

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Dare at Eagle Rock

by Helen Chapman

It was the first summer camping trip of the year. They had boarded the bus that morning and still had half an hour to go before reaching Eagle Rock State Park. Jenna Geddes sighed as the other kids burst into yet another stupid song.

How childish they were. There was no way she was going to act like that! Jenna wished she was back at her school with her own friends. Camp would have been fun then.

Jenna pushed her long, brown hair under her baseball cap, which she wore backward and low down on her head. It was so tight that it gave her a headache. But it made her look cool.

She pretended to read her magazine. She'd finished it ages ago, but it gave her something to do as if she didn't care that she sat alone and silent while the other kids swapped stories and sang. She was about to try reading the magazine upside down when something fell on her lap. It was a pair of glasses. Jenna quickly folded the magazine over them.

A serious-looking boy with blond hair stuck his head over the seat. His blue eyes squinted at her. Jenna knew a few of the boys. This face belonged to Ryan Peko. He was one of those kids who spent all lunchtime at the library.

"Give them back, will ya?" he whined.

"Give what back?" Jenna asked.

"My glasses." The serious face looked more serious than ever.

"I don't have your stupid glasses." said Jenna.

Another face bobbed up. It was Tran Nguyen. With his happy grin and straight, black hair, he was the opposite in looks to his friend.

"You must have them. I threw them at you," he said.

"Well, you must be a rotten shot, because I haven't seen them," Jenna replied.

Jenna was enjoying this. It was the first interesting thing that had happened to her all day and the first time any of the kids had spoken to her.

"I'll get them."

A pretty girl with dark, wavy hair and gold studs in her ears thrust her hand at Jenna. It was Marie Zalocostas. Jenna knew her from choir practice.

Marie took the glasses and handed them back to Ryan. She turned to Jenna.

"That was mean. Ryan can't see without them." I'd rather be mean than lonely, thought Jenna. Then her eyes filled with tears. She hated all of them. Nobody liked her, just because she was new. Well, she'd show them.

1. How did the children get to Eagle Rock State Park?

- A. car
 - B. bus
 - C. train
 - D. plane
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2. What gave Jenna a headache?

- A. traveling
 - B. reading a magazine
 - C. wearing a tight cap
 - D. listening to stupid songs
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3. What happened first in the story?

- A. Jenna lied to Tran.
 - B. Tran threw the glasses.
 - C. The kids sang songs.
 - D. Marie took the glasses.
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4. The MOST LIKELY reason why Tran threw Ryan's glasses is that he wanted

- A. to have fun.
 - B. to break them.
 - C. Jenna to wear them.
 - D. Marie and Jenna to fight.
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Do you have a pet? Here is some information about pets. Read the paragraphs and use the chart to answer the questions.

What Makes a Good Pet?

There are all kinds of pets for all kinds of kids: city kids, country kids, younger kids, older kids. But which pet would be a good pet for you? Which one should you pick?

A good first step would be to talk it over with your parents. They can help you figure out how much money you might need to spend on your pet. Goldfish, for example, are cheap and easy to keep. But many tropical fish need special food and equipment.

Another thing to figure out is how much of your time your pet will need. You must make a real commitment to take care of your own pet!

You might also find that furry animals make you or someone else in your family sneeze and cough. A bird might work out better for you.

Give some thought to where and how you live before deciding on a pet. It would be tough to keep a pony in an apartment, for example. But a few gerbils or mice might be OK.








And be sure to think about what you want from your pet. Do you want a dog you can cuddle and play with? Or would you rather study and learn from stay-put pets, such as fascinating insects?

One really important thing to remember is that there are some animals that you should never pick as pets: wild baby birds, raccoons, foxes, skunks, squirrels, opossums, deer, and many more.

These animals should not be taken from the wild or even touched. It can be against the law to keep them, and they may carry deadly diseases. Even if you find them for sale in a store, do not choose them.

These cute wild babies may also get nasty when they get older. And if you try to let them go in the wild after they've grown up, they're almost sure to die. The rule to remember about almost any animal is, "If wild and free, let it be!"

To help you decide what might make a good pet, we've put together a pet checklist. We've named a lot of the animals that are often kept as pets. We've shown some good points and bad points about each. And we've told you which are OK or not OK to keep. Which pet is for you?

Pick-a-Pet Checklist				
PET		GOOD POINTS	BAD POINTS	OK TO KEEP
Guinea pigs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active during the day • Rarely bite or scratch • Affectionate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be very messy • Very sensitive to dampness 	YES
Domestic rabbits		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to tame • Enjoy being petted • Good to cuddle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard to housebreak • Shed lots of hair • Very sensitive to heat 	YES
Sheep Goats		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interesting to watch • Can be exhibited • Wool and milk can be used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against the law to keep in many places • Need shelter, pasture, fencing 	YES
Mules Horses Ponies Burros		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be ridden, driven, used for work • Affectionate • Good exercise for owner • Beautiful to watch • Can be exhibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be costly to keep • Can kick, bite, or throw you • Need shelter, pasture, fencing • Need lots of care and training • Can be smelly and messy 	YES
Raccoons Other wild mammals		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be very interesting • Can be affectionate when young 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against the law to keep in many states • Can carry deadly diseases • Can get mean when older 	NO
Cats		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small size • Easy to feed and care for • Can live indoors or out • Fun to hold and cuddle • Very affectionate • Need little daily care • Easy to find vet care for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May scratch furniture or rugs • Litter pans can be messy • May kill birds or small mammals • May get insect pests • May scratch or bite • May make you sneeze 	YES
Dogs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come in many sizes • Can live indoors or out • Fun to love and play with • Very affectionate • Can give protection • Easy to find vet care for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be smelly, messy, noisy • May get insect pests • Need to be licensed and trained • May make you sneeze • May bite if annoyed • Need lots of attention 	YES

5. Look at the column called GOOD POINTS. According to the chart, what do raccoons, cats, and dogs have in common?

- A. They all can live indoors.
 - B. They all can be affectionate.
 - C. They all can hurt you.
 - D. They all have four legs.
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6. The writer states a rule, "If wild and free, let it be." She could have said simply, "You should leave wild animals alone." Why did she probably state the rule the way she did?

- A. Her way is clearer and easier to understand.
 - B. The rhyme will help people remember the rule.
 - C. She wanted to quote a famous poem.
 - D. She likes poetry better than prose.
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7. The author makes a strong point for kids to

- A. ask parents to care for the pets.
 - B. take care of their own pets.
 - C. choose one type of pet over the others.
 - D. spend money on pets.
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May

Many historically important and interesting events have occurred in the month of May. The first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869. And, unfortunately, the first auto accident ever recorded occurred in New York City in May of 1896.

Two great musicians were born on May 7 in the 1800s. The Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in 1840 and Johannes Brahms, a German composer, was born in 1833. A great Italian painter, Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi, also known as Sandro Botticelli, was born on May 17, 1445.

Tragic events also occurred in the month of May. In 1838, the Cherokee people living in Georgia were put into stockades and forced to leave their homeland. Many years later, in 1937, the Hindenburg airship exploded while landing in New Jersey, affecting many people.

Exciting firsts for women occurred in the month of May. In 1932 an American woman, Amelia Earhart, became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. In 1975, Junko Tabei became the first woman to climb Mt. Everest. The first African-American woman ambassador for the United States, Patricia Roberts Harris, was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965.

8. Which event occurred in New Jersey?

- A. Cherokee people were put in stockades.
 - B. The Hindenburg airship exploded.
 - C. Tchaikovsky was born.
 - D. The first auto accident took place.
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9. Which is the main idea?

- A. There are famous birthdays in May.
 - B. Many important historical events have occurred in May.
 - C. Women have done important things during the month of May.
 - D. May is best known for the event that occurred in Georgia.
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10. Amelia Earhart and Patricia Roberts Harris are alike because

- A. they were both famous American women.
- B. they are remembered because of tragic events.
- C. they made important contributions to politics.
- D. their personal accomplishments occurred because of presidential decree.

Answer Key

1. B) bus
2. C) wearing a tight cap
3. C) The kids sang songs.
4. A) to have fun.
5. B) They all can be affectionate.
6. B) The rhyme will help people remember the rule.
7. B) take care of their own pets.
8. B) The Hindenburg airship exploded.
9. B) Many important historical events have occurred in May.
10. A) they were both famous American women.