

Name: _____

Date: _____

Some animals are little and cute, some animals are big and brave, and some animals are dirty! Read the story about a very dirty animal and then answer the questions that follow.

Dirty Henry

by Lucy Dickens

Henry never looked neat. Even when Lily brushed him, he still looked wild and wooly. As soon as Lily turned her back, Henry ran off with his friends and got dirty.

He jumped into muddy ponds, played hide and seek at the farmer's, searched the trash for tasty bones, dug for rabbits in burrows, and always rolled in the blackberry patch at the bottom of the garden before he came in for supper.

One day, Lily and her mother met him in the garden. "You're not coming in until Miss Pink has given you a shampoo and haircut!" scolded Lily's mother.

Lily dragged Henry to Miss Pink's. Henry looked at Miss Pink. "I do like a challenge!" she exclaimed to Lily. "Come back in two hours."

She grabbed Henry and plunged him into a sink full of hot soapy water. Just as Henry started to recover from the shock, Miss Pink turned a cold shower over his head.

At last, Henry was swept up into a warm, dry towel and rubbed all over. He even opened his eyes again. But there was worse to come.

Miss Pink whipped out a large brush and started pulling at the tangles and knots in Henry's hair. And when that was finished, she started to cut his hair with a snip! snap! snip!

Henry watched his hair fall to the floor in chunks. Then she put what was left of his hair into curlers and popped him under the hairdryer. Henry closed his eyes once more.

When Henry dared to open his eyes again, he blinked. "There!" stated Miss Pink with satisfaction. "Don't you look nice!"

But when Lily arrived to take him home, Henry wouldn't look at her. He slunk down the street. He wouldn't come out from under his favorite chair for supper.

But when no one was looking, Henry came out and ran into the garden. And that's where Lily found him—in the blackberry patch, rolling on his back.

"Oh, Henry!" she said as she hugged him. "I like you better when you're happy and dirty!"

1. In the passage, the word *challenge* means

- A. something that takes a long time.
 - B. something that costs a lot of money.
 - C. something that is hard to do.
 - D. someone who is very friendly.
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2. Where did Henry like to roll on his back?

- A. in the sink
 - B. under the hairdryer
 - C. on his favorite chair
 - D. in the blackberry patch
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3. What kind of writing is "Dirty Henry"?

- A. poetry
 - B. nonfiction
 - C. folktale
 - D. fiction
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4. Which happened LAST in the story?

- A. Lily hugged Henry.
 - B. Lily took Henry home.
 - C. Miss Pink cut Henry's hair.
 - D. Lily and her mother met Henry in the garden.
-

5.

He jumped into muddy ponds, played hide and seek at the farmer's, searched the trash for tasty bones, dug for rabbits in burrows, and always rolled in the blackberry patch at the bottom of the garden before he came in for supper.

Which sentence BEST tells what happened in the paragraph?

- A. Henry did not like taking a bath.
 - B. Henry liked bones and blackberries.
 - C. Henry found many ways to get dirty.
 - D. Henry spent his days lying around the garden.
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6. Who decided that Henry must have a bath?

- A. Lily
 - B. Henry's friends
 - C. Miss Pink
 - D. Lily's mother
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7. How did Henry feel about getting a bath and haircut?

- A. unhappy
- B. proud
- C. pleased
- D. excited

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. Without brakes, flying birds and speeding bicycles can't stop fast enough.

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.

8. The word *airborne* means

- A. without wings.
- B. able to fly.
- C. light as air.
- D. flying.

9. Which word from the story means the OPPOSITE of *pulls*?

- A. lifts
 - B. pushes
 - C. slows
 - D. uses
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10. 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.

Answer Key

1. C) something that is hard to do.
2. D) in the blackberry patch
3. D) fiction
4. A) Lily hugged Henry.
5. C) Henry found many ways to get dirty.
6. D) Lily's mother
7. A) unhappy
8. D) flying.
9. B) pushes
10. B) They can all take off and land in the water.