

Name: _____

Date: _____

Bow Down, Shadrach

by Joy Cowley

Getting him up the steps was the hardest part. Hannah bribed while Mikey threatened, and Sky, holding both doors open, kept yelling at them to hurry.

Hannah waved a bunch of grass under Shadrach's nose, saying, "You don't realize that this is a matter of life or death. *Your* life, Shadrach!"

At the other end, Mikey pushed and growled, "Move, you big dog's dinner!"

After much balking and snorting, Shadrach suddenly changed his mind and lurched up the steps, straight through the entrance, and into the hallway of the school. Sky and Mikey quickly closed the doors.

It was a small school, with only four classrooms off the main hall. They had no trouble coaxing Shadrach into the nearest classroom, because the sweet smell of apples from school lunches hung in the air. They moved a couple of old, wooden desks aside to give the huge horse a place to stand. The clomp, clomp of his hooves on the floor made Hannah and Mikey nervous.

"You stay here, Mikey, while I check to make sure everyone has gone home for the day," Hannah whispered.

"While you're at it, see if you can find a bucket in the janitor's closet, and bring Shadrach some water," Mikey hissed. "He's terribly thirsty."

"Why are you whispering?" asked Sky. "Don't you think anyone can hear the clompity-clomp?" If there's anyone here."

"Shhhhhh," cautioned Hannah, although she knew Sky was right, and she crept out into the hall.

"Mikey, look at these picture books. Read me this story about a horse. Please? Please?" begged Sky.

"Not now," said Mikey, taking his schoolbag off his shoulders. Like the rest of him, his lunch bag had been soaked by the runaway hose, but fortunately the lunch inside was covered with plastic. He began to unwrap it but then saw that it was squashed—six sandwiches turned into one soggy mass of bread, lettuce, and peanut butter. He remembered that he'd used his bag as a cushion in the freight truck, and he felt worse because he could only blame himself. He was hungry, but he'd have to be starving to death to eat that mess.

Soon Hannah returned with a plastic bucket of water. "All clear," she sighed as she set the bucket in front of Shadrach, who drank quickly and noisily. "Poor thirsty horse," said Hannah, kissing him on the nose. "I'll get you some more."

"Do you think you should?" Mikey asked. He was aware that the marks they were making with their wet clothes and shoes would be nothing compared with a puddle from Shadrach, and this was a school, not a barn.

1. The name of the horse is

- A. Sky.
 - B. Mikey.
 - C. Hannah.
 - D. Shadrach.
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2. The setting of this passage is a

- A. barn.
 - B. school.
 - C. pasture.
 - D. freight truck.
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3. This passage is about three people who are

- A. rescuing a horse.
 - B. tearing up a school.
 - C. running away from home.
 - D. learning about horses in school.
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4. The characters in this passage are

- A. angry.
 - B. happy.
 - C. jealous.
 - D. concerned.
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5. The characters in this passage put a horse in the school

- A. to be naughty.
 - B. for show and tell.
 - C. to hide the horse.
 - D. to play a joke.
-

Dinosaurs

from *The Diamond of Doom (A Woodland Mystery)*

by Irene Shultz

The dinosaur hall was the biggest room in the museum.
It had to be!
Right in the middle was the skeleton of a dinosaur, ninety feet long and two stories high.
Kathy said, "It's bigger than our house!"
She pointed to its back leg bone. It was taller than she was. She said, "Now THAT'S a femur!"
Dave said, "Sammy, did you remember to bring your chicken bone?"
Sammy said, "Sure I did."
He started looking in his front pockets.
He took out a pocket knife.
Then he found a small rubber ball.
He had a bag of marbles. He said, "This is a new bag! Fifty marbles!"
He handed them to Dave. "Hold these, will you?"
Then he took out a ball of string, three paper clips, and two safety pins.
He said, "Never know when you might have to rig up a fish line."
Bill looked at the thick nylon string. He said, "You could catch a whale with that."
Sammy said, "Well, it's better than what you've got, which is nothing!"
By then Dave had a pile of things on his lap.
Then Sammy felt the four candy wrappers in his pocket. He pushed them down fast!
Then he found a ball-point pen and a small flashlight.
Bill said, "Sammy, your pants must weigh twenty pounds. I'm surprised they don't fall down."
Sammy said, "Sometimes they almost do. Give me back my stuff, Dave. The chicken bone isn't in my front pockets."
He finally found it in his back pocket, under the piggy bank.
Dave said, "Look, this bone's smaller than the TOES of that dinosaur femur."
Kathy said, "That's what's so interesting. Even human bones are a lot like this."
Dave said, "That sign says some full-grown dinosaurs were as big as ten elephants put together. But some were as little as rabbits."
Kathy pointed to a dinosaur on a painting marked PLANT EATERS.
She said, "Look at those leaf-shaped plates sticking out of its back. It's called a Stegosaurus. Its brain was only the size of a walnut."
Sammy said, "Now I know what Bill is! A Stegosaurus. Hi, walnut brain!"

Bill said, "Very funny, very funny."

Sammy walked over to a pair of the biggest dinosaur skeletons. One was biting the neck of the other.

He said, "That's me, fighting with Bill. I'm the one that's winning."

Bill said, "Then you're a Tyrannosaurus rex."

Sammy said, "What's a Ty-ran-no-saur-us rex?"

Dave said, "It means Tyrant King of the Lizards."

Sammy said, "What's a tyrant?"

Bill said, "It's a big bully, that's what! Like the one that's winning! Like you!"

Sammy said, "I'm not a bully. I'll get you for that, Bill."

Bill said, "OK, OK, you're not. I think we've had enough of the dinosaurs. Let's just take a look at their eggs and go."

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6. Who wondered how Sammy's pants could stay up?

- A. Bill
 - B. Dave
 - C. Kathy
 - D. Rachel
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7. In what way does the author show that humans and dinosaurs are different?

- A. Dinosaurs fought, unlike humans.
 - B. Dinosaurs ate vegetables, unlike humans.
 - C. Dinosaurs walked upright, unlike humans.
 - D. Dinosaurs had bones a lot larger than humans.
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8. What is NOT among the items Sammy pulls from his front pocket?

- A. ball of string
 - B. a pocket knife
 - C. a chicken bone
 - D. a bag of marbles
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9. From the clues in paragraph 5, what is the meaning of the word *femur*?

- A. a neck bone
 - B. a leg bone
 - C. a dinosaur toe
 - D. a chicken bone
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10. A word that means the SAME thing as *tyrant* is

- A. bully.
- B. hunter.
- C. servant.
- D. dinosaur.

Answer Key

1. D) Shadrach.
2. B) school.
3. A) rescuing a horse.
4. D) concerned.
5. C) to hide the horse.
6. A) Bill
7. D) Dinosaurs had bones a lot larger than humans.
8. C) a chicken bone
9. B) a leg bone
10. A) bully.