

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Here is a funny story about a boy who told everyone he had a pet alligator. Read the story about "Frederick's Alligator," and then answer the questions that follow.*

from **Frederick's Alligator**

*by Esther Allen Peterson*

One morning Frederick said to his mom, "I have a pet lion in my closet. We are pals, and he will eat you up if you ever punish me."

"Sure, Frederick," said his mom. "Now finish your breakfast or you will be late for school."

As Frederick was leaving for school, he saw the mailman coming up the sidewalk. "I have a timber wolf in my basement," he said. "He likes to eat mailmen, so be very careful if you go into our house."

"Sure, Frederick," said the mailman. "Why don't you put his name on the mailbox?"

When Frederick got to school, he said, "I have a grizzly bear in my attic. He can tear a man or beast into a hundred pieces in just one minute."

"Sure, Frederick," said his teacher. "Now *please* take your seat."

That day on the way home from school, Frederick went to the river to look for wild animals. But all he found was a dead fish, an egg sticking out of the mud, and an old shoe box.

He put the egg in the shoe box and packed it with mud and leaves. Then he carried it home and hid it under his bed.

Frederick looked at the egg every day. One morning it moved. Then it began to crack. Finally it hatched.

"Yonk, yonk," it said.

When Frederick put the alligator on the floor, it yawned. Then it tried out its wobbly legs.

Frederick put the alligator in a pan of water, hid it under his bed, and went downstairs.

"I have a baby alligator under my bed," said Frederick.

"That's nice," said his mom. "I hope your lion doesn't eat it."

On the way to school Frederick saw the mailman. "I have a baby alligator under my bed."

"That's nice," said the mailman. "Now your timber wolf has a playmate."

When Frederick arrived at school he said, "I have a baby alligator under my bed. Can I bring him in for show-and-tell?"

"Sure, Frederick," said his teacher. "And bring your grizzly bear, too."

The next morning Frederick put his alligator in the shoe box and carried it downstairs.

"Frederick!" said his mom. "You *do* have an alligator!"

1. What did Frederick say he had in his closet?

- A. an alligator
  - B. a timber wolf
  - C. a lion
  - D. a grizzly bear
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2. What happened to the egg Frederick brought home?

- A. It hatched.
  - B. It broke into pieces.
  - C. He lost it under his bed.
  - D. He put it in the mailbox.
- 

3. How did Frederick MOST LIKELY feel when the alligator hatched?

- A. proud
  - B. afraid
  - C. worried
  - D. angry
-

*Some days at school are exciting no matter where you are. Read this story about an exciting day at school in Japan and then answer the questions that follow.*

## from **The Bicycle Man**

*by Allen Say*

When I was a small boy I went to a school in the south island of Japan. The schoolhouse stood halfway up a tall green mountain....

From the playground we could see the town, the ships in the harbor, the shining sea.

One fine spring day we had our sports day. All the children and teachers were out in the playground long before the first bell rang.

"Did everybody remember to bring a headband?" asked Mrs. Morita. She was our first-grade teacher. Eagerly we showed her our headbands. They were red on one side and white on the other. "Remember, we're on the red team," she told us.

We swept the playground with all the brooms in the school. We tied colored flags and streamers to bamboo poles. We drew white lines on the ground with powdered chalk.

Our parents came. . . .They spread their straw mats and sat around the oval track.

When everything was ready Mrs. Morita rang the bell. It was nine o'clock. The principal stood on the platform and said, "Parents, children, my fellow teachers, let us remember that we are gathered here in the spirit of sportsmanship. Whether we win or lose, let us enjoy ourselves."

We cheered and clapped our hands.

The youngest children were the first to race. We lined up six at a time at the starting line.

"Ready, set, go!" Mr. Oka, the art teacher, boomed at us. We first graders leaped out and dashed around the track.

4. The boy in the story is in what grade?

- A. first
  - B. second
  - C. third
  - D. fourth
-

5. Who raced first?

- A. the red team
  - B. the white team
  - C. the first graders
  - D. the fourth graders
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6. What did the children wear to show what team they were on?

- A. T-shirts
  - B. flags
  - C. numbers
  - D. headbands
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7. What do Mrs. Morita and Mr. Oka both do in the story?

- A. sit on straw mats with the parents
  - B. ask about the children's headbands
  - C. sweep the playground with brooms
  - D. help the children with their sports day
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8. What happened first in the story?

- A. The first graders ran a race.
  - B. The parents arrived at school.
  - C. The students swept the playground.
  - D. The students showed the teacher their headbands.
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9. This story is mostly about

- A. a school house on a mountain.
  - B. how a small boy won a race.
  - C. sports day at a school in Japan.
  - D. children and their families.
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10. Which sentence BEST shows that the first graders were excited about the race?

- A. One fine spring day we had our sports day.
- B. We cheered and clapped our hands.
- C. We swept the playground with all the brooms in the school.
- D. The youngest children were the first to race.

**Answer Key**

1. C) a lion
2. A) It hatched.
3. A) proud
4. A) first
5. C) the first graders
6. D) headbands
7. D) help the children with their sports day
8. D) The students showed the teacher their headbands.
9. C) sports day at a school in Japan.
10. B) We cheered and clapped our hands.