

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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 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.
-

2. The name of the horse is

- A. Sky.
  - B. Mikey.
  - C. Hannah.
  - D. Shadrach.
- 

3. How many classrooms does the school have?

- A. four
  - B. six
  - C. fourteen
  - D. forty
- 

4. The setting of this passage is a

- A. barn.
  - B. school.
  - C. pasture.
  - D. freight truck.
- 

5. 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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6. The characters in this passage are

- A. angry.
  - B. happy.
  - C. jealous.
  - D. concerned.
-

## Dog Wash

A boy from Florida whose name is Charlie found a good way to satisfy a school assignment on inventions: build a dog-washing machine. Charlie had seen his mom get soaked every time she bathed the family dog, Candy. The big black retriever flipped out at the mere sight of soap and the garden hose.

Charlie fashioned his Automatic Dog Washer from a frame of lightweight plastic piping. It attaches to a garden hose, latches the dog's collar—and gently soaks the pooch with 30 small spray nozzles.

"My teacher, the kids, my parents, everybody liked it from the start," says Charlie. "The first thing I noticed was everybody wanted to buy one."

Charlie's invention, a Dog Dowser, won top honors in many local, state, national, and international contests. Charlie also got to show off his invention on a popular late-night television show.

Many companies have asked if they can make Charlie's dog washer and sell it in stores for him. Charlie likes the idea but first wants to get a patent for it. He and his family are now getting one. A patent is a legal registration that states your brainchild is yours, and yours alone.

In the meantime, they are making improvements to the dog dowser. In early tests, overspray still soaked Charlie's mom. So far they have built three different models.

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7. Charlie is BEST described as

- A. clever.
  - B. cruel.
  - C. lazy.
  - D. shy.
- 

8. Which paragraph in the passage above BEST describes Charlie's invention?

- A. paragraph 1
  - B. paragraph 2
  - C. paragraph 3
  - D. paragraph 4
- 

9. Why is it important for Charlie to get a patent for his invention?

- A. to get an "A" on his inventions assignment
  - B. so he can make improvements to his invention
  - C. so no one else can claim his work is their own
  - D. to win top honors at national inventors' contests
-

10. Which sentence from the passage BEST describes why Charlie invented his machine?

- A. Charlie had seen his mom get soaked every time she bathed the family dog, Candy.
- B. "The first thing I noticed was everybody wanted to buy one."
- C. Many companies have asked if they can make Charlie's dog washer and sell it in stores for him.
- D. So far they have built three different models.

**Answer Key**

1. C) to hide the horse.
2. D) Shadrach.
3. A) four
4. B) school.
5. A) rescuing a horse.
6. D) concerned.
7. A) clever.
8. B) paragraph 2
9. C) so no one else can claim his work is their own
10. A) Charlie had seen his mom get soaked every time she bathed the family dog, Candy.