

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. Which word in the story is the OPPOSITE of the word *front*?

- A. real
 - B. about
 - C. headed
 - D. back
-

2. The word *glimpse* in the last paragraph MOST LIKELY means

- A. touch.
 - B. smell.
 - C. sight.
 - D. thought.
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3. 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.
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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. Where did the family live?

- A. on a beach
 - B. on a boat
 - C. in Veracruz
 - D. in North Georgia
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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"
-

7. The story takes place

- A. on a boat ride.
 - B. during a picnic.
 - C. on a family trip.
 - D. at a family meeting.
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8. 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
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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. D) back
2. C) sight.
3. A) reading stories.
4. D) She is called a "big sister."
5. D) in North Georgia
6. A) "could not wait"
7. C) on a family trip.
8. D) see the ocean
9. C) Ferdinand
10. B) fiction