The Boy and the Vet

Part Four

Prepare yourself for reading and practice your vocabulary with Quizlet:

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Vocabulary – part 4

explained	coughed	degrees	unfortunately	devil
neglected	another	even	though	holes
treatment	stroke	paw	medicine	misunderstood

Vocabulary Exercise

Fill in a word from the vocabulary bank. Use each word once only. You may need to change the form of the word.

1. I turned off the television ..... the program was very interesting.

2. I love to ..... my cat's fur. It's very soft.

3. He was very sick. He ..... all night.

4. I wasn't looking where I was going so I fell into a .....

5. A cat has four .....

6. Acomol is the name of a .....

7. I don't like this book. Do you have ..... one that I can read?

8. ....., I didn't read the instructions and got zero on my quiz.

9. It's 30 ..... outside today. It's really hot.

10. Doctors and scientists are trying to find a good ..... for the Corona virus.

11. Nobody looks after that park. It's very dirty and nothing grows there. It's .....

Part Four

"I didn't know that you had a dog," I said. "How long have you had him?"

"A month. A boy got him from the dog-and-cat home and sold it to me,' the boy explained.

I took the dog's temperature. I wasn't surprised when I saw that it was 40

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degrees Centigrade.

"How old is he? Do you know?" I asked.

"Nine months."

I knew that the puppy was in trouble. It was the worst age. I went on and asked all the usual questions, but I already knew the answers. The dog had not been well for a week or two. It wasn't sick, but it was weak and it coughed. The boy decided to bring it to me only when he saw the pus in its eyes. Unfortunately for the puppy, that was already too late.

As Wesley was answering my questions, I stopped feeling so angry with him. I understood that he was not a devil. He was just a neglected child. There were holes in his dirty sweater, his shorts were too small for him, his hair was in his eyes and his body smelled bad. I didn't think he had many baths.

"What's wrong with my dog?" he asked again.

"It has distemper, Wes." I said quietly.

"What's that?"

"Well, it's a bad sickness. He got it from another sick dog."

"Will it get better?"

"I hope so. I will do the best that I can for it," I said, even though I knew that there was no hope for the dog. I simply couldn't tell him that his puppy was going to die.

I gave the dog an injection, but I knew that it wouldn't really help. The dog cried weakly and the boy stroked the dog's shiny black coat gently.

"It's all right, Duke," he said.

"Is that what you call him, Duke?" I asked.

"Yes," he stroked the dog's ears and the dog turned, moved his strange long tail slowly backwards and forwards, licked the boy's hand and then put its head on its paws. Wes smiled and looked up at me. The hard look left his face and in his dark, wild eyes I saw his love for his dog.

Then I put some medicine into a box and gave it to him. "Mix this with water and use it to keep its eyes and nose clean. You can use the medicine to make the puppy a lot more comfortable."

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He took the medicine and put some money on the table. It was about the right price.

"When do I need to bring my puppy again?" he asked.

I didn't know what to say. I could give the dog some more injections, but I didn't think it would make any difference. The boy misunderstood my silence.

"I can pay!" he shouted. "I can get the money!"

"Oh, I didn't mean that, Wes. I was just thinking what day would be the best day for you to bring it. Maybe Thursday?" I said. On the one hand, I felt bad for not telling the boy the truth. On the other hand, I couldn't take his hope away from him.

The boy agreed to bring the dog back to the clinic on Thursday and then left.

In the next three weeks, everybody in town was talking about the change in Wesley. He was working all the time: he was delivering newspapers in the mornings, cleaning people's cars in the afternoons, running errands for people in the evenings and helping at the market on the weekends. Maybe I was the only one who knew why he had changed so much. He was doing it to save up money for Duke.

Answer the questions in full answers:

1. How did Wesley get the dog?

Answer: _____

2. How old was the dog?

Answer: _____

3. Why did the boy decide to take the dog to the vet?

Answer: _____

4. What signs were there that he was a neglected boy. (Write 4)

Answer: _____

5. How did the boy's dog get sick? 6. What lie did the vet tell the boy?

Answer: _____

7. What treatment did the vet give the dog?

Answer: _____

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8. What was the dog's name?

Answer: _____

9. What instructions did the vet give to the boy?

Answer: _____

10. How did the boy save up money to give the vet? Name 4 things he did.

Answer: _____

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