thought the vase might stay standing. Why?
4. Why did Kara want to get into bed and pull the covers over her head?
5. Why was the vase special?
6. Why did Kara start crying?
7. What brought Kara's parents running?
8. Why was their first concern about Kara?
9. What did Kara's parents feel saddest about?
10. Why did Kara's parents believe Kara when she promised never to kick a ball in the house again?

Lily and Rita

Lily loved to sew. Her grandmother taught her to sew when she was very young. She was very good using a needle and thread. Lily's favorite thing to make was pillows for her stuffed animals. Lily's friend Rita also liked to make things. Rita loved to knit hats and scarves for her dolls. The two girls were close friends. They liked to work together on their crafts.

Soon, Lily and Rita realized that they had made too many things. Each of Lily's stuffed animals had at least two pillows. Rita's dolls had more hats and scarves than they could ever wear. The girls loved making things and didn't want to stop. But they couldn't keep making things for their own animals and dolls. Their mothers were starting to complain.

One day Lily's mom saw a story in the newspaper. The story was about children who had come to their town for special medical care. The children and their families sometimes had to stay for many weeks. Lily's mom had an idea. She called the hospital where the children were being helped.

The next week Lily and Rita got some sewing and knitting supplies together. Rita's mom drove them to the hospital in the news story. That day, Lily taught other children how to sew pillows. Rita taught them to knit scarves and hats. They went back to the hospital every week. Sometimes they saw the same children and sometimes they met new children. Lily and Rita were happy that they could still work on their crafts. Their new friends were excited to learn how to sew and knit.

Questions for Lily and Rita

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What was it that Lily and Rita loved to do?
2. How can you tell that Lily and Rita were close friends?
3. How did the girls know they had made too many things?
4. Why did their mothers start to complain?
5. Where did Lily's mom get the idea for Lily and Rita to teach other children to sew and knit?
6. Why did Lily's mom call the hospital where the children were being helped?
7. What did Lily and Rita get together before they went to the hospital?
8. What happened at the hospital?
9. Why did Lily and Rita go back every week?
10. Sometimes Lily and Rita saw the same children and sometimes they met new children. Why?

Lucas

Lucas loved all kinds of dogs. He liked big dogs and small dogs. He liked furry dogs and short-haired dogs. He liked to pet them and brush them. He laughed when the dogs licked his face. Lucas wished he could spend more time with dogs.

Lucas asked his mother if she would buy him a dog. His mom said no because their house was too small for a dog. She also said that no one would be home to walk a dog while he was at school and she was at work. Lucas was sad but he knew that his mother was right. He didn't want to leave a dog alone all day.

Lucas had a friend named Robert who had a dog named Penny. Robert walked Penny every day after school. Lucas asked Robert if he could walk with them sometimes. Robert was happy to let Lucas hold Penny's leash. They walked together one or two times after school. Walking Penny was nice but it wasn't enough for Lucas.

One day Lucas saw a sign in a store window. The sign said that an animal shelter nearby needed help. The shelter was a place for dogs and cats to live if they didn't have homes. Lucas told his mother about the sign and they went to ask about helping. The shelter needed people to help take care of the animals on weekends. Lucas and his mom signed up right away. The next Saturday morning, Lucas helped brush, feed and play with the dogs. He couldn't stop smiling. When the people at the shelter saw what a good worker he was, they asked him to come back again. Lucas smiled even bigger. He couldn't wait to go back the next Saturday.

Questions for Lucas

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What kind of animal did Lucas like?
2. Why did Lucas laugh when dogs licked his face?
3. Why did Lucas' mom tell Lucas that she wouldn't get him a dog?
4. Why did Lucas agree with his mom?
5. What did Lucas ask his friend Robert?
6. Why wasn't Lucas satisfied with walking Penny?
7. Lucas sees a sign asking for help at a nearby animal shelter. What is an animal shelter?
8. Why was Lucas interested when he saw the sign?
9. What did Lucas do with the dogs at the shelter?
10. How can you tell that Lucas was happy to be helping at the animal shelter?

Lucy

It was summer and everyone was riding their bikes. Lucy had wanted a bike ever since she was five. Her family did not have the money to buy one. Her father said they would start saving, but she would have to earn some of her own money. Lucy didn't know what she could do. She talked with her mother who said she could be a mother's helper. Lucy had no idea what a mother's helper was; Mom said that it is someone who helps a mom care for her children while the mom is still home. She might: play with a child, help pick up toys, or help fix lunch. Lucy thought she would be good at that.

Lucy decided to talk to the mom next door. Their family had two little children; one was a two and the other was one month. Lucy told her about being a Mother's helper and how much she liked children. She would love to play with the two year old and help in any way with the baby. The mom thought it was a good idea. She would pay her \$5 an hour and wanted her to work two hours a day, three days a week.

Lucy was really happy when she told her mother and father. They knew she would be a big help. Lucy thought it won't be long before she would have enough money to help buy her bike.

Lucy and her father soon were able to put their money together to get a bike. They went to the store and picked one out. She brought it home and she took off right away. She didn't know what made her feel better; earning the money to buy the bike or riding the bike.

Questions for Lucy

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What did Lucy want?
2. What did Lucy's friends like to do in the summer?
3. Why couldn't her family buy her a bike?
4. Why do you think Lucy wanted a bike?
5. What does a Mother's Helper do?
6. Why do you think Lucy would make a good Mother's Helper?
7. How much was Lucy being paid?
8. Why do you think Lucy didn't know which made her feel better earning the money to buy the bike or riding the bike?

Maria

Maria and her grandmother loved each other very much. Every Friday, Maria went to her grandmother's house after school and stayed for dinner. They would bake, play games and read. Both Maria and her grandmother looked forward to Fridays.

One of Maria's best friends was Sally. Sally had a birthday coming soon and Sally and her mom wanted to take a few of Sally's friends to a nail salon and then out for dinner. Maria was really excited because she had never been to a nail salon. But then Sally told her the date of the party, and Maria's excitement crashed. The party was going to be on a Friday.

Maria didn't know what to do. She didn't want to miss seeing her grandmother for a whole week. First she asked Sally if the party could be moved to a different day. Sally said that Friday was the only day that worked for her mom. Maria thought some more, then she had an idea. She would ask her grandmother if they could have lunch on Saturday. They could still do all the things they liked to do together, just on Saturday afternoon instead of Friday. She was relieved to have solved the problem.

But when Maria called her grandmother and asked to get together on Saturday instead of Friday, she was disappointed. Her grandmother told her that she had an appointment for a hair cut on Saturday afternoon and couldn't change it. It seemed hopeless for Maria. Maria hung up the phone and felt helpless. Then her grandmother called back. She asked if Maria and her family could all come to her house for dinner on Saturday night. It was a plan that worked for everyone. This time Maria was truly relieved.

Questions for Maria

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Where did Maria go on Fridays?
2. How do you know that Maria like to go to her grandmother's house?
3. Maria's friend Sally had a birthday coming up. What did Sally and her mother plan for Sally's party?
4. At first Maria was excited about the party. What changed her mind?
5. What suggestion did Maria make to Sally about her party?
6. Maria feels relieved when she comes up with a plan to see her grandmother on Saturday afternoon and go to the party on Friday. Should she have felt relieved?
7. As it turns out, Maria's plan is not a good one. Why not?
8. Why did Maria feel hopeless?
9. What did Maria's grandmother suggest when she called back?
10. Why did Maria feel truly relieved this time?

Marta

Marta was a very happy girl. She had good friends who lived nearby. She loved her school and teachers. Marta knew she was lucky to live in a place that made her so happy. Then her mom told Marta that they were moving to a new town for a new job. Marta's happiness quickly faded as she realized what that meant.

Marta and her family moved that summer to their new home. It was in a bigger town and there was a lot to be excited about. There was a lake with a swimming beach. In winter, the lake froze and there was ice skating. There was a famous children's museum and beautiful parks. Their new back yard was huge and had a swing set. Marta thought she should be happy but she wasn't.

School hadn't started yet and Marta was having trouble making friends. Sometimes she saw kids her age walking dogs past her house. She didn't know what to say to them or how to get their attention. Marta's mom noticed that Marta didn't seem very happy.

That weekend, Marta's mom told her family that she had a surprise for them. They drove to an animal shelter. Marta's mom told the family that they could adopt a dog. She said it had to be an older dog who was already trained, not a puppy. That day, Marta and her family adopted a brown dog with white spots. The dog was gentle and loved kids and they named him Spot. Soon Marta made friends with other dog walkers. Some of them would be in her new class. Marta was getting happier all the time.

Questions for Marta

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Why was Marta so happy?
2. Why did Marta's happiness fade when her mom said they were moving?
3. What were some of the nice things about their new town?
4. Why wasn't Marta happy?
5. Sometimes Marta saw kids go past her new house. What were they doing?
6. How do you think Marta's mom could tell that Marta wasn't happy after their move?
7. Where does Marta's mom take the family for their surprise?
8. Why does Marta's mom say that they cannot adopt a puppy?
9. What did they name their new dog?
10. How did Marta make friends with other dog walkers?

Michael

Michael had a large family. Besides his mother and father, he had three sisters. He also had aunts and uncles and cousins who lived nearby. His whole family got together at least once each month for a meal. The meals were always full of laughter and fun. Everyone had a chance to share interesting stories. Sometimes the stories were really funny. Sometimes they were more serious. Michael loved to hear about the things that had happened to all the people in his family. The only thing he missed was hearing stories from his grandfather.

Michael's grandfather was very old. He lived in a special place called a nursing home. He couldn't walk very well and used a wheelchair to get around. Michael's grandfather liked being at the nursing home. His meals were cooked for him and the nurses took very good care of him. He didn't have to take care of his house and yard anymore. He missed the big family meals but he didn't have the energy to go. Michael visited his grandfather often. His grandfather depended on Michael to tell him what everyone had said at the monthly family meal. Michael didn't want to disappoint his grandfather but he had a hard time remembering all the stories.

One day Michael had a great idea. He had recently been given a new phone for his birthday. One feature the new phone had was a recorder. Michael decided to use the recorder during the next family meal. His family agreed to speak loudly and clearly into the recorder.

The next time Michael went to visit his grandfather, he took the recorder. Michael's grandfather was thrilled. Not only did he get to hear the stories from around the dinner table, he got to hear the voices of his family.

Questions for Michael

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. How many sisters did Michael have?
2. Who was missing from the big family meals?
3. Why did Michael miss hearing stories from his grandfather?
4. Where did Michael's grandfather live?
5. Why was Michael's grandfather happy to be at the nursing home?
6. What did Michael get for his birthday?
7. Why did he decide to use the recorder during family meals?
8. Was his family happy to help?
9. How did Michael's grandfather feel when Michael brought the recorder on his next visit?
10. Why did hearing the voices of his family make Michael's grandfather happy?

Mike

Mike had always wanted a dog but his parents said a dog is too much trouble. They thought that dogs shed and would always go to the bathroom in the house. But, what worried them most was the expense: vet bills and food. Mike did not give up trying to get his parents to agree to a dog.

One day Mike saw an ad in the paper. A family was looking for a good home for a one year old dog. They were moving away so they had to give him up. It was a 10 pound, mixed dog that didn't shed, had all of it's shots, was good with children, and did not go in the house. Her name was Lulu and she was everything Mike had hoped for. He showed the paper to his Mother and Father. They agreed to talk it over.

Mike needed to convince his parents that this was the perfect dog. So, he made a list of all the good things about Lulu. This is why Lulu is the best dog for our family: didn't shed, doesn't go in the house, had all her shots, small, didn't eat much, good with children. Mike also wanted his Mom and Dad to know he would take care of her. I promise to: feed her, walk her, play with her, and pick up her poop in the yard.

Mike's parents looked at the two lists and felt very proud of him. They knew that Mike must have given this a lot of thought. They agreed to go look at the dog. Lulu was so cute that everyone fell in love with her right away. Lulu became a member of their family that very day.

Questions for Mike

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What did Mike want?
2. How do you think Lulu was treated by her first family? Why do you think that?
3. Name 3 reasons Mike's parents didn't want a dog.
4. Do you think it was a good idea for Mike to make the two lists to convince his parents to get a dog? Why?
5. Name 3 reasons why Lulu was the perfect dog for their family.
6. Name 3 things Mike promised to do if he got Lulu.
7. Do you think Lulu will be a good dog for this family? Why?
8. Why did his parents agree to look at the dog?

Nick and Joe

Nick and Joe were best friends. They did everything together: played video games, built legos, biked around the neighborhood, climbed trees. They would even eat and sleep at each other's house. If one was sick and couldn't play, the other one felt very lonely.

One day Nick came over to Joe's house looking very sad. Nick told him that his family was moving to another city. Joe was so sad he almost cried. They didn't know how they would get along without the other. The boys' worlds would be very different.

They wanted to find a way to stop this move from happening. Between the two of them, they thought they could find an answer. They thought about hiding Nick at Joe's house. They thought about Joe coming along in the moving van to Nick's house. They knew their parents wouldn't go along with either idea.

The only way to stay together was to get their parents together for a meeting. So, that night, Joe's mother and father came over to Nick's house. They were all sad the boys were going to live so far apart. Between the six people, they thought they could come up with an idea. Nick's mom said Joe could come for a visit. Joe's mom said Nick could come for a visit. Both boys agreed that this was not the best plan but it was as good as they could hope for.

Questions for Nick and Joe

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Who was Joe's best friend?
2. Name 3 things the boys did together.
3. Why were the boys sad?
4. Why do you think the boys were best friends?
5. What were the boys' ideas to stay together?
6. Why do you think the parents wouldn't go along with the boys' ideas?
7. What were the parents' idea?
8. Why wasn't the plan their parents came up with the best plan?

Rebecca

Rebecca was invited to a sleepover at her friend Claire's house. Rebecca had never been to a sleepover before. She had heard how much fun they were and she was excited. Claire had also invited two other friends from their class. It was going to be a sleepover party!

Rebecca woke up the day of the party feeling happy. Then she thought about being away from her parents overnight and it made her a little nervous. She wasn't sure if she could actually stay the whole night at Claire's house. Rebecca realized she was both excited and scared.

Rebecca's mother tried to comfort her. She reminded Rebecca of all the fun she would have. She took Rebecca shopping for a sleeping bag and new pajamas. They baked cookies for Rebecca to take to the party. Rebecca called Claire to explain that she might not be able to stay. Claire told Rebecca that she would help her in any way she could. When it was time to go to Claire's house, Rebecca felt much more confident.

That night the four girls played games, watched a movie and ate popcorn. The girls told Rebecca how delicious her cookies were. Then Claire's parents told them it was time for lights out. Until that moment, Rebecca had forgotten all about her earlier nervousness. But now, as the girls settled down for sleep, Rebecca started feeling scared. Claire could tell that Rebecca was worried so she moved her sleeping bag closer to Rebecca's. She whispered to Rebecca that she was right there and not to be scared. She reached over and squeezed Rebecca's hand. As Rebecca fell asleep, she realized what a great friend Claire was.

Questions for Rebecca

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Rebecca went to who's house for the sleepover?
2. Why was Rebecca excited to be invited to Claire's sleepover?
3. How did Rebecca feel at first on the morning of the sleepover?
4. How could Rebecca feel both excited and scared?
5. How did Rebecca's mother try to help her feel better?
6. Why did calling Claire help Rebecca feel better?
7. What did the girls do at the sleepover?
8. Why did Rebecca get nervous when Claire's parents said it was time for lights out?
9. What did Claire do to help Rebecca feel better?
10. Did Rebecca get over her nervousness?

Rick

Rick woke up one morning so excited he couldn't eat breakfast. He and his family were going to the zoo. It was important to Rick that they would get there right when it opened. The monkey feeding time was first thing in the morning and he didn't want to miss a thing.

He loved seeing the fish, the bears, the birds, and the otters, but most of all he loved the monkeys. He laughed himself silly at feeding time. They would climb, tumble and swing, while they ate lots and lots of bananas. Rick wanted to spend most of his time with the monkeys.

That night Rick would not eat his dinner. He only wanted to eat bananas. Rick's father was confused because they were having pizza. Rick always loved pizza and he hated bananas, but bananas were all he would eat. This went on for a week. Rick ate lots and lots of bananas. He ate banana chips, banana muffins, banana splits, everything with bananas. Worst of all, he started to act like a monkey: climbing monkey bars, swinging on swings, climbing trees and everything else. He even climbed up the kitchen cabinets. His mother and father were worried.

One night, Rick started to itch. He itched and itched; his back, his front, his legs and his arms. They discovered a rash all over his body. Rick and his father went to the doctor and discovered Rick could no longer eat bananas, he is allergic. Oh no! This made Rick upset, no more acting like a monkey. Then he started to think about elephants; they were big, strong animals. Rick thought, I wonder what elephants eat.

Questions for Rick

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Where did Rick and his family go?
2. Why do you think Rick liked monkey feeding time?
3. What did Rick always want to eat?
4. Why did Rick always want to eat bananas?
5. Name 2 banana foods Rick ate.
6. What really made Rick act like a monkey?
7. Why did he have to stop eating bananas?
8. Why did Rick wonder what elephants ate?

Ron

Ron was a boy who liked to do things by himself. He didn't like to ask others for help. One day his teacher gave his class an unusual assignment. She wanted everyone in the class to learn how to do one new thing outside of school. She said it could be anything, as long as it was something new. Ron decided to learn how to ride a unicycle.

Ron had gotten a unicycle two years before and had tried very hard to ride it. First he tried to hold the unicycle and climb onto the seat, but he kept falling. Then he leaned the unicycle against a wall and tried to climb on. That didn't work either because he fell as soon as he let go of the wall. Soon Ron decided the unicycle was dumb and gave up. Now, however, he dusted it off and gave it another try.

Now he could actually keep his feet on the ground while sitting in the seat. As soon as he tried to pedal though, he fell. He still couldn't keep his balance. The same thing happened when he tried leaning the unicycle up against a wall.

Ron's father watched from the house. He knew that Ron didn't like to ask for help. He thought this was a good chance to show Ron that getting help was okay. When his father asked if he could help, Ron slowly agreed. Ron's father ran alongside and held the seat while Ron pedaled. They practiced for days. Two weeks later, when Ron's assignment was due, he took the whole class outside to show them how well he could ride a unicycle. Ron knew from then on that getting help was often the smart thing to do.

Questions for Ron

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What kind of a boy was Ron?
2. Why do you think Ron didn't like to ask for help?
3. What did Ron decide to do for the unusual assignment?
4. What happened when Ron first tried to ride the unicycle?
5. Why did Ron think the unicycle was dumb when that happened?
6. Why do you think Ron decided to try again?
7. What happened when Ron tried to ride the unicycle this time?
8. Why did Ron's father think it was a good time to teach Ron that it was okay to get help?
9. What did Ron's father do to help him?
10. What do you think Ron learned?

Ronan and Bob

Ronan's brother Bob is a bike racer. Ronan has watched him ride and win many races. He wishes he could race too. Bob rides every day and sometimes he lets Ronan ride with him. Ronan really wants to race, but his brother thinks he's too young.

Bob is going to a bike rally. Ronan and the rest of his family will go along. At the rally, there are all kinds of bike games. Some are hard and some are sort of crazy. The first one is a Slalom bike race; it's where a biker goes around a maze of flags. Bob wins the race, Ronan knew he would. The next race is a Wiggly Board race; it's where you ride your bike on top of a narrow board. Most bikers are afraid of this one. But Ronan knew Bob could ride his bike on anything. Bob wins this one too.

Ronan really wishes he could be in a race too. There are races and games all day long. Every few minutes a new race starts. It seems that everyone is in a race or game. Bob surprises Ronan by asking him if he wants to be in a race for younger bikers. Ronan jumps for joy and says yes.

Ronan gets his bike ready and puts on his helmet. He has to follow arrows up a muddy hill, carry his bike over a stone wall and go through water. There's someone ahead of him. He tries and tries but can't catch him. Ronan comes in second place. Bob tells him that maybe he didn't win, but now is really a racer.

Questions for Ronan and Bob

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. What does Ronan want to do?
2. Why does Bob think Ronan is too young?
3. Where are Bob and his family going?
4. Why do you think Ronan wants to bike race so badly?
5. Name one of the races Bob is in.
6. Why do you think most bikers are afraid of the Wiggly Board Race?
7. Name one thing Ronan has to do in his race.
8. How do you think Ronan feels about coming in second place? Why?

Sandy

Sandy and her family were going on an adventure. They were driving to the seashore to watch a water skiing show. Some friends had told them about it. Sandy thought it sounded exciting but a little scary too. She was nervous about the final trick. How could they possibly keep their balance?

Sandy's family arrived, found a good spot on the beach and ate their picnic lunch. After eating, everyone wanted to go in the water. The sun was warm and the sea had small waves. Sandy thought it was a perfect day to be at the seashore. They splashed and swam for a while and soon it was time for the show.

Sandy and her family were not disappointed. The boats that pulled the skiers zipped back and forth in front of the beach. The skiers did all sorts of tricks. They jumped and spun around and crossed very close in front of each other. Sometimes the audience gasped.

When it was time for the final trick, Sandy got nervous. The skiers made a tall tower by standing on each other's shoulders. At the very top was one last skier and she was far above the water. If she fell, Sandy knew she would be hurt.

The boat pulling the tower went past the beach twice. Sandy couldn't believe the skiers didn't fall. The third time the boat came past it slowed down and all the skiers slowly dipped into the sea. In just a moment they were all swimming toward the beach. They ran up and greeted their fans. Sandy couldn't wait to come back again.

Questions for Sandy

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Where were Sandy and her family going?
2. Why was Sandy both excited and scared?
3. What did the family do first when they got to the beach?
4. Why did Sandy think it was a perfect day to be at the beach?
5. What tricks did the water skiers do?
6. Why did the audience gasp sometimes?
7. What was the final trick the skiers performed?
8. Why was Sandy so nervous?
9. How did Sandy know that none of the skiers had been hurt?
10. Did Sandy have a good time?

Stella and Ruby

It had been raining for three days. Stella was tired of playing games, reading books and watching T.V. She needed to get out in the sun and today the sun was shining. She and her dog Ruby were looking forward to a bug hunt.

Bug hunts were one of Stella and Ruby's favorite things to do. Ruby was a small dog; close to the ground so she could easily sniff out the bugs. When Ruby found a bug, she would not move. She didn't hurt the bug; she just kept sniffing. Besides Ruby, her bug sniffing dog, Stella would bring along a net and a jar.

As they went along the way, Ruby found a bug on the ground. Stella bent down and looked at the bug very closely. She had never seen a bug like that before. It was black and white with bright orange stripes and it was shaped like a worm; long and thin. It kind of looked like a beetle. All of a sudden, it began to fly. This surprised Stella because she had not seen any wings on it before. They must have been hidden.

Stella was so excited she and Ruby ran all the way home to tell her father. She wanted to know what kind of bug it was so right away she started to draw and color what she saw. She showed her drawing to her father and the two of them looked it up on the computer. They found out it was a Webworm Moth. Stella decided that next time she goes bug hunting, she is bringing a camera.

Questions for Stella and Ruby

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Name 1 thing Stella did when it was raining.
2. Why do you think Ruby was a good bug hunting dog?
3. What were the colors of the bug?
4. Why was it smart to go right home and draw a picture of the bug?
5. Why did it surprise Stella when it flew?
6. Why do you think Stella was so interested in this bug?
7. What was the name of the bug?
8. Why do you think Stella is bringing a camera on her next bug hunting trip?

Tammy

Tammy loved to run. When she ran, she forgot all her problems and felt free. Tammy was the fastest runner in her grade and she easily won every race. Her friends thought it was cool that she could run so fast. But other kids thought she was a show off. Sometimes Tammy wished that she wasn't such a good runner.

A new girl named Laura came to Tammy's grade. Laura was also a good runner and had won many races at her old school. The kids who thought Tammy was a show off wanted Laura to race against Tammy. They were hoping that Laura would beat Tammy. Tammy and Laura didn't know each other well, but they wanted to be friends. They decided to play a trick on the other kids.

The day of the race, Tammy, Laura and their classmates gathered on the playground. Tammy and Laura walked to the far end so they could finish near the group. Some of the kids shouted mean things to Tammy about wanting Laura to beat her. Tammy and Laura just smiled at each other. Then someone yelled GO and off they went.

At first Tammy was in the lead. Then Laura caught up with her. Then Laura took the lead. Then Tammy caught up. It was impossible to say who would win. As the girls got closer to the finish line, they slowed down. Soon they were barely running. Just as they reached the finish line, they stopped, took each other's hands and walked across together. For a moment, there was silence. Then the kids who were watching let out a huge cheer. Tammy and Laura became good friends and often ran together. The kids who wanted Laura to beat Tammy learned a lesson about kindness and friendship and stopped being mean to Tammy.

Questions for Tammy

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Why did Tammy like to run?
2. Why did she sometimes wish she wasn't such a good runner?
3. Why did the kids want Laura to race against Tammy?
4. Why do you think Tammy and Laura knew they wanted to be friends even though they didn't know each other well?
5. Why did Tammy and Laura decide to play a trick on the other kids?
6. Why didn't Tammy get upset when the kids were shouting mean things to her on the day of the race?
7. Why was it impossible to say who would win the race?
8. What was the trick that Tammy and Laura played?
9. What did Tammy and Laura do just before they crossed the finish line?
10. How did the other kids learn a lesson about kindness and friendship from Tammy and Laura?

Tony

Tony was home sick. His stomach was upset, his head hurt, and he felt sore from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. He didn't want to eat so, his mom made him drink glass after glass of water. All he wanted to do was sleep and watch TV.

After two days of being sick, Tony's mom decided to bring him to the doctor. Tony climbed out of bed and threw on some clothes. The doctor said he had the flu and would have to take some medicine. He said the medicine did not taste good, but it would make him feel better. You had to mix it with a glass of water and drink the whole thing. Tony hated taking medicine and this was bad; because you had to drink a whole glass. Yuck!

When they got home, Tony crawled back into bed. His mom went into his bedroom with the glass of medicine. Tony would not open his mouth. His mom begged and begged. She knew it would be hard to get him to take the medicine. But, she didn't think it would be this hard.

Mom got an idea; a very yummy idea. She went to the kitchen cupboard and found Tony's favorite candy, suckers. She told Tony he could suck on the sucker after every sip of medicine. He agreed to try the plan. He would take a sip instead of trying to drink the whole glass at once and then suck on the sucker. This was the new plan. It took a lot longer to get the medicine down, but it worked. A little sugar does help the medicine go down.

Questions for Tony

Think about the story you just read and briefly answer these questions.

1. Why was Tony in bed?
2. Why do you think his Mom made him drink so much water?
3. What was wrong with Tony according to the doctor?
4. Why do you think Tony hated taking the medicine?
5. What was Tony's favorite candy?
6. Why did Mom's plan work?
7. What was the plan?
8. Why do you think sugar helps the medicine go down?