

Read the story "Being Good", then answer the questions that follow.

## Being Good

Adam's brother, Fadi, was a star athlete. He was a great runner, a superb swimmer, and a fine baseball player. People who saw Fadi run, swim, and throw a baseball all said the same thing, "He's amazing. He makes it look so easy!" Of course, a person who makes something look easy has usually worked hard at it. Fadi was that type of person. He practiced every single day.

Adam admired his brother's ability to play sports and wanted to do what Fadi could do. He wanted to run like the wind, swim like a shark, and swing a bat like Fadi.

Two things stood in the way of Adam's success, though. The first was that Adam didn't enjoy sports all that much because he wasn't very good at them. The second was that he liked to spend his free time reading and writing stories. How would he find time to become good at running, swimming, and baseball?

In spite of these things, Adam announced to his family during dinner one night that he wanted to become good at sports. "I'm surprised to hear you say that. I didn't think you were interested in sports," said Mom when she heard the unexpected news. Dad looked at Adam with disbelief, and Fadi put down his glass of milk with surprise.

"You have to practice every day to be good, Adam," said Fadi. "How will you find the time, with your busy schedule?" Fadi continued, "My advice is to keep doing what you do well, which is writing stories." Hearing this made Adam feel even more determined to prove himself in sports. He would work hard to succeed, and then people would admire and praise him in the same way they praised Fadi.

The next day, Adam stayed after school and ran ten laps around the track. That night, after he finished his homework, he practiced swinging a baseball bat in the backyard. The following day was Saturday. When Adam woke up, his arms and legs were sore, but he went to the pool with Fadi anyway. He swam for an hour. Adam was so tired that he took a long nap when they got back home. When he woke up, he went running again and practiced throwing a baseball.

The next week, Adam did the same thing. His body ached all over, and he was tired most of the time. Mom and Dad were worried that he was trying too hard, so they had a talk with Adam. "Is that what you *really* want to do?" asked Dad. "Well, it's not much fun," Adam admitted. "Fadi seems to enjoy sports a lot more than I do, but I want to be as good as he is."

"You're already good at something," said Mom. "You're a creative storyteller and an outstanding writer! You're already a champion, so why do you want to be good at something you don't enjoy?"

"People don't seem to care that much about writers," said Adam. "Do you ever see a photograph of a writer on a cereal box?"

"Adam," Dad said, "people do care about good writers, and besides, you don't have to be good at everything." Adam thought about what his parents were saying and realized that they were right. He decided to give up trying to be as good as Fadi at sports. The decision gave him a feeling of great relief, and he could almost feel his muscles get a little less sore.

A week later, Adam wrote a school essay about trying to be something he's not. Adam's teacher thought the essay was excellent and asked his permission to send the essay to a student magazine. Adam's writing appeared in the magazine a few months later. His classmates and family were very proud of him.

"I wish I could write as well as you can," said Fadi smiling at his brother. "You make it look so easy!"

- Use context clues to figure out the meanings of the words in the sentences below. (1 point each)

1. Dad looked at Adam with disbelief, and Fadi put down his glass of milk with surprise.

What does the word **disbelief** mean in the sentence above?

- a. trying to believe
- b. someone who believes
- c. the opposite of believing

2. Hearing this made Adam feel even more determined to prove himself in sports.

What does the word **prove** mean in the sentence above?

- a. show
- b. challenge
- c. hide

3. When Adam woke up, his legs and arms were sore, but he went to the pool with Fadi anyway.

What does the word **sore** mean in the sentence above?

- a. angry
- b. hurting
- c. soft

- **Sequence the events in the story below by numbering them on the line provided. (6 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Adam realized that he was already good at reading and writing.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adam admired his brother Fadi and wanted to be as good at sports as he was.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adam practiced sports every day in order to get better.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adam wrote an essay about being something he's not.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom and Dad got worried about Adam for working too hard.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adam's family and friends were all very proud of him.

- **Chose the letter that best answers the question. (2 points each)**

1. Which of the following can the reader tell from the story?

- a. Being good at sports requires practice.
- b. Most people are only good at one sport.
- c. A person who tries hard enough will become good at sports.
- d. Being good at sports is more important than being a good writer.

2. Adam wants to be good at sports in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. make new friends
- b. have a healthy body
- c. get praise from others
- d. write about being a good athlete

3. Adam likes to spend his free time \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. playing baseball
- b. taking photographs
- c. running and swimming
- d. reading and writing stories

4. What can the reader **BEST** tell about **Fadi** from the story?

- a. He is not as fast as everyone says he is.
- b. He respects Adam for his own talent at writing.
- c. He doesn't believe Adam can be good at sports.
- d. He thinks his talent is more important than Adam's.

5. Adam changes at the end of the story by deciding to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. give up his plan to be good at sports and focus on his own talent
- b. practice only one sport every day
- c. work even harder to be good at sports
- d. write about the sports he enjoys most

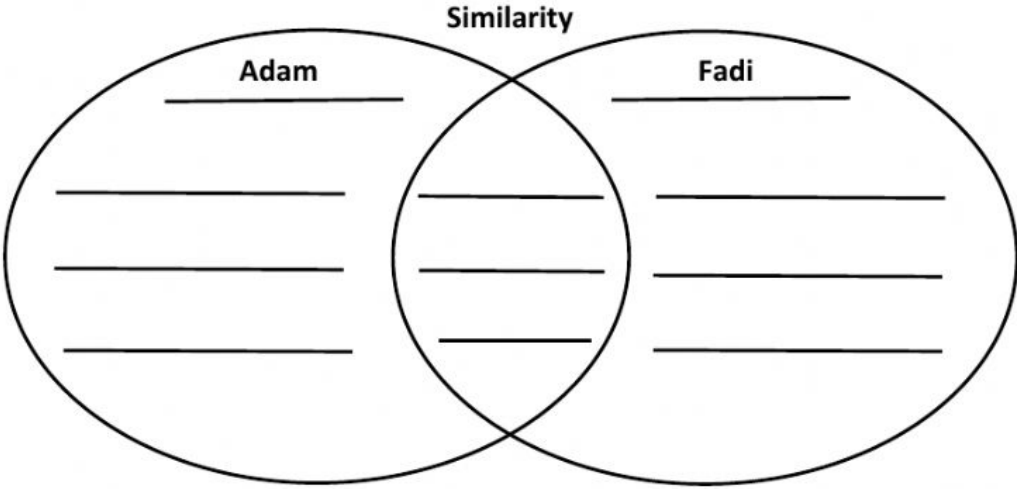
6. What is the main idea of the whole story?

- a. Some talents are more important than other talents.
- b. Everyone has a unique talent that they are good at.
- c. People who are good at writing cannot be good at sports.
- d. You should give up if you are not good at sports.

7. Adam's family can best be described as \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. rude
- b. supportive
- c. humorous
- d. careless

1. Compare and contrast Adam and Fadi in the Venn diagram below. Give **one detail** in each section. **(3 points)**



2. Provide **one** character traits that would best describe Adam. Support your answer with evidence from the story. **(2 points)**

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3. Why do you think Adam decided to stop trying to be as good as Fadi at sports? **(2 points)**

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