





READING



DIRECTIONS

Read each selection. Then read each question that follows that selection. Decide which is the best answer to each question. Mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

SAMPLE

A Rabbit Named Sticks

- 1 Lop-Eared Rabbit Village was on the north edge of a forest. The rabbits who lived there were called lop-eared because their ears drooped down around their faces. They were all very proud of their long, floppy ears. One young rabbit in Lop-Eared Rabbit Village was not so happy. His ears were different. They stood straight up. Everyone teased him and called him Sticks.
- 2 “Be proud. Your grandfather had ears just like yours,” his mother often said to him.
- 3 But Sticks didn’t like looking different. He wanted his ears to be long and floppy like everyone else’s.



S-1 In paragraph 1, which word helps the reader know what the word drooped means?

- proud*
- floppy*
- young*
- different*

S-2 What problem does Sticks have in this story?

- His mother doesn’t like his straight ears.
- He wishes that he could be more like his grandfather.
- The other young rabbits in his village are jealous of him.
- He wants to look like the other rabbits in his village.



The First Butterflies

The following folktale comes from the Papago people. These Native Americans lived mainly in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. They were mostly farmers.

- 1 Long ago, when the world was still new, Great Chief sat and thought about how beautiful the world was. He looked at the flowers and the leaves. He watched rabbits hop around. But he especially loved to watch the children play.
- 2 “These children love the simple things,” he said to himself. “They love to play with all the things around them. They dance with the falling leaves. They roll in the green grass. They chase grasshoppers. They even spread their arms and try to fly like the birds.”
- 3 He quietly watched the happy children. Soon, however, he became upset. “What will happen if someday things change? What if one day the children are sad? What if they get sick? What if they are hungry? What happens when they are old and tired? They might get too hot from the bright sun. Severe winds could come. These strong winds might be too much for the children,” he said.
- 4 Great Chief thought for a while. Then he came up with a plan to keep the children happy. He emptied the bag he carried his food in. Then he began to fill his bag with the beautiful colors around him. He found leaves that were red, yellow, and brown. He put in green grass, purple and blue flowers, and red fruit. He continued to add things with bright colors. Almost done, he put a touch of sunshine into the bag, but not too much. At last he added the wonderful songs of birds.

5 Great Chief closed the bag tightly. He wrapped a leather strap around the top to keep it shut. He shook it many times. When he peeked inside the bag, it wasn't quite what he wanted. So he closed the bag up again and shook it more. Finally it was ready.

6 Great Chief walked over to where the children were playing. He asked one of the younger girls to open the bag. The rest of the children gathered around. The young girl opened the bag slowly. Out flew these amazing things with wings. They were all of the colors of the rainbow. They also sang beautiful songs.

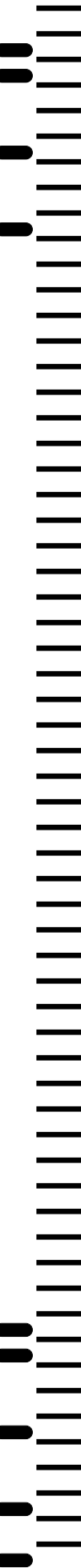


7 “What are these flying things? What are they?” asked the curious children. The strange new things flew around the children as they continued to ask, “What are these things called, Great Chief?”

8 “They are for you,” he answered. “They are butterflies. They will be your friends whenever you need them. They will make you happy when you feel sad. If you are afraid, they will bring you comfort. When days are bad and you do not think things will get better, the memory of butterflies will help you. Just remember how special they are, and the butterflies will take your worries away.”

9 The children were very happy about the new butterflies. However, the birds were not. “Great Chief, why did you give the butterflies our songs? Songs have always been for birds. It is not right for butterflies to have our songs!” exclaimed the birds.

10 Great Chief thought about what the birds said. He decided that everyone, including the birds, should be happy. So he put all the butterflies back into the bag. He shook the bag one time. He asked the birds to gather around. When he opened the bag, only the songs came out, and the birds swallowed them. The butterflies flew out just as beautiful as before, but they could not sing. Now every living thing on Earth was happy.



1 Which word in paragraph 3 helps the reader know what severe means?

- strong*
- hot*
- bright*
- old*

2 After reading the story, the reader knows that the birds will most likely stay happy if they can —

- fly wherever they want without telling the Great Chief
- eat their favorite foods
- play with the butterflies
- be the only ones to sing their own songs

3 Paragraph 4 is mainly about the —

- food Great Chief carries in his bag
- leaves Great Chief gives the children
- things Great Chief puts into the bag
- songs the butterflies sing

4 How do the birds feel about the singing butterflies?

- Surprised
- Unhappy
- Safe
- Tired

- 5 In paragraph 8, the word memory means —
- something that is made better
 - something that is warm
 - something to keep safe
 - something to think of

- 6 What happens while the butterflies fly around the children?
- Great Chief fills his bag with beautiful colors.
 - The children ask Great Chief what to call the new things.
 - The children gather around to see the bag.
 - Great Chief worries about the children becoming sad.

- 7 Read the chart and answer the question below.

How Great Chief Makes Butterflies
1. Fills a bag with flowers
2. Adds some red, yellow, and brown leaves
3. _____
4. Puts in more colors from nature
5. Adds just a little sunshine
6. Adds the songs of birds

Which of the following belongs on the third line?

- Then adds some more leaves
- Puts in grass, flowers, and fruit
- Closes the bag and wraps a strap around the top
- Gives the bag a quick shake and looks inside

8 What is paragraph 3 mainly about?

- When the children of the world will grow old
- Why the children are sad one day
- Great Chief's worries about what could happen to the children
- Strong winds that can hurt the children while they play

9 What happens after the birds remind Great Chief that songs are only for birds?

- Great Chief asks one of the girls to open the bag.
- Great Chief decides to give the birds back their songs.
- Great Chief adds more colors to the bag.
- Great Chief wraps a leather strap around the bag.

10 Great Chief wants to make something for the children because he —

- thinks there are not enough beautiful things in the world
- thinks that making something with flowers for the children will be nice
- sees that the children have nothing to play with
- wants them to have something that will always make them happy



Clever Critters

1 There are many kinds of heroes. Some do brave deeds, while others make great discoveries. Even animals can be heroes. This month's newsletter tells about three amazing animals. Each one is a hero!

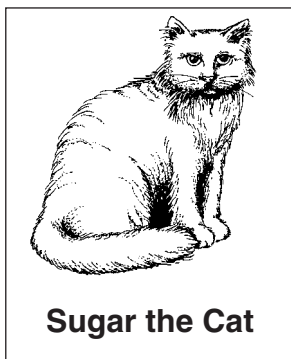
Thumper the Dog

2 Thumper was a dog that lived with a family in Lockport, New York. The family had a three-year-old son named Benjamin. One day Benjamin wandered into a large field near his home. The grass in the field was taller than he was, so Benjamin could not find his way out.



Thumper the Dog

3 Hundreds of people began searching for Benjamin, but they didn't know that he was not alone. Thumper was with him. Though just a puppy, Thumper was very loyal. The dog stayed with Benjamin. Thumper curled up next to the little boy and kept him warm. Benjamin was found 12 hours later, and Thumper was still with him. Benjamin had stayed safe and calm because of his loving pet.



Sugar the Cat

Sugar the Cat

4 Sugar was a beautiful cat with long fur. When she was several years old, she wandered onto a farm in California. The people who lived there, Mr. and Mrs. Woods, began feeding the cat and named her Sugar. When Mrs. Woods held Sugar, she noticed that something was wrong with the cat's left hip, but this didn't make Sugar any less special. Mr. and Mrs. Woods loved Sugar.

5 Later Mr. and Mrs. Woods moved to a farm in Oklahoma. They did not take Sugar with them, because they knew she did not like riding in cars. They thought it would be cruel to make Sugar ride in a car for days. Mr. and Mrs. Woods gave Sugar to a neighbor who would take good care of her. They thought they would never see Sugar again. But the cat did something surprising.

6 Two weeks after they left, Sugar disappeared from the neighbor's house. Sugar walked across deserts and mountains. She traveled more than 1,500 miles to the Woodses' new farm! Mr. and Mrs. Woods could hardly believe their eyes when Sugar appeared. They knew that the cat was Sugar because of her left hip.

7 No one knows how Sugar found her way to Oklahoma, but after 14 months Sugar was home with her family.

LuLu the Potbellied Pig

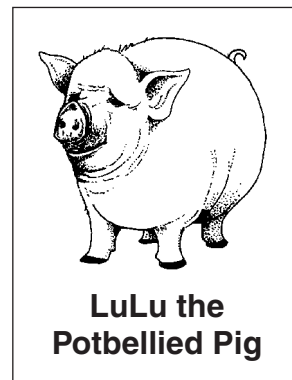
8 Mr. and Mrs. Altsman had a potbellied pig named LuLu. The pig lived indoors like a pet dog or a cat. They all lived happily in their home in Pennsylvania.

9 One summer Mr. and Mrs. Altsman went camping and took LuLu with them. Mr. Altsman went fishing one morning. Mrs. Altsman didn't feel well, so she and LuLu stayed in the camper.

10 Suddenly Mrs. Altsman fell to the floor. She needed a doctor. LuLu pushed the camper door open and climbed out to locate help. She went up to the road. Car after car passed by. LuLu returned to the camper several times to check on Mrs. Altsman. Finally LuLu walked to the middle of the road. When a car came by, she lay down in front of it. When the driver got out, LuLu led him back to the camper.

11 The man called out to Mrs. Altsman, saying that something was wrong with her pig. In a weak voice Mrs. Altsman answered that she was the one in distress. The man called for help, and Mrs. Altsman was taken to the hospital. Thanks to LuLu, Mrs. Altsman got well.

12 As any person can see, these animals did great things. Thumper, Sugar, and LuLu are more than just pets. They are amazing animals.



11 In paragraph 10, the word locate means to —

- try to find
- leave alone
- run around
- make noise

12 Mr. and Mrs. Woods decided not to take Sugar to Oklahoma because —

- the weather was too warm for a cat with long fur
- their neighbor would take good care of her
- there were already several cats on their new farm
- they had to drive in the car for many days

13 What is the section “Thumper the Dog” mostly about?

- Thumper and Benjamin walked into a large field.
- The search for Benjamin lasted 12 hours.
- Thumper took care of Benjamin when he was lost.
- Hundreds of people looked for Benjamin.

14 Which of these would be the best title for a newspaper story about LuLu?

- Pig Fakes an Illness
- Pig Saves Owner’s Life
- Pig Stops a Car
- Pig Causes an Accident

- 15 Read the meanings below for the word make.

make \ 'māk \ *verb*

1. to cause to become
2. to get or gain
3. to force to do
4. to put together

Which meaning best fits the way make is used in paragraph 5?

- Meaning 1
- Meaning 2
- Meaning 3
- Meaning 4

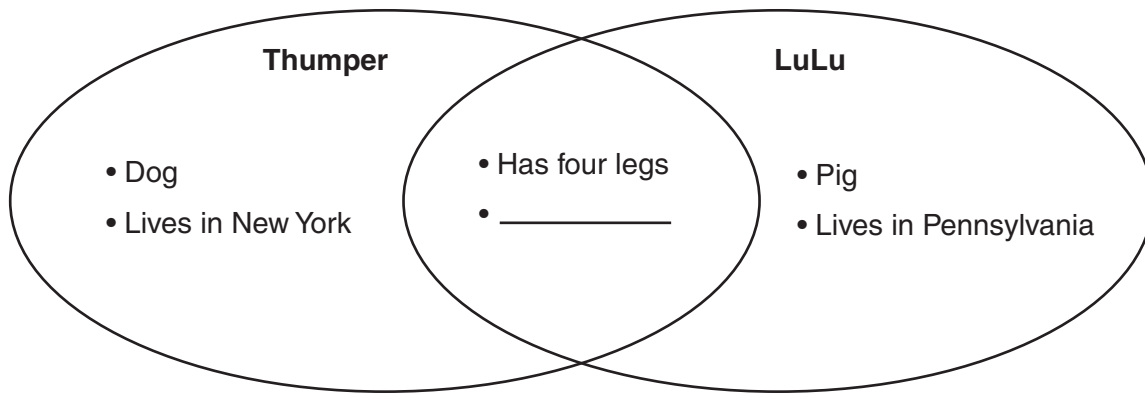
- 16 How can the reader tell that Sugar loved Mr. and Mrs. Woods?

- She stayed with the neighbors after Mr. and Mrs. Woods moved.
- She rode everywhere in Mr. and Mrs. Woods's car.
- She walked all the way to their farm in Oklahoma.
- She kept all the mice out of their barn.

- 17 What happened right after LuLu lay down in the road?

- A driver followed LuLu back to the camper.
- LuLu pushed the camper door open.
- Mrs. Altsman needed a doctor.
- The Altsmans lived happily in Pennsylvania.

18 Read the diagram below to answer the following question.



Which of these goes on the blank line?

- Helps its owner
- Lies down in the street
- Stays in a field
- Walks to another state

19 Which sentence from the article shows that LuLu cares about Mrs. Altsman?

- They all lived happily in their home in Pennsylvania.*
- Mrs. Altsman didn't feel well, so she and LuLu stayed in the camper.*
- LuLu returned to the camper several times to check on Mrs. Altsman.*
- The man called out to Mrs. Altsman, saying that something was wrong with her pig.*

20 How did Mr. and Mrs. Woods know for certain that the cat in Oklahoma was Sugar?

- The cat did not like riding in cars.
- They saw the cat's long fur.
- The cat liked the same foods.
- They recognized the cat by its hip.

21 In paragraph 11, the word distress means —

- luck
- shame
- love
- pain

22 Why did LuLu lie down in the middle of the road?

- She was trying to get someone's attention.
- She was very tired and needed to rest.
- She had slipped while running across the road.
- She wanted to find Mr. Altsman.

23 How is Sugar different from Thumper and LuLu?

- Sugar has fur and a tail.
- Sugar goes to find help.
- Sugar does not like her owners.
- Sugar goes to find her owners.

24 How did Mrs. Altsman probably feel after she got well?

- Curious about her husband's fishing trip
- Glad that LuLu had been there to help
- Worried that LuLu had been hit by a car
- Excited about going camping again

A Lesson

1 Miguel tossed his backpack on the floor and plopped down onto the couch. “How was school?” his mother called from the kitchen.

2 “Great,” Miguel said angrily.

3 His mother walked into the living room. “What’s wrong?” she asked. “Did you pass your spelling test?”

4 “Yes, I missed only one word,” Miguel said. “But Robert ran off after school again. I thought he was going to help me with my pitching. He hasn’t helped me in weeks. He can’t see me after school, and he’s not home on weekends. He’s always too busy practicing for a dance.” Then Miguel covered his head with a pillow.

5 “Have you ever taken the time to ask Robert about his dance?” his mother asked.

6 Miguel looked at his mother. He could tell by her look that she wanted him to think about what she had just said. He had not talked to Robert about the dance. All Miguel had wanted to do was learn to pitch better before baseball season started. Feeling guilty, Miguel covered his head with the pillow again and mumbled, “No.”

7 “Well, Robert’s mother called this morning and invited us to watch Robert dance at the powwow tomorrow,” Miguel’s mother said. “I told her that we would love to go. Then you will have a chance to see what Robert has been doing.”

8 Miguel raised his head from the pillow. “O.K.,” he said softly.

9 Miguel had never been to a powwow. At school he had learned that during powwows many Native Americans come together to

dance, sing, and spend time with one another. Miguel had also learned from Robert that powwows are how Native Americans remember their past. They show others how their ancestors once lived. Miguel had just never really thought about Robert being a part of a powwow.

10 The next morning Miguel and his mother entered the building where the powwow was being held. Everywhere he looked in the arena, he saw people in bright costumes. Some people wore headdresses with feathers trailing down their backs. Others wore breastplates on their chests with designs made from beads. Even the moccasins on people's feet were decorated.

11 "Mom, I don't think we dressed right," Miguel said, looking down at his jeans and T-shirt.

12 "It's all right," she laughed. "Those are the dancers. They're supposed to be dressed like that."

13 Miguel and his mother looked at the booths selling jewelry and crafts. Some booths also sold Native American foods such as fry bread and bean bread. "I'm glad I didn't eat much breakfast!" Miguel thought as he smelled the food cooking.

14 Miguel walked around trying to decide what to eat first. Suddenly he was face-to-face with Robert. At least he thought it was Robert. This boy looked like his friend, except that he had decorated his face with red paint and was wearing feathers in his hair. There were beads, ribbons, and feathers all over his clothes.

15 "Robert?" Miguel asked. "Is that you?"

16 "Yeah," Robert said. He started to say something else, but another boy grabbed him by the arm and pulled him away. Robert waved to Miguel as he disappeared behind another group of dancers.

17 Miguel and his mother quickly found seats. He couldn't wait to see Robert dance. As a man started singing, everyone became quiet. Soon the drummers began to play. Then a group of dancers began moving to the slow beat of the drums. Others joined them, but Miguel didn't see Robert.

18 As Miguel leaned forward to look for his friend, his mother pointed to a new group of dancers. Robert was one of them. The drummers played faster. More men and some women started to sing. Robert began to dance. Robert was spinning and moving around with the others in his group. Miguel watched Robert's quick steps. "No wonder Robert had to practice so much," Miguel thought.

19 When the dancing ended, Miguel went to find Robert. "Wow!" Miguel said. "That was cool! Why didn't you tell me you could do all that?"

20 Robert shrugged and said, "You never asked."

21 "Yeah, I know," Miguel said, realizing how he had been acting. "So what else can you do that I don't know about?"

25 How do Miguel and Robert feel about each other at the end of the story?

- They do not trust each other anymore.
- They are no longer friends.
- They understand each other better.
- They do not like to be around each other.

26 From the story, the reader can tell that powwows —

- are an important part of Native American life
- happen many times throughout a year
- show two people how to get along with each other
- usually last about two to three weeks

27 In paragraph 9, what does the word ancestors mean?

- Dancers who wear costumes
- Friends who like the same things
- People who lived long ago
- Memories of good times

28 Miguel isn't sure who Robert is when he first sees him because Robert —

- will not look at him
- is spinning and moving around very fast
- is wearing a costume and face paint
- is too far away to see him clearly

- 29** The author probably wrote this story to —
- explain how Native Americans remember the past
 - show that dancing is more important than friendship
 - describe the different dances done at powwows
 - show why friends should talk to each other

- 30** Robert does not help Miguel practice his pitching because —
- Miguel turned down Robert's invitation to go to the powwow
 - Robert has to practice for the dance he is performing
 - Robert does not play baseball as well as Miguel does
 - Miguel makes fun of Robert's costume for the powwow

- 31** Miguel's mother helps Miguel solve his problem by —
- asking Robert to be nicer to Miguel
 - telling Robert's mother how Robert is acting
 - helping Miguel practice his pitching
 - taking Miguel to Robert's powwow

- 32** How does Miguel feel near the end of the story?
- Angry that Robert didn't tell him about the dance
 - Happy that there are so many things to do at the powwow
 - Surprised at how well Robert is able to dance
 - Disappointed that he wasn't part of the dance at the powwow

- 33 Read the first sentence of the summary below.

Summary of "A Lesson"
Miguel has not spent much time
with his friend Robert lately.

Which of the following completes the summary above?

- Miguel goes to a powwow to see Robert dance. Finally Miguel understands why he has not seen his friend very much.
- Robert is learning how to do a dance for a powwow. He practices for the dance almost every day.
- Miguel goes to a powwow and sees many people in costumes. He walks around the powwow looking at jewelry and crafts.
- Miguel has asked Robert for help, but Robert is too busy to help. Miguel is unhappy that his friend will not help him.

- 34 What is Miguel's main problem in this story?

- He does not do as well in school as Robert does.
- He does not understand why his friend will not help him.
- His mother does not want him to go to the powwow.
- He does not like to dance as much as Robert does.

- 35 Miguel's mother wants Miguel to go to the powwow because she —

- wants Miguel to try Native American foods
- thinks Miguel should see Robert dance
- thinks Miguel spends too much time on baseball
- wants Miguel to dance at a powwow someday

- 36 Miguel is upset with Robert at the beginning of the story because Robert —

- has not had time to practice pitching with him
- made a better grade than he did on a spelling test
- forgot to invite him to the powwow the next day
- has not told him about dancing at a powwow



TAKS GRADE 3
READING
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