

Name: _____

Date: _____

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.

Back inside, he saw a brass pen set. "That's neat," said Michael.

"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.
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2. How much money did Benny have to spend on Grandfather's present?

- A. one dollar
 - B. two dollars
 - C. five dollars
 - D. twenty dollars
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3. Where did Grandfather go first?

- A. to the bakery
 - B. to the bank
 - C. to the gift shop
 - D. to the barbershop
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4. Why did Benny get the box?

- A. to put the pen set in
 - B. to put Watch in
 - C. to tie Watch to
 - D. to let Watch stand on
-

5. How did Benny feel when Grandfather invited him to go to the shopping center?

- A. excited
 - B. worried
 - C. tired
 - D. pleased
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6. What did Benny think Grandfather would do with the pen set?

- A. keep it on his desk
 - B. keep it in his jacket
 - C. keep it in his car
 - D. keep it in his desk
-

7. How did Benny feel when Watch ran down the sidewalk?

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

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.

8. 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"
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9. Who is this story MOSTLY about?

- A. Julia
 - B. the father
 - C. Ferdinand
 - D. the grandpa
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10. "The Shell" is an example of which kind of writing?

- A. poetry
- B. fiction
- C. folktale
- D. nonfiction

Answer Key

1. A) It cost too much.
2. A) one dollar
3. D) to the barbershop
4. D) to let Watch stand on
5. A) excited
6. A) keep it on his desk
7. C) angry
8. A) "could not wait"
9. C) Ferdinand
10. B) fiction