Name: _____ Date:

The Fumbletop Family Visit the Zoo

Reading Comprehension



Mrs. Penelope Fumbletop is both kind and gentle. Penelope likes the colour red and always wears her yellow hat; she says it brings her luck. She has nine adopted children who she loves with all her heart. One Saturday she woke up early in the morning and shouted, "Get up everybody! We are all going somewhere special today!" Almost all of her children thought they were going to the park as they usually do on the weekend. But this time, they guessed incorrectly.

Annie and Pablo were excited; they knew where they were going because they had heard their mother booking ten tickets a few days ago. "One adult and nine children, that's right", she had said on the phone. Annie and Pablo jumped out of bed and shouted "Ben, Bailey, William, Angela, Taylor, Toby and Lola – GET UP! We're all going to the ZOO!" They were all washed, dressed and eating breakfast Penelope could hardly believe it.

The Fumbletop family was the first to enter the Zoo. William wanted to visit the giraffes because he liked their long necks, "almost like the diplodocus' neck!" he said happily. Giraffe's and balloons fascinated William. He wanted to take a giraffe home. Penelope said they did not have space to keep a pet giraffe at home, "and besides, it would miss its friends, don't you think William?". William agreed, he didn't want the giraffe to be sad.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Ben and Toby were both excited to see the crocodiles, especially their big teeth. "Look over here William!" Ben said, he pointed to the still crocodile lying in the sun, "See, now that's a real dinosaur!" he said proudly. This cheered William up a bit. Beside the enclosure, the zoo had a sign saying '20-MINUTE HOT-AIR BALLOON RIDE WITH A NEW CROCODILE FRIEND – ONLY $10!' Ben and Toby both begged their mother to please let them have a ride. The crocodile handler smiled and said, "it is quite safe Miss, the crocs have already had their breakfast". "Alright Ben you can go... but Toby, I am sorry, you are too small to ride with the crocs – next time dear, I promise". Toby was upset. "Toby, I can get you a crocodile outfit from the souvenir shop instead, ok?" Penelope said. "Yes! Ok! ok! ok!" Toby shouted excitedly. Ben was lifted into the hot-air balloon together with a crocodile named Larry and they set off over the Zoo. "I'll see you in 20 minutes honey, have fun!" Penelope said. With one hand Ben was waving goodbye to his mother and siblings, with his other hand he was petting his new crocodile friend, Larry.

After having waved goodbye to their brother, Angela and Taylor took their siblings toward the hippopotamus enclosure. Taylor wanted to see the "little fat water-elephant", as she called it. Angela had seen a documentary on TV that said that the hippo was one of the most dangerous animals. She wanted to see its big teeth. The enclosure was dirty and smelled bad. Taylor said, "they do look quite funny". "Look funny!? - They stink!" said Angela. "Well honey, in the wild they wouldn't live like this" Penelope responded. "So, in the wild they wouldn't smell so bad?" Angel asked. "No, I don't think so" Penelope replied. "Maybe it's their bath-time soon" William said. "Yeah, maybe" Penelope responded, laughing a little.

Pablo had been asking his mother for a pet cat for a long time. Pablo was obsessed with cats, all types of cats! House-cats, lions, panthers, jaguars, cheetahs, leopards, cougars and TIGERS! Pablo had never been to a zoo before, but as he loved animals he thought he would like the daytrip. But Pablo did think the sizes of the enclosures were too small. Maybe giraffes and crocodiles don't

LIVEWORKSHEETS

need all that much free space, but a tiger – yes, a tiger needs lots of space, he thought to himself. He felt bad for the cats and started to cry.

"Goodness darling! What is wrong, don't you like seeing real tigers?" asked Penelope. By this time baby Lola had started crying as well. She always started crying if she saw or heard someone else crying. Penelope was panicking because she knew this situation was not good. Often, if one sibling was unhappy, soon they all would be. The idea of having eight children crying outside the tiger enclosure was not a good one. And she didn't like seeing them sad.

What happened next surprised her very much. A small tiger had climbed out of the enclosure and jumped up right behind Pablo. Penelope panicked, thinking the ferocious animal was about to pounce and eat her beloved Pablo – when it said, "Miiaoooow" and stroked itself on Pablo's side. Penelope realized it was a tiger cub. Pablo turned around and smiled when he saw the cat. He picked it up the big kitten with some difficulty and said, "Please mummy can we keep the kitty? Please, PLEASE". Penelope's face looked down at the ground and was quiet for a moment. She looked up and said "Well, I suppose we have enough space for a nice little kitty in the house".

Answer the questions below by writing "x" in the box.

1. Mrs. Fumbletop says her yellow hat brings her ...
   a) Laughter
   b) Luck
   c) Money

2. What weekday did the family visit the zoo?
   a) Friday
   b) Saturday
   c) Sunday

3. On the weekend they usually go to ...
   a) The park
   b) Their friends house
   c) The zoo

4. How did Annie and Pablo know they were going on a trip to the zoo?
   a) They saw her buying the tickets
   b) Somebody told them

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. How many children does Mrs. Fumbletop have?
   a) Seven
   b) Nine
   c) Eight

6. The Fumbletop family entered the zoo
   a) Last
   b) First
   c) Slowly

7. The first animal enclosure they visited was the
   a) Crocodiles
   b) Elephants
   c) Giraffes

8. William compared the giraffe's long neck to a
   a) Dinosaur (the diplodocus)
   b) A sausage
   c) A crocodile

9. Penelope did not allow William to take a giraffe home because
   a) She does not like giraffes
   b) Giraffes do not have friends
   c) They do not have enough space at home

10. Who went for a hot-air balloon ride with a crocodile named Larry?
   a) Toby
   b) Ben
   c) Ben and Toby
   c) They heard their mother booking tickets on the phone

11. What animal is Taylor talking about when she wants to see a "little fat water-elephant"?
   a) Hippopotamus
   b) Crocodile
   c) Elephant

12. The hippopotamus enclosure was
   a) Dirty and smelly
   b) Nice and clean
   c) Big and spacious

13. 'Pablo is _____ with cats'.
   a) Obstinate
   b) Obedient
   c) Obsessed

14. Why did Pablo think he would like the daytrip to the Zoo?
   a) Because he likes to walk
   b) Because he visits the Zoo often
   c) Because he loves animals

15. Why did Pablo start to cry?
   a) Because he had never seen a tiger before
   b) Because the tiger enclosure was to small
   c) Because he felt sick

16. What is the "kitty" that Pablo wants to take home?
   a) A house cat
   b) An adult tiger
   c) A tiger cub

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GLOSSARY:

gentle: dịu dàng, lịch thiệp
adult: người lớn, người trưởng thành
enclosure: bao vây
adopt: nhận nuôi
beg: ăn xin, khẩn cầu
handler: người xử lí
souvenir shop: cửa hàng bán đồ lưu niệm.
siblings: anh em ruột
documentary: phim tài liệu
obsess: ám ảnh
House-cats: mèo nhà
Jaguars: báo đốm
Cougars: báo sư tử
Panick: hoảng sợ
Ferocious: hung dữ
Cub: đàn con
Strike: đánh đập

LIVEWORKSHEETS