



Read and complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets:

In 1962, brothers Bob and Horatio Huntington _____ (run) a traveling circus together, doing well in spite of their vastly different personalities. After a show, the circus' resident gypsy fortuneteller, Esmerelda _____ (present) her beautiful niece, Talia, to her employers, asking them to give her a job. Bob and Horatio _____ (be) both immediately smitten with the lovely girl, but her affections were solely for Bob. When the pair announced their plans to marry, Horatio _____ (become) furious, and delivered an ultimatum to his younger brother to choose either Talia or himself. Bob _____ (marry) Talia, and Esmerelda _____ (give) them a mysterious box as a wedding gift, which allowed them open a new circus: "Buffalo Bob's Rootin' Tootin' Animal Circus", knew for animals performing amazing, seemingly impossible, feats.

Years later, Bob's nephew Owen married his childhood sweetheart Zoe at the circus, where they _____ (have) first met as children. Following the initial excitement however, Owen soon _____ (discover) he _____ (have) to work as a taste tester for Zoe's father Mr. Woodley at his dog biscuit factory. Seven years later, Horatio, whose luck had taken a serious downturn since his break with Bob, sneaked into Bob and Talia's trailer, trying to find the secret to the magic animals, and accidentally _____ (start) a fire which apparently _____ (kill) Bob and Talia. Their funeral _____ (be) attended by Owen, Zoe, and their daughter Mackenzie. Horatio _____ (make) an unexpected visit, and announced that he'll was taking over the circus. He and his henchmen _____ (start) a fight, causing the Huntingtons to flee.

Before they _____ (leave), circus pets Old Blue, the bloodhound, and Zena, the cat, _____ (give) the Huntingtons the mysterious box, which they later discovered it _____ (hold) animal cracker cookies. Owen _____ (eat) one and _____ (turn) into a hamster. The Huntingtons returned to the circus to figure out how this happened. They _____ (learn) from clown Chesterfield that the animal crackers will turn the user into the animal they eat, but it contains only one human cookie to change them back. Later, he _____ (tell) them they inherited the circus. Zoe is excited, but Owen, determined to please Mr. Woodley, _____ (decide) to continue his job. Zoe _____ (restore) the circus, while Owen _____ (stay) at the dog biscuit factory. Mr. Woodley, frustrated that Zoe quit her job, _____ (begin) to consider Brock, an egotistical saboteur, as her replacement.

"Buffalo Bob's Rootin' Tootin' Animal Circus" _____ (reopen), but it _____ (be) a disaster, upon the discovery of no animals. Owen reluctantly decided to eat the animal crackers and _____ (perform) stunts as an animal. By the end of the day, Owen _____ (grow) to like it, and decided to quit his job. As he _____ (finish) packing up though, Brock unwittingly _____ (eat) one of the cookies and turned into a mandrill. To catch up with him, Owen _____ (turn) into a lion, but Brock _____ (get) captured by Horatio's henchman Mario Zucchini, who also _____ (steal) cookie crumbs. Upon returning home, Owen soon discovered he _____ (have) lost the human cookie, and will remain an animal forever. He _____ (attempt) to adapt to life as a certain animal, but had little success. Binkley, an employee of Mr. Woodley who _____ (be) trying to create a new type of dog biscuit, discovered the animal crackers and _____ (persuade) Mr. Woodley to attend the circus.

At one performance, Horatio _____ (appear) and offered Owen his human cookie (which Mario had also unknowingly stolen) in exchange for the circus. Owen however, _____ (refuse), thinking that remaining an animal will at least keep his family together, but he _____ (be) forced into the deal by Horatio's henchmen, who were now mutated animals created from consuming the cookie crumbs. The circus performers then _____ (come) across the scene and a fight _____ (break) out between them and his henchmen. Enraged, Horatio _____ (eat) some crumbs and turns into a chimera. He was confronted by Old Blue and Zena who _____ (reveal) themselves as Bob and Talia, alive but forever trapped in animal form due to the destruction of their human cookies in the fire. They _____ (ask) Horatio to redeem himself, but he refused. Horatio _____ (fly) up, grasping them. Owen, Zoe, and Mackenzie, and the other circus performers _____ (work) together to save

Bob and Talia. Upon capturing Horatio, Owen turned him into a hamster as punishment.

Mr. Woodley reevaluated his views on the circus, and with Binkley, _____ (decide) to create a new circus souvenir using her failed experiments; animal crackers that cause the eater's skin to temporarily take on the color and patterns of the animal whose cracker they eat. Owen and Zoe _____ (work) happily at the circus, with Owen debuting as a dragon.