

Name: _____

Date: _____

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.

1. Where did the family live?
 - A. on a beach
 - B. on a boat
 - C. in Veracruz
 - D. in North Georgia

 2. From the story we know that Ferdinand enjoys
 - A. reading stories.
 - B. teasing his sisters.
 - C. eating conch stew.
 - D. going to visit his grandpa.

 3. Which does Ferdinand want to do in this story?
 - A. collect more shells
 - B. get even with Julia
 - C. hear another of his father's stories
 - D. see the ocean
-

4. 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."
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5. In the story, Julia felt that Ferdinand was

- A. a friend.
 - B. a pest.
 - C. messy.
 - D. mean.
-

6. Which phrase from the passage tells the reader that Ferdinand was eager to see the ocean?

- A. "could not wait"
 - B. "ought to know"
 - C. "his first chance"
 - D. "can be a real pain"
-

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."

7. Why is the family in the story moving?

- A. The father got a new job.
 - B. Jamie needed a new school.
 - C. The pets needed more space.
 - D. The family wanted a bigger house.
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8. What did Jamie have for an after-school snack?

- A. cookies
 - B. goldfish
 - C. apple slices
 - D. orange slices
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9. Who is this story mostly about?

- A. Joe
 - B. Jamie
 - C. Freckles
 - D. Ms. Dillow
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10. In this story, Jamie is worried about moving because he wants to keep

- A. the same school.
- B. his pets and friend.
- C. the same house.
- D. his porch swing.

Answer Key

1. D) in North Georgia
2. A) reading stories.
3. D) see the ocean
4. D) She is called a "big sister."
5. B) a pest.
6. A) "could not wait"
7. A) The father got a new job.
8. C) apple slices
9. B) Jamie
10. B) his pets and friend.