

Read the story “A Bit of Help for the Birds” before answering Numbers 1 through 10.

A Bit of Help for the Birds

Taylor ran to her yard. She saw the big tree.

“Oh, no!” said Taylor. Her birdhouse was broken. The storm had knocked it down.

“Hello, Taylor,” said Mr. Gund. He lived next door.

“Mr. Gund!” cried Taylor. “I am sad. My birdhouse fell. It broke. I have no home for birds.”

“I can help,” said Mr. Gund. He showed Taylor a berry basket. It was empty. He nailed the basket to Taylor’s fence.

“Is the basket a birdhouse?” asked Taylor.

“No,” said Mr. Gund. “We will put soft things in the basket. Birds will take the soft things. They will use them to make nests.”

Mr. Gund gave Taylor a list. It showed things to gather. Taylor had some things on the list. She had string. She had yarn. She had ribbon. Mom had cotton balls. Dad had an old shirt. She could cut it into strips.

Dog hair was on the list! Taylor did not have a dog. Sammy had a dog. Sammy lived across the street. He could help. Anna and Carlos lived next to Sammy. They could help, too.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on “A Bit of Help for the Birds.”

- 1** Taylor is sad at the BEGINNING of the story. Why is Taylor sad?
- Ⓐ She broke her birdhouse.
 - Ⓑ Her birdhouse fell and broke.
 - Ⓒ She does not want birds in her yard.
 - Ⓓ She needs Mr. Gund to fix her birdhouse.
- 2** What does Mr. Gund want to put in the basket?
- Ⓕ a birdhouse
 - Ⓖ soft things
 - Ⓗ a nest
 - Ⓘ food
- 3** If *stuff* means “push in,” then *stuffed* means
- Ⓐ push in.
 - Ⓑ pushed in.
 - Ⓒ pushing in.
 - Ⓓ will push in.

Name: _____ Date: _____

- 4** Which word shows an action that already happened?
- Ⓕ nail
 - Ⓖ nails
 - Ⓗ nailed
 - Ⓘ nailing
- 5** Mr. Gund gives Taylor a list. Which thing is NOT on the list?
- Ⓐ basket
 - Ⓑ ribbon
 - Ⓒ string
 - Ⓓ yarn
- 6** Which word shows an action that is happening now?
- Ⓕ digs
 - Ⓖ homes
 - Ⓗ nailed
 - Ⓘ saw
- 7** Taylor's friends help her when they
- Ⓐ find nests.
 - Ⓑ watch for cats.
 - Ⓒ bring soft things.
 - Ⓓ come across the street.

Taylor called her friends. She showed them the list. Sammy got dog hair. Anna got fluff from a pillow. Carlos got feathers.

Taylor stuffed the soft things in the basket. Mr. Gund added grass. The children went inside. They sat in the window. They watched the basket.

"Here comes a bird!" said Anna. "See how it digs in the basket?"

"It pulls things out with its beak!" said Sammy.

A few days went by. The basket was empty. Taylor went to the big tree. She saw a nest. Yarn poked out from the nest! Taylor saw more nests in her yard. Sammy saw one in his yard. The nests had soft things from the basket.

"Good job!" said Mr. Gund. "You helped many birds make homes!"



Name: _____ Date: _____

- 8 Which word shows an action that already happened?
- Ⓕ break
 - Ⓖ falls
 - Ⓗ hitting
 - Ⓘ knocked
- 9 How does Taylor know the birds used her soft things?
- Ⓐ The basket is full.
 - Ⓑ She goes to the big tree.
 - Ⓒ Mr. Gund says, "Good work, friends!"
 - Ⓓ She sees soft things from the basket in nests.
- 10 If *watch* means "look at carefully," *watched* means
- Ⓕ looking at carefully.
 - Ⓖ looked at carefully.
 - Ⓗ looks at carefully.
 - Ⓘ look at carefully.

Read the story “The Birthday Cake” before answering Numbers 11 through 20.

The Birthday Cake

It was Pat’s birthday, and it was almost time for her party. It was so hard to wait!

“Mom,” she called. “When are my friends coming?”

“Soon,” answered Mom from the kitchen. She was baking the cake. “Your cake is almost done and it looks good!” Mom said.

Pat sat down. But sitting was hard! She got up and ran to the kitchen. Just then, Mom came out with the cake.

Pat and Mom ran into each other. The cake fell on the floor. It made a big mess!

“Oh, no! My cake!” exclaimed Pat. “What will we do?”

“Well,” said Mom. “We can have cookies.”

“No,” said Pat. “I wanted cake.” Pat helped clean up. She was very sad.

Pat’s friends came. She told them what happened.

“What can we do?” said Beth. “A birthday needs a cake.”

“I know,” said Deb. “We can make a new one!”

"But I wanted to play party games," said Pat.
"I wanted to have fun."

"If we all work together, it will be fun," said Beth.

Pat was not so sure.

The girls sat around the kitchen table. Mom put a big bowl in the middle. Beth measured the flour and Sue added sugar. Deb put in milk and Pat cracked open the eggs. The other girls put in other things. Everyone stirred. The girls talked and laughed while they worked.

"The cake needs to bake," said Beth. "We have to wait." The girls played card games. They talked and laughed some more. "This is fun!" said Pat.

Then Mom took out the cake. "Oh," said Pat. "The cake looks good!" They each got a piece. Pat took a bite. "This tastes great!" she said.

"See?" said Beth. "We worked together and we had fun."

Pat looked at her friends and said, "You are good friends!" She was very happy.



Now answer Numbers 11 through 20. Base your answers on “The Birthday Cake.”

11 Why does the first cake fall on the floor?

- Ⓐ It looks good.
- Ⓑ It is almost done.
- Ⓒ The girls work together.
- Ⓓ Pat and Mom run into each other.

12 Read these sentences from the story.

“Well,” said Mom. “We can have cookies.”

In the word *cookies*, the -s means

- Ⓐ a small, sweet, flat cake.
- Ⓒ cook in the future.
- Ⓓ cook in the past.
- Ⓔ more than one.

13 Which word tells about something that already happened?

- Ⓐ can
- Ⓑ making
- Ⓒ talked
- Ⓓ tastes

- 14 Pat is very sad because
- Ⓕ her friends come.
 - Ⓖ she has to clean.
 - Ⓗ she wanted a cake.
 - Ⓘ her friends do not come.
- 15 Who stirs when they make the cake?
- Ⓐ Mom
 - Ⓑ Deb
 - Ⓒ Beth
 - Ⓓ everyone

- 16 Read this sentence from the story.

“The cake looks good!”

What does *looks* mean in the sentence above?

- Ⓕ seems to be
 - Ⓖ seemed to be
 - Ⓗ seeming to be
 - Ⓘ will seem to be
- 17 Which word tells about something that happens now?
- Ⓐ needs
 - Ⓑ talked
 - Ⓒ wanted
 - Ⓓ worked

Name: _____ Date: _____

- 18** How do Pat's friends save the party?
- Ⓕ They eat cookies.
 - Ⓖ They play card games.
 - Ⓗ They each eat a piece of cake.
 - Ⓘ They work together to make a cake.
- 19** Which word tells about something that already happened?
- Ⓐ measure
 - Ⓑ measured
 - Ⓒ measuring
 - Ⓓ will measure
- 20** What does Pat say when she eats the new cake?
- Ⓕ "Oh, no!"
 - Ⓖ "This is fun!"
 - Ⓗ "This tastes great!"
 - Ⓘ "The cake looks good!"