

Name: _____

Date: _____

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.

1. 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.
-

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.

2. How did the child get to camp?

- A. on a bus
 - B. in a car
 - C. on a train
 - D. walked
-

3. The child went to camp in the

- A. fall.
 - B. spring.
 - C. winter.
 - D. summer.
-

4. This story is mostly about a
- A. camper trying to put up a tent.
 - B. child getting ready to go to camp.
 - C. bus driver taking children on a trip.
 - D. mother shopping for shoes and shorts.
-

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.

5. Who raced first?

- A. the red team
 - B. the white team
 - C. the first graders
 - D. the fourth graders
-

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

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

7. What did the children wear to show what team they were on?

- A. T-shirts
 - B. flags
 - C. numbers
 - D. headbands
-

8. 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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9. 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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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. B) he had Andre do things that seals have always done.
2. A) on a bus
3. D) summer.
4. B) child getting ready to go to camp.
5. C) the first graders
6. A) first
7. D) headbands
8. D) help the children with their sports day
9. D) The students showed the teacher their headbands.
10. B) We cheered and clapped our hands.