In this story, Benny wants to buy a present for his grandfather. Read it to find out what happens to Benny and then answer the questions that follow.

**A Present for Grandfather**

_by Gertrude Chandler Warner_

Benny Alden had a dollar. "Tomorrow is Grandfather's birthday," he told his dog, Watch. "But I don't know what to get him." Watch wasn't much help. He was busy chasing a squirrel.

Grandfather saw Benny on the steps. "Let's go to the shopping center," he said.

Benny leaped up. Great! He could buy Grandfather a present!

As they drove down the street, Benny said, "There's Michael. Can he come, too?" Michael was Benny's friend. Michael asked his mother and was back in a flash.

Grandfather parked the car in front of the shopping center. There was a barbershop, a bank, a bakery, and a gift shop on one of the blocks.

"I need a haircut," said Grandfather.

"We'll be in the gift shop," Benny said.

Benny took Watch outside. "Wait here," he said.


"It would look nice on Grandfather's desk," Benny agreed. Then he saw the price tag. "Twenty dollars! I only have one dollar!"

A furry blur hopped up and down outside the window. The blur was Watch. "Watch doesn't like it out there," said Michael.

"I'll talk to him," said Benny. When he went outside, Watch ran down the sidewalk. Benny chased his dog. "We can't play now!" he scolded.

Benny took Watch back to the gift store. "Sit," he said. But Watch wouldn't sit.

Benny found a box for Watch to stand on. "Now you can see us."

Benny went into the store again.

Michael held out a key ring. "This only costs one dollar," he said.

"It's not very special," Benny said. "But it's all I can afford." He reached into his pocket and pulled out...nothing! "My dollar!" He cried. "It's gone!"

1. Why didn't Benny buy the brass pen set?

A. It cost too much.
B. His dollar was gone.
C. It was not a good gift.
D. He had to chase after his dog.
2. How did Benny feel when Watch ran down the sidewalk?

A. happy
B. proud
C. angry
D. worried

The Story of Andre is a book about a seal who really lived in Maine with a family. Read the passage from The Story of Andre and then answer the questions that follow.

Andre Becomes a Celebrity
by Lew Dietz

As Daddy continued his training of the seal, more and more people began gathering at the seawall to watch. When they clapped, it was easy to see that Andre enjoyed the attention.

My father put a beach ball into the pen and taught the seal to swim about with the beach ball balanced on his nose. Then Andre would toss it into the air for Daddy to catch. One day we heard a lady say, "Why that seal is almost human!"

Daddy said to Andre, "Perhaps we ought to tell the nice lady that you're only acting like a seal. Doesn't she know that seals were pushing things around with their noses a million years before humans learned to throw a rock?"

So it wasn't at all hard to have Andre do things seals had been doing for a million years. Since seals leap into the air when they are feeling playful, Andre leaped through a motorcycle tire hung up in his pen. Seals are curious, too, so when objects were thrown into the water, Andre would chase after them and bring them back.

When a little boy in the audience yelled, "Hey, how do you catch a seal?" my father tied a knot on the end of a rope and tossed it into the water. Andre grabbed the knot and began tugging. Daddy hauled Andre onto the dock. "That's one way to catch a seal, son," he said. "But first you should get to know the seal."

I suppose a bear has to be taught to ride a bicycle, and a poodle has to be taught to stand on its hind legs and drink tea. Daddy didn't bother with that sort of nonsense. He asked Andre only to do things that seals have always done, except, of course, for a few silly things.

For instance, this is how he taught Andre to pretend to be ashamed of himself. One day, seeing Andre stretched out with one flipper over his eyes, he said, "Andre, aren't you ashamed of yourself?"—and right away gave him a fish. The very next time he asked Andre, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself?" the seal stretched out and hid its eyes with its flipper.

It was just a wonderful game to Andre.

3. Daddy said it was easy to teach Andre tricks because

A. Andre was really smart.
B. he had Andre do things that seals have always done.
C. Andre liked people to clap and cheer.
D. Andre wanted to please Daddy.
Arabella the Spider

Arabella was a spider with a special talent. She could build the best spiderwebs at Marshall Space Flight Center. Her skill at constructing webs landed her a job as the first spider to go up in space.

Scientists knew that Arabella would have problems building webs during the space flight. There is no gravity out in space. Everything is weightless and will float if not attached to something stable. Scientists wanted to see if Arabella could adapt to weightlessness.

Arabella didn't know that she was weightless in space, but when she took her first step, she knew that something was wrong. Her eight legs seemed useless as she slid across the wall of her cage.

Nevertheless, Arabella quickly learned to move in her cage. On Earth, Arabella would spin a long, sticky thread and let the wind attach it to a plant. But there was no wind in the spaceship; so she had to carry the thread from corner to corner and attach it to the frame by herself.

Arabella tried to find a new way to conquer each problem. Her first webs in space were not very neat, but after three days she was able to build a web as perfect as the ones she had made on Earth. However, there were no insects to get caught in her web; so the astronauts fed her bits of steak instead. In this way they helped her overcome her only unsolved problem.

4. Why was Arabella chosen to go up in space?

A. She could live in a cage.
B. She could build the best spiderwebs.
C. She could float in space.
D. She could trap other insects.

5. Arabella had to discover a new way to spin her web in space because there was no

A. food.
B. water.
C. plant life.
D. wind.
Read this story about Calvin's race and then answer the questions that follow.

**Calvin Wins**

The starter yelled to the runners, "Take your lanes!" Calvin slowly walked up to lane six, the outside lane. Although this lane wasn't the best position, Calvin felt good about the race.

Calvin looked at the faces of the other runners. They looked like they wanted to win too. But Calvin knew he could win because he had worked hard. He was ready.

"On your mark! Get set! Go!" shouted the starter. Calvin took off like a shot.

Later, his family and friends were looking at his first place trophy and ribbon. His friend Lou asked him, "When did you know you had won?"

Calvin handed an old picture of himself to Lou. The picture showed a smiling child holding himself up with a pair of crutches. Metal leg braces were around both tiny legs. Calvin grinned and said, "Every time I run, I'm a winner."

6. Why did Calvin think he could win the race?

A. He took off like a shot.
B. The other runners looked nervous.
C. He had worked very hard.
D. He was in lane six, a good position.

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How can a bird use its feet to fly? You will find out how when you read "Feet for Flight." Read the story, and then answer the questions that follow.

**Feet For Flight**

*by Michael L. May*

Birds fly with their wings, right? But did you know that many birds also use their feet to fly? Some birds need them for takeoffs and landings. Other birds use their feet to control flight speed.

In order for the American coot to get off the ground, it must make a running start across the water. Other birds, such as the mallard duck, can jump right out of the water and into flight. But coots are too heavy and need to build up speed. Like an airplane rolling down the runway, a coot runs across the surface of the water until it reaches flight speed, then lifts off and flaps away.

Being airborne doesn't mean that the footwork is over. Some birds use their feet to slow down in flight. Now, it might seem that a bird could just stop flapping its wings and reduce speed. But it's not that simple. If you stop pedaling your bicycle when you're going downhill, you'll eventually slow down when you reach the bottom. But you still need brakes.

One bird that uses its feet as air brakes is the graylag goose. When this bird comes in for a landing, it dangles its feet like small parachutes. The rushing air pushes against the broad, webbed feet and slows the goose down, allowing it to make a smooth landing in the water.

For some birds, even air brakes are not enough. Mute swans extend their webbed feet forward when landing. When their feet hit the water, the swans ski across the surface until they gradually slow and plop safely into the pond or lake.

So bird flight is more than just feathers and wings. It's feet, too. Whether taking off or landing—birds depend on their feet for flight.
7. Which is true of ALL the birds in this story?

A. They all use their feet in taking off from the water.
B. They can all take off and land in the water.
C. They all "ski" along the surface of the water to slow themselves down.
D. They can all fly as fast as a person can go on a bicycle.

8. Which will happen if a bird running across the surface of the water cannot reach flight speed?

A. It will not be able to take off into the air.
B. It will fly very slowly.
C. It will fall back to the water and hurt itself.
D. It will have to use its feet as brakes.

9. Coots cannot jump right out of the water and fly away because

A. their feet are too big.
B. their wings are too long.
C. they are too heavy.
D. their feet are not big enough.

10. Look at the words below.

across  down  away  into

How are these words from the story alike?

A. They are words that tell WHAT.
B. They are words that tell HOW.
C. They are words that tell WHEN.
D. They are words that tell WHERE.
"Good Earth Necklace" gives directions for making a necklace out of—dirt! Read the directions and then answer the questions that follow.

**Good Earth Necklace**

*by Kathy Ross*

_We need good dirt to grow the plants and trees we need to live._

**Here is what you need:**
- clean dirt, such as packaged potting soil
- white glue
- cup and spoon
- old plastic or china plate for drying
- paintbrush
- blue and green poster paint
- clear nail polish
- small paper clip
- scissors
- blue yarn

**Here is what you do:**
1. Use the cup and spoon to mix about two tablespoons of dirt with enough white glue to hold it together. Roll as much of the dirt mixture as you need to form a small ball for your necklace. Push one end of a paper clip into the ball to form a hanger. Wash the cup and spoon immediately. Let the ball dry on an old plate for several days until it is very hard.
2. Paint the ball blue. When the blue paint has dried, paint on green land forms. Let the green paint dry.
3. Tie a long piece of blue yarn through the paper clip to make your necklace. Paint the ball with clear nail polish and hang it up to dry.

Remember to wash off your drying plate to save and use with other projects.

11. Which will happen if you forget to push the paper clip into the ball?

A. The ball will fall apart into little pieces.
B. The ball will not dry all the way.
C. You will not be able to paint the ball.
D. You will have no way to hang the ball from the yarn.
"Please keep an eye on your brother while I am in the kitchen," Mother said to Dawn. Dawn learned that keeping an eye on her brother wasn't easy!

When she got to his room, she found that he had gotten into the diapers. Thirty of them were all over the place. While she picked them up, he went into the bathroom and dumped water all over himself.

Dawn changed her brother's clothes. While she dried the sink and the floor and hung up the wet clothes and towel, her brother pulled out all his toys. When he was done, he climbed into the empty toy box! Dawn picked up his toys. While she did, her brother got the tissues and decorated the hallway with them.

Dawn said, "This isn't easy at all."

Dawn gave her brother a book to look at while she cleaned up the tissues. By the time she got back to him, her brother was into more than just one book. All of his books were spread out on the couch. Dawn was very pleased when Mother said, "Bring you brother to the kitchen."

She put him into his chair. Mother said, "I hope he didn't get into trouble."

Dawn made a face. "He got into a lot of things," she said. "Diapers, water, toys, tissues, and books. I guess you could call that 'trouble.'" She looked at her little brother in his high chair and the look on her face changed. "He seems to be getting into crackers, too," she said. Dawn was glad Mother was her brother's keeper now. He was in the middle of another mess!

12. Why did Dawn give her brother a book?
A. so he could read to her  
B. so he could learn  
C. to keep him busy  
D. because he asked for it

13. Why is Dawn glad at the end of the passage?
A. She has earned some money.  
B. She has kept her brother out of things.  
C. Mother is going to watch Dawn's brother.  
D. Mother lets Dawn watch her brother all day.
Sometimes children are made to do things they do not wish to do. "My Mom Made Me Go to Camp" tells how one child felt about going to camp. Read it and answer the questions.

from My Mom Made Me Go to Camp

by Judith Delton

"Camp," I said. "I'm not old enough to go to camp."
"Sure you are," said my mom. "Camp is fun. You will weave baskets and swim and fish and learn the names of wildflowers. You will put up a tent and gather firewood. You will roast hot dogs and marshmallows over an open fire."
The marshmallows sounded like fun.
The grass got greener. The sun got warmer. Flowers started coming up in our yard. And school was out. I knew it was summer.
"We have to shop for your camp things," said my mother.
"What things?" I said.
"Shoes and a swimsuit and a sleeping bag. Shorts and bug spray and a first-aid kit."
"I don't want to sleep in a sleeping bag. I hate bugs. And I don't want any first aid."
"You'll have a good time," said my mother. "We have a lot to do. I have to sew labels in all your clothes."
"Don't they know who I am?" I cried. "I don't want to be labeled!"
"That's just in case they lose your things," she said.
"Or if they lose ME," I muttered.

Soon it was time to go to camp. It was pouring rain. I didn't know anybody. And my new sneakers gave me a blister.
"Good-by!" called my mother, outside of the bus window. "Have a good time! Don't go into deep water! Be careful near the fire! Take your vitamin pill! Write me a postcard!"

The bus started and soon my mother was just a little dot in front of the drugstore. I was on my way to camp.

14. Look at the words below.

we you me anybody

How are they alike?
A. They are words that tell WHO.
B. They are words that tell WHEN.
C. They are DESCRIBING words.
D. They are ACTION words.
How does a boy get to be a king? Read this story about King Henry to find out and then answer the questions that follow.

The Green Time

from Henry and Mudge in the Green Time

by Cynthia Rylant

Beside Henry's House was a big green hill.
Late on summer days, Henry and Mudge went to the top of the green hill.
They looked down.
They saw Henry's white house.
They saw Henry's blue bike.
They saw Henry's wooden swing.
On top of the green hill, Henry felt big.
He felt like a king.
He saw his things below him, and he felt very big.
"I am King of the Green Hill," Henry said.
He looked at Mudge.
"You are my dragon."
Mudge wagged his tail.
"Your name," Henry said, "is Fireball."
Mudge wagged again.
"And you are very scary," Henry said.
Mudge wagged some more.
Henry and Mudge marched all over the top of the green hill.
They met other kings who had dragons.
They chased them away.
They met monsters.
Mudge ate them.
They marched and marched till they could march no more.
Then they found a magic tree on the green hill.
It was a tree for kings and dragons who were tired.
Henry and Mudge sat down under the tree.
Henry put his arms around Mudge.
They were glad for a magic tree.
They closed their eyes.
And a boy and a dog slept, together, on the green hill in their green time.

15. What made Henry feel like a king?

A. being with Mudge
B. having a blue bike
C. having a wooden swing
D. being on the hill
Moving to a new home is sad if you have to leave a pet behind. Read this story about Faith and her pet, Josefina, and then answer the questions that follow.

from The Josefina Story Quilt

by Eleanor Coerr

It was May 1850. Faith was excited. They were going to California in a covered wagon. "Please," Faith asked Ma, "can I take Josefina?"

Josefina was her pet hen and Faith loved her. She liked the way Josefina snuggled in her arms. She liked the way Josefina followed her around. Ma was baking bread for the long journey. "Ask your Pa," she said.

Pa and Faith's brother, Adam, were loading the wagon. "Please, Pa," Faith said, "please can I take Josefina?"

"There is no room in the wagon for pets," Pa said.

"That isn't fair," said Faith. "Adam can bring his colt."

"A colt is not a pet," said Pa. "A colt can carry a load of corn . . . ."

Faith's eyes filled with tears. She ran back to the house. Ma sat down in the rocker and held Faith on her lap. "We all must leave things behind," she said gently. "I love this rocker, but there is no room for it in the wagon."

Faith gulped down her sobs.

"I have looked after Josefina since she was a little chick," she said. "What will happen to her?"

"Perhaps a neighbor will take her," said Ma. . . .

Early in the morning the wagon was ready. It had blue trim and a white cloth roof. Ma stood back to admire it. "A big flowerpot on wheels!" she said. "Isn't it beautiful?"

Faith did not answer. She was worried about Josefina.

"Did you pack the food?" Ma asked Pa. "And my kitchen things?" Pa nodded. "Then that is everything except the bedding," said Ma. Faith thought sadly. "And Josefina."

16. Faith was worried about Josefina because she thought

A. no one would take care of her.
B. dogs would chase her.
C. there was not enough room on the wagon for her.
D. the neighbors would take her.
Ferdinand is eager to reach the ocean in this story, "The Shell." Read the story to find out why, and then answer the questions that follow.

from The Shell

by Paul Koning

"Can you hear it?" asked Ferdinand, holding the huge conch shell up to his sister's ear. His eyes were wide with excitement.

"No," said Julia, leaning away from him on the long seat in the back of the minivan. "Leave me alone."

Big sisters can be a real pain. And Ferdinand ought to know, because he has two of them.

He put the shell to his own ear. He heard a mighty rushing sound and imagined huge waves breaking on a deserted beach.

The family was headed for the ocean right now, and Ferdinand could not wait to catch his first glimpse of the sea. He had read about it in so many stories and, of course, he'd seen pictures of it on TV. But this was his first chance to actually see it, jump in it, smell the salty air, and watch the seagulls bank and wheel in the sky. There aren't too many oceans in North Georgia, their father always says, and then he tells a long story about grandpa's fishing boat off the coast of Veracruz.

17. Which tells the reader that Julia is older than Ferdinand?

A. She wants to be alone.
B. She is annoyed by Ferdinand.
C. She still remembers Veracruz.
D. She is called a "big sister."
Jamie's family is moving. He is worried about it. Read the story to find out why he is worried and then answer the questions that follow.

What About My Goldfish?

by Pamela Greenwood

We're moving. Dad got a new job. Mom told me today. I went out on the porch and hugged my dog. Mom followed me.
"What if Freckles won't leave home?" I asked.
"Her home is with us," Mom said.
"What if we can't find her when it is time to move?"
"Don't worry, Jamie. We won't leave without her."
I took Freckles for a walk through our neighborhood. I didn't want her to forget it.
The next day I told my teacher we were going to move.
"We'll miss you, Jamie." Ms. Dillow put her hand on my shoulder. "When are you moving?"
"Dad said we have to sell our house first." Maybe no one will buy it, I thought. I told my friends at recess.
"Where?" "Why?" "When?" they asked.
"Can we still be friends?" asked Joe.
"I think so," I answered.
"Can I have your goldfish?" Terry asked. "The water will spill out if you try to move them."
Mom fixed apple slices for my after-school snack.
"What about my goldfish?" I asked.
"What about them?" Mom said.
"Freckles will miss them," I said. "She likes to watch Skunk and Merlin play together when I am at school."
"We'll take them with us," Mom said.
"Won't the water spill?"
"We'll put them in a big jar. With a lid."
"Oh," I said. "Freckles will be glad."
"What about Joe?"
Mom laughed. "We can't take him with us."
"Can we still be friends?"
"You can always keep your friends."

18. How did Ms. Dillow and Joe feel when they found out Jamie was moving away?

A. sad  
B. excited  
C. worried  
D. glad
The Princess and the Star

by Toby Speed

Long ago, when the stars first made their designs in the sky and came unstuck from time to time, a princess made a wish.

If I had a star, thought the princess, I'd wear it in my hair, or somewhere.

That evening, while she was outside playing, a shooting star swished overhead. The princess shut her eyes, wished, and POP! Little Star twinkled before her.

"Oh, you're perfect!" cried the princess, clapping her hands. But Little Star darted away, lickety-split.

The princess ran after him, but when she reached the castle, he was gone. Then she heard a giggle from way up high.

"Tee, hee, hee!" giggled Little Star, dancing on the ledge.

"Silly star," said the princess, laughing. She plucked an apple from a nearby tree and threw it at him, but he cartwheeled out of sight. Grabbing another apple, she scrambled over the windowsill and up the tower stairs.

Around and around, higher and higher she ran until she came to the room at the top. It was locked up tight. Just a bit of starlight twinkled through a very tiny keyhole in the wooden door.

Without a sound, the princess took a knife from her pocket and cut the apple down through the middle. She put one half of the apple in each hand. Then she sat down, closed her eyes, and pretended to be asleep.

Pretty soon Little Star poked himself through the keyhole. In an instant, the princess leaped up and clapped him inside her apple.

"Throw me back into the sky," said Little Star.

"No," said the princess.

"If you throw me back," said Little Star, "I will grant your next wish. What do you wish for?"


"Then plant this apple with me inside," Little Star said. "When you come back tomorrow, you will find a tree full of stars."

"If you can give me such a special tree," said the princess, "I will let you go." And she hurried downstairs to plant the apple.

The next day she came back to find an ordinary-looking apple tree.

"Where are my stars?" wondered the princess. She looked between the branches and under the leaves. No stars anywhere. Then she pulled off an apple and, with her knife, sliced it open from side to side. Right in the middle of each half was a perfect cutout star! The princess opened another apple and another. In each she found two cutout stars.

"Why, you did keep your promise," said the princess, amazed. "Now I'll keep mine. You'll be happier in the sky, Little Star." She dug up Little Star's apple and opened it. At once he streaked upward toward home. All he left behind was his starprint in every apple, and he made sure he was never caught again.

19. The princess FIRST got Little Star to come from the sky by

A. cutting an apple in two pieces.
B. running up the tower.
C. going up to the sky.
D. making a wish.
Elena

The big day had finally come for five-year-old Elena. She was going to ride her bike without training wheels for the first time. Elena knew her twin siblings, Tomas and Carlotta, had learned to ride without training wheels when they were five. She knew she could do it, too.

Tomas got the pliers from the toolbox and took off the training wheels. Carlotta helped Elena get started. She was shaking like a leaf and fell four times. Tomas told Elena that he would buy her an ice cream cone if she didn't give up. Carlotta ran along beside her saying, "You can do it, keep pedaling!"

Every day Elena practiced riding her bike. Finally, after seven days, she got so good she was able to ride to the ice cream parlor with her siblings.

20. Why did Elena fall four times?

A. She was listening to Carlotta.
B. She was in a hurry to eat ice cream.
C. She wasn't watching what she was doing.
D. She was learning to ride a bike without training wheels.
1. A) It cost too much.
2. C) angry
3. B) he had Andre do things that seals have always done.
4. B) She could build the best spiderwebs.
5. D) wind.
6. C) He had worked very hard.
7. B) They can all take off and land in the water.
8. A) It will not be able to take off into the air.
9. C) they are too heavy.
10. D) They are words that tell WHERE.
11. D) You will have no way to hang the ball from the yarn.
12. C) to keep him busy
13. C) Mother is going to watch Dawn's brother.
14. A) They are words that tell WHO.
15. D) being on the hill
16. A) no one would take care of her.
17. D) She is called a "big sister."
18. A) sad
19. D) making a wish.
20. D) She was learning to ride a bike without training wheels.