

Career Day

It was Career Day at Acorn Elementary School. Jane's teacher wanted them to write about a job that they were interested in. Jane was nervous. She could never answer the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" She knew some things she didn't want to be: a doctor (too gross!), a firefighter (too fiery!), and an astronaut (too spacey!).

Jane talked to a chef, a musician, a banker, and a truck driver. Jane wasn't interested. Then she saw someone building with interlocking blocks. Jane discovered that there was a real job where she could use her imagination and build all day. That night Jane had no problem writing about what she wanted to be when she grew up. She had her answer.

1. Why was Jane nervous at the beginning of the passage?
 - She didn't know what she was having for lunch.
 - She didn't want to walk to school.
 - She didn't know what she wanted to be when she grew up.
2. Why did Jane say she didn't want to be a firefighter?
 - It is too cold.
 - It is too dangerous.
 - It is too fiery.
 - It is too gross.

3. Identify the words from this sentence that match the indicated part of speech.

That night Jane had no problem writing about what she wanted to be when she grew up.

proper noun _____

past tense verb _____

preposition _____

adverb _____



Losing Is Not Fun

Amanda does not like to lose. She cries when she loses and says mean things.

One day, Amanda wanted to play a game, but everyone said no.

“Why won’t anyone play with me?” Amanda asked. Her mom told her that it was because of her behavior when she lost.

“Doesn’t everyone want to win?” Amanda asked.

“Yes,” said her mom. “Winning is fun. Just playing a game should also be fun. As long as you try to do your best, you can enjoy the game, win or lose.

“Okay, Mom! I promise to try to be a better sport. Will you play a game with me so I can practice?”

“Absolutely!” said her mom. “Let’s go!”

1. What does Amanda do when she loses?

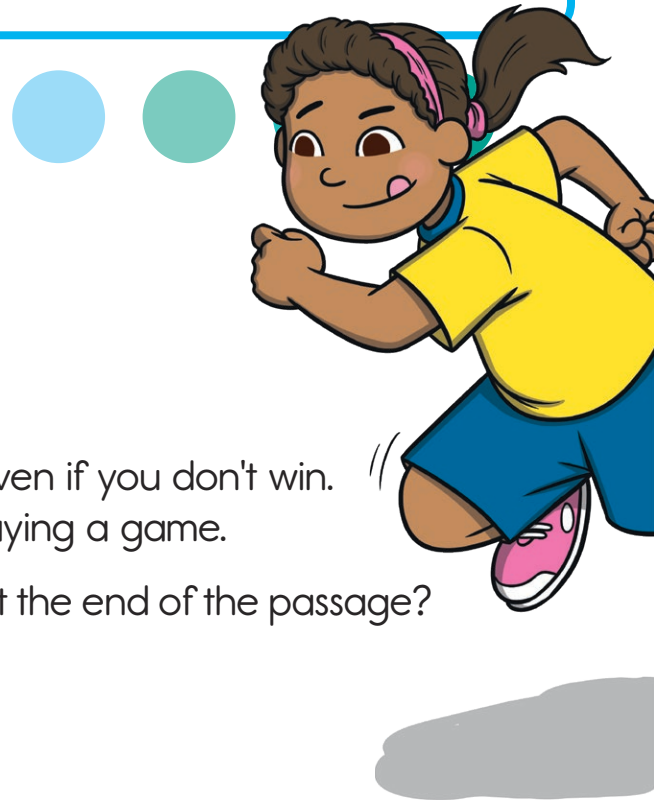
- She laughs.
- She says mean things.
- She runs away.

2. What lesson can we learn from this passage?

- It is okay to be a poor sport.
- It is important to have fun playing a game even if you don't win.
- Winning is the most important thing when playing a game.

3. Why did Amanda ask her mom to play with her at the end of the passage?

- so she could win
- so her mom wouldn't be mad at her
- so she could practice being a good sport



A Garden Club

Becca's favorite place at school is the garden. She uses all her senses there. She loves the scent of the fragrant roses. She loves the sight of the towering sunflowers. She loves the taste of sweet strawberries. She loves to feel the bark of the maple tree. She hears the sound of the bubbling water. She wants more students to see the garden. She and her teacher form a Garden Club. A lot of students come to the meeting. Becca shows them how to enjoy the garden through all their senses. For the rest of the school year, they happily work together to keep the garden growing strong.

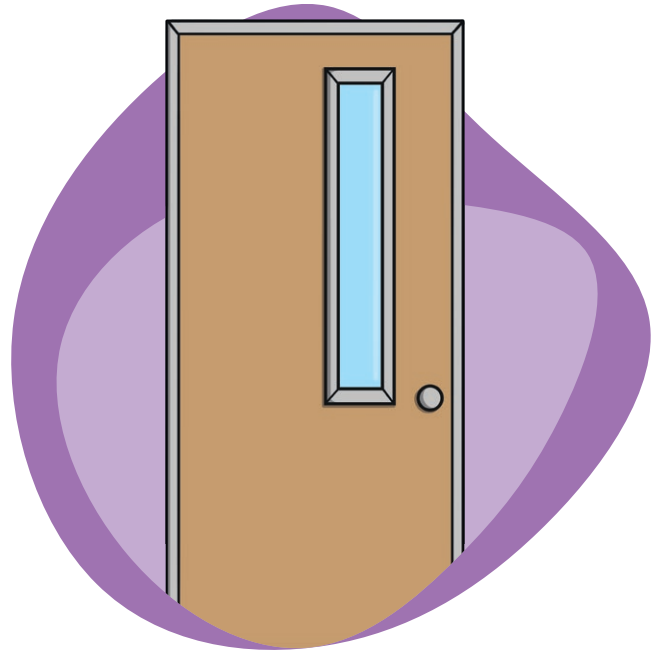
1. What word means the same as the word sweet?
 - sugary
 - pretty
 - soft
2. What word means the same as the word towering?
 - tall
 - yellow
 - soft
3. Which word could replace the word fragrant in this sentence: "She loves the scent of the fragrant rose."
 - red
 - sugary
 - sweet-smelling



A Perfect Fit

Jericho was nervous. He was starting a new school today. He was afraid that the kids would make fun of him. He rolled up the ramp into school. Some kids stared. Jericho decided to ignore them. He found his classroom, but the door was closed. A boy grabbed the door and held it open for him. The teacher told him that Daniel, the boy who had opened the door, would be his Welcome Buddy.

That day Daniel showed Jericho all around the school and introduced him to a lot of new people. Nobody seemed to care about his wheels. Jericho was happy. He knew he had found a school and some friends that were going to be a perfect fit.



1. Why was Jericho nervous?
 - He thought others might laugh at him.
 - He didn't like what he was wearing.
 - He forgot his lunch.
2. How did Daniel first help Jericho?
 - He sat next to him in class.
 - He held the door.
 - He said hello.
3. On the lines below, explain the meaning of the sentence, "He rolled up the ramp into school." Why didn't Jericho use the stairs?

A Walk in the Woods

Owen is walking in the forest with his family. He feels angry because he wants to play video games. His little sister, Evie, calls to him, "Owie!" He smiles because she still can't say his name. He walks over to see where she is pointing. Under a bush, he sees two little faces peering out of a hole in the ground.

"What are they, Owie?"

"Chipmunks," he tells her. "But they are all alone," she cries.

"The mommy chipmunk should be right back," Owen says. "I bet she is getting food."

Just then, the mother chipmunk scurries back to her den and scolds her babies. They quickly go back into the den. Owen and Evie laugh. He is now glad he came on this walk.

1. According to the beginning of the passage, why is Owen angry?

- He is tired.
- He wants to play video games.
- He is hungry.

2. Which word best describes Evie?

- silly
- sad
- curious



3. The setting of this passage is the forest. How would the passage be different if the setting was the ocean?

Duck and Goose

One morning, two friends went swimming. Duck splashed into the stream first. Goose followed. Duck swam towards the river.

“Duck, we shouldn’t go that way!” “Come on, Goose! We’ll play “Pebble, Leaf, Beak” to decide.”

They counted to three and put their wings out. Goose chose leaf. Duck chose beak. “I win!” said Duck. “Beak beats leaf.”

Okay,” sighed Goose.

The friends swam forward. As they got close, the current from the river pulled them into the rough, rushing water.

“Help!” Duck cried. Goose paddled to catch Duck. Together, they swam to the bank and climbed out.

“Whew!” said Duck. “Next time, Goose, let’s do things your way!” Goose just nodded as she tiredly shook the water from her feathers.

1. Where did Duck want to swim?

- the pond
- the ocean
- the river

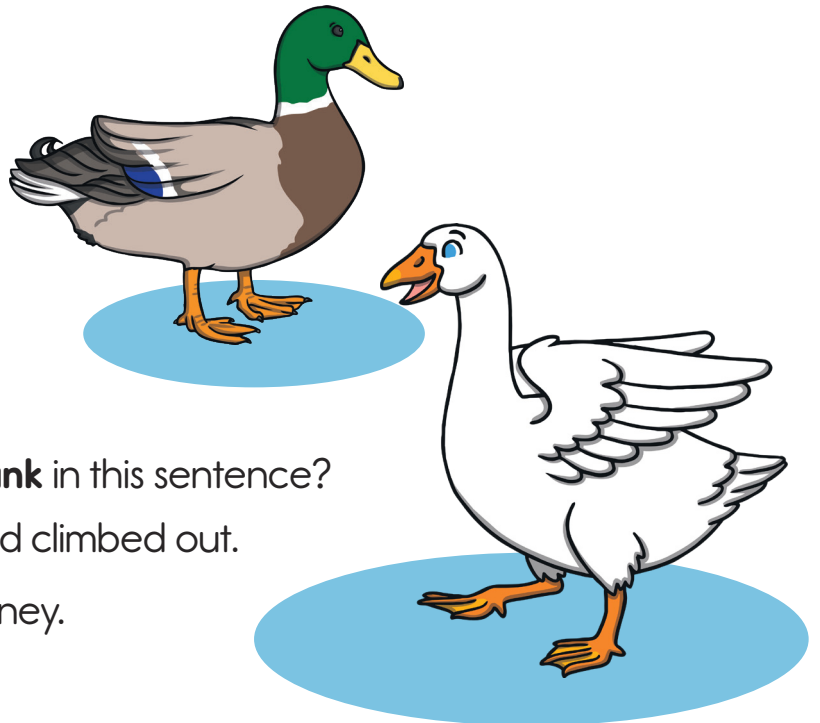
2. Why did Duck get scared?

- He saw an alligator.
- The water was too rough.
- The water was too cold.

3. What is the meaning of the word **bank** in this sentence?

Together, they swam to the **bank** and climbed out.

- It is a place where you keep money.
- It is the side of a river.
- It is a mound of snow.



Mouse and Cloud

One day Mouse went for a walk. It was a sunny day, and Mouse was happy. Then, something blocked the sun. Mouse looked up. He saw his friend, Cloud, floating above him. Cloud was usually white and fluffy. Today she looked gray and flat. Then she started to rain on Mouse's head.

"Stop!" said Mouse. Cloud just rained harder.

Cloud rumbled, "I'm mad at you!"

"But, why?"

"I saw you and Rainbow playing together without me!"

"Cloud, you told me that you couldn't play."

"I did?"

"Yes!"

Cloud stopped raining and turned white again. "I'm sorry, Mouse. I forgot. I am such an airhead."

Mouse laughed. "Of course, you are an airhead! You are a cloud, Cloud!"

Cloud laughed too, and the friends were happy!

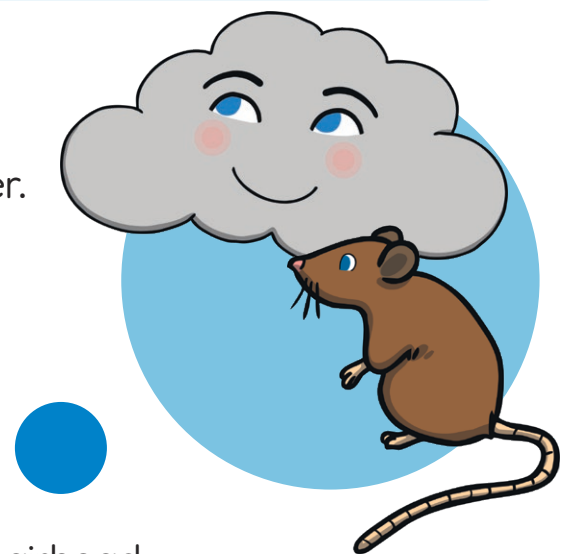
1. Why was Cloud upset with Mouse?

- She thought Mouse was mad at her.
- She thought that Rainbow was making fun of her.
- She thought she was being left out.

2. How did Mouse first realize that Cloud was upset?

- Cloud had turned gray and flat.
- Cloud refused to talk to him.
- Rainbow told him.

3. Explain why it was funny that Cloud called herself an airhead.



Ice Pops

Today is super sunny. It is extremely hot!

My mouth is dry; my skin is wet.

Am I happy? No, I'm not!

I dream of arctic foxes.

I wish I were a whale,

Swimming in the deep, cold sea,

Instead of hauling boxes.

In the truck and in the house;

Back around again.

Up and down endless stairs.

"I quit!" I'll soon announce.

Twenty minutes later,

The last box comes inside.

We collapse onto the sofa.

With lots of groans and sighs.

Mom comes from the kitchen.

We scream in absolute delight.

She is holding ice pops;

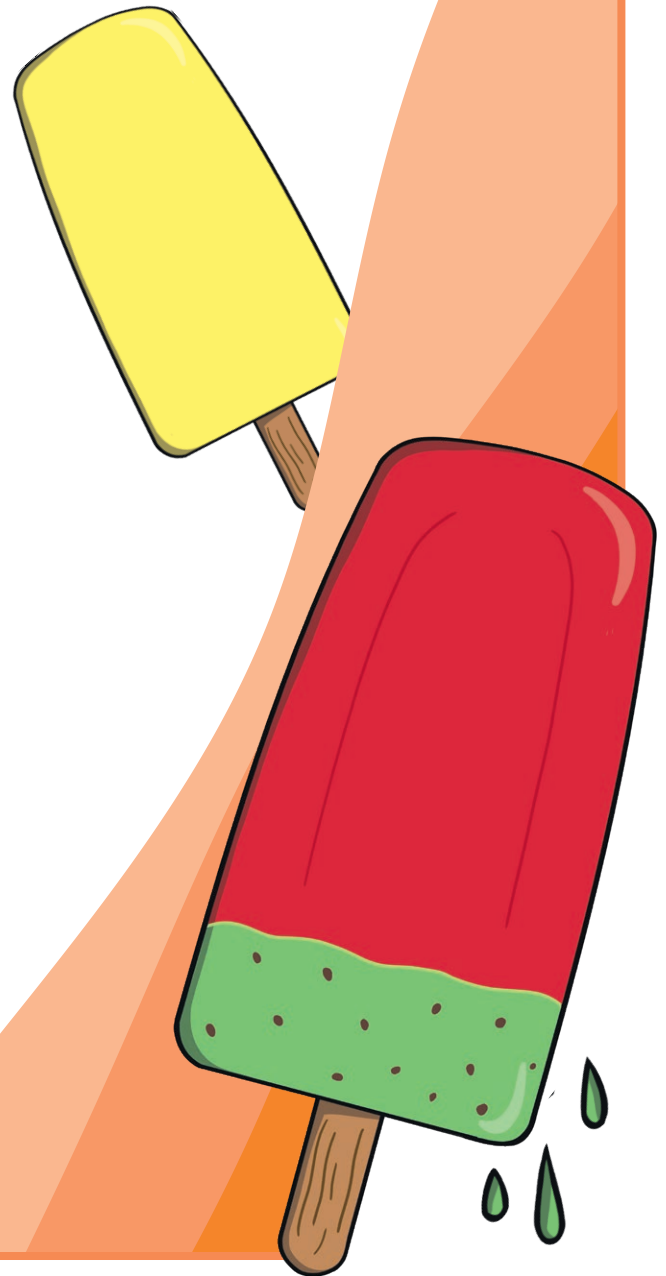
Colorful, big, and bright!

Mom hands us each our favorite.

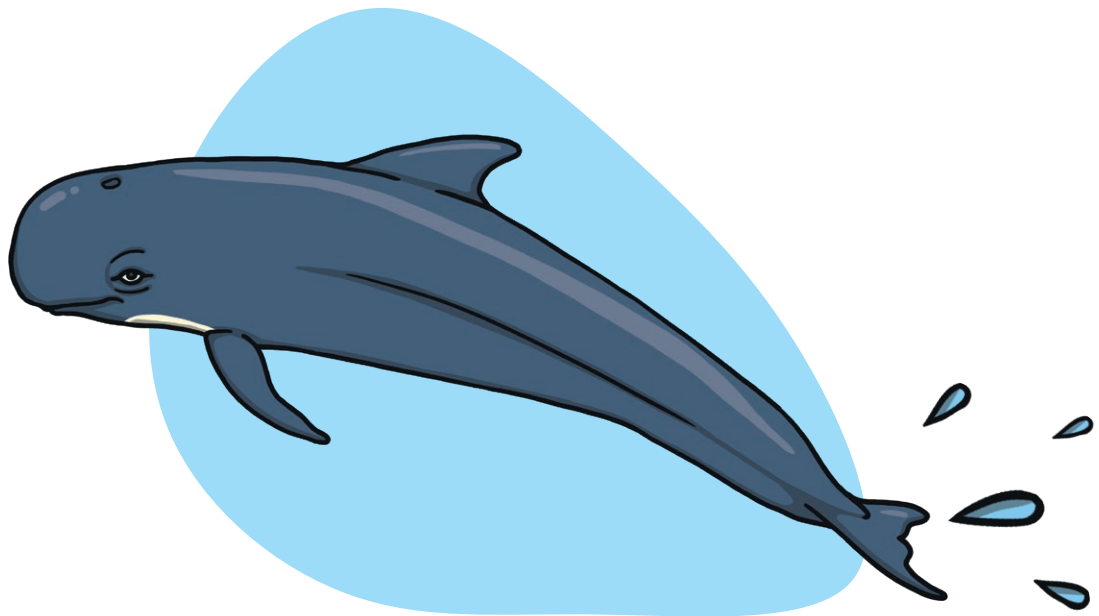
We taste them. Then we cheer.

It has been a long hot day.

But we are glad we're here.



1. Why does the author say she is going to quit?
 - She is hungry.
 - She is tired.
 - She is cold.
2. What is one of the problems the author is having in this poem?
 - She is hot.
 - She is hungry.
 - She is sad.
3. Why does the author say she wishes she was a whale?
 - She could cool off in the sea.
 - She could swim fast.
 - She could get warm in the sea.
4. What is another title that could be used for this passage?
 - I Wish I Was an Arctic Fox
 - Moving Day
 - Boxes Are Heavy



The Apartment

Darius looked at the elevator. Out of order!

“Mom,” he whined, “Too many stairs! I wish we lived on this floor.” His mom rolled her eyes. “You’ll survive. If we lived on this floor, we wouldn’t get enough exercise!” She winked, and Darius rolled his eyes.

They started up. On the second floor, they helped Mr. Baggert unlock his door. On the third floor, Mrs. Rummer asked for help finding her glasses. Darius told her they were on her head.

Finally, they were on their floor. Darius thought, “That wasn’t too bad, and we got to help our neighbors!” Darius saw one more person who needed help.

“Mom, I’ll put away the groceries,” Darius said. His mom smiled and sank onto the couch.

1. Why is Darius upset?

- The front door is broken.
- The elevator is broken.
- His bike is broken.

2. How many people did Darius help in this passage?

- three
- two
- one

3. Explain on the lines below how Darius changed in this passage.



The Great Bird Rescue

Cassidy and her dad were going shopping. As they walked to the car, Cassidy noticed a bird sitting on the grass.

“Are you okay?” she asked. “Oh! You’re not okay!”

Cassidy saw that the bird was injured.

Cassidy’s dad called a wildlife rescue. They told him to bring the bird to them. Cassidy ran inside and got a towel and a shoebox. Her dad put some gloves on. He draped the towel over the bird and placed the bird in a shoebox.

As they drove, Cassidy spoke quietly to the bird, “Please be okay!”

It worked! The bird was nursed back to health, and Cassidy and her dad got a letter of thanks from the rescue center. Cassidy felt happy and proud.

1. Based on the sentence, “He draped the towel over the bird and placed the bird in a shoebox,” what is the meaning of the word **draped**?

- curtains hanging on a window
- gently placed over
- tied around

2. Where was the bird when Cassidy found it?

- in the driveway
- in a tree
- in the grass

3. Explain why Cassidy felt happy and proud.



The Tiny Kitten

The tiny kitten meowed as loud as she could when the door opened. A girl stopped and looked around. She found the kitten hiding behind the flower pot. The kitten felt herself being picked up. She was a little bit scared. The girl talked to her in a quiet voice as they went inside the house. The kitten peeked out of the girl's hands. She saw and smelled wonderful things. The girl put her down on something soft and put something warm and creamy in the kitten's mouth. When her tummy felt full, the kitten closed her eyes. The girl sat down next to her and began to stroke her head. The kitten purred in happiness as she fell asleep. She was home.



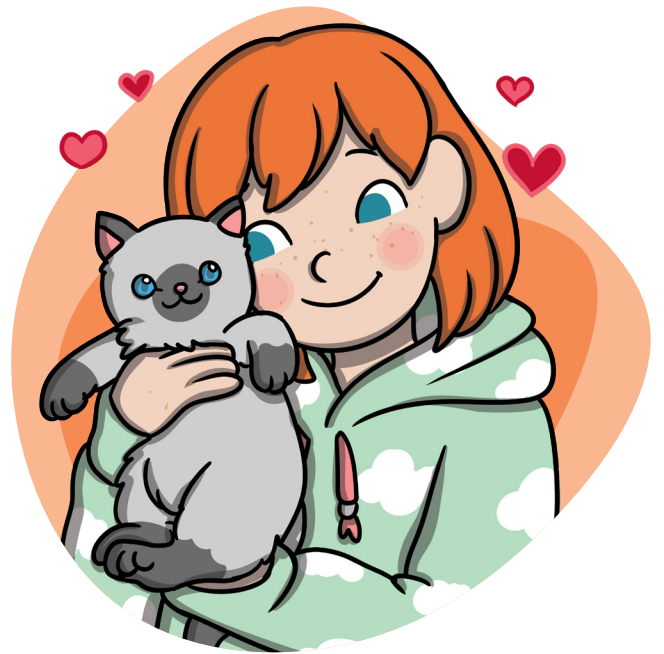
1. Based on her actions in the passage, what word could we use to describe the girl?

- busy
- caring
- excited

2. What did the girl most likely put in the kitten's mouth?

- warm water
- warm tea
- warm milk

3. What was the problem and solution in the story? Write your answers on the lines below.



What Pet Should We Get?

Ms. Myerson's students are trying to decide what kind of pet they would like for their classroom. Ms. Myerson asked for ideas. The suggested animals were: hedgehog, fish, guinea pig, hamster, and a bearded dragon. She asked the students to divide into groups. They now have to come up with the reasons they think their choice is the best one. Group 1 says hedgehogs are cute. Group 2 says fish are clean. Group 3 says guinea pigs are fluffy. Group 4 says hamsters are small. Group 5 says bearded dragons are cool. Ms. Myerson wasn't sure which one to pick, so she put all the animal names in a plastic cup and pulled one out. She read it out loud, and Group 3 cheered wildly.



1. Which animal did Ms. Myerson pick?

- bearded dragon
- hamster
- guinea pig

2. Why did Group 2 say fish are clean?

- They take a lot of baths.
- They live in the water.
- They like soap.

3. What part of speech is the word wildly as in cheered wildly?

- adjective
- noun
- adverb



What's That Sound?

Keneisha was supposed to be asleep. She just couldn't stop reading her scary book. Suddenly, Keneisha heard a noise. Screeech! Her heart started beating harder. Maybe it was a monster! Her eyes got wider. Scraaape! Keneisha jumped up and ran to her sister's bed.

"Get off!" said her sister.

"But..."

"Go back to bed!"

Just then, they heard the sound again! Scraaatch! Keneisha's sister pulled the covers over their heads. They huddled together until they fell asleep.

The next morning, the girls saw a tree branch scraping against the window.

"I was scared of a tree branch," Keneisha said, laughing. "I guess I shouldn't read any more scary books at night."

"I agree," said her sister as they went to eat breakfast.

1. What does the sentence "Her eyes got wider." mean?
 - Keneisha's eyes got smaller in size because she was afraid.
 - Keneisha's eyes opened more because she was afraid.
 - Keneisha's eyes closed because she was afraid.
2. What was making the noise?
 - a monster
 - an animal
 - a tree branch
3. Why did Keneisha say she shouldn't read scary books at night?



The Annoying Puppy

Spot lived a great life. He could lay on his comfortable cushion, eat from his special bowl, and run around in the yard when he got the zoomies. His people loved him. Spot was happy.

One day, his people brought home something new. It was little, loud, and very annoying. It sat on his cushion and ate from his bowl. It pulled on his ears and tail. Spot was not happy now!

Then one day, the new puppy curled up with Spot when it was time to sleep. He was warm and soft and fit right between Spot's paws. Spot's heart melted as he snuggled with the puppy. Maybe having this little guy around was not going to be so bad after all.

1. What does the passage say is something Spot loves to do?

- sleep all day
- run in the yard
- drink milk

2. What does the phrase Spot's heart melted mean?

- His heart was made of ice.
- He was starting to like the puppy.
- He did not like the puppy.

3. Why didn't Spot like the puppy?

- He slept on the bed.
- He was loud.
- He jumped on Spot.

