

REAL STORIES IN THE NEWS

A) Read the stories and complete the activities below.

Man's Best Friend

A long time ago, in a small house in Scotland, two friends lived together. Their names were John and Bobby.

John and Bobby were not rich, but they were happy. They had a warm fire when it was cold outside. They had good food to eat when they were hungry. They were never lonely because they had each other.

John and Bobby liked to take long walks together. After their walk, John usually cooked dinner. John and Bobby ate dinner and then sat in front of the fire. They had a simple but good life.

Then, in the spring of 1858, John got sick and died. He was buried in a cemetery in Edinburgh, Scotland. After John was buried,

Bobby stood at John's grave and cried. "Come on, Bobby," friends said. "It's time to go home." Bobby went home, but later he returned to the cemetery. He sat down near John's grave. He stayed there all night.

Bobby stayed at the cemetery the next day, and the next day, and the next. For the next 14 years, Bobby never left the cemetery. When the weather was cold or rainy, he slept in a small house at the cemetery. When the weather was warm, he slept on the ground near John's grave.

Finally, in 1872, Bobby died, too. Friends buried him in a little grave near John. Why was Bobby's grave little? Bobby, John's best friend, was a dog.

A New Man

The man in the first picture lives in Northern Ireland. His name is Roley McIntyre. Roley McIntyre was big—he was very big. He weighed 600 pounds.¹

For lunch Roley ate ten pieces of bacon, four eggs, ten potatoes, and fried vegetables. For dinner he ate meat and more potatoes, and after dinner he always ate dessert. Before he went to bed, he ate a few sandwiches and some cake.

Roley couldn't drive a regular car because he was too big. He couldn't fit in the front seat. Roley had a special car. It had no front seat. Roley drove his car from the back seat.

One day Roley went to the doctor. The doctor said, "Mr. McIntyre, you have a special car. Now you need to buy a special coffin—a coffin for a very big man. You have to lose weight, or you're going to die soon."

Roley went on a diet. For breakfast he ate cereal with nonfat milk. For lunch he ate baked beans on toast. For dinner he ate fish and vegetables.

After Roley began to lose weight, he met a pretty woman. Her name was Josephine. Josephine told Roley, "Don't stop your diet."

Roley didn't stop his diet. He continued to lose weight. In 18 months he lost 400 pounds.²

Two years after Roley started his diet, he and Josephine got married. You can see them together in the second picture. Roley and Josephine are wearing a pair of Roley's old pants.

¹ 272 kilograms

² 181 kilograms

A Little Traveler

Vicente Cabrera is a Mexican farmer. He works in the fields every day. His son, Tomas, is three years old. Tomas often goes to the fields with his father. Mr. Cabrera works, and Tomas plays.

One day Mr. Cabrera went to a field with Tomas. Tomas sat on a rock while Mr. Cabrera worked. Mr. Cabrera looked up from his work. Tomas wasn't on the rock. Mr. Cabrera looked in the field for Tomas. Tomas wasn't there. Mr. Cabrera ran to his house and looked for Tomas. Tomas wasn't there. Mr. Cabrera looked everywhere for Tomas. He couldn't find him.

The Cabrera farm is close to the border between Mexico and the United States. There is a fence at the border, but there are holes in the fence. "Maybe Tomas crawled through a hole in the fence," Mr. Cabrera thought. "Maybe Tomas is in the United States."

The Mexican police telephoned the U.S. Border Patrol. "We need your help," they said. The Mexican police told the U.S. Border Patrol officers about Tomas.

The U.S. Border Patrol officers began to look for Tomas in the United States. They were worried. The land near the border is desert. It is hot in the daytime and cold at night. A small boy can't live long in the desert.

Tomas disappeared on Friday afternoon. On Saturday night a U.S. Border Patrol officer saw small footprints in the sand. He followed the footprints to a bush. Under the bush he found Tomas. Tomas was cold, hungry, and thirsty. He had cuts on his feet and face. But he was alive. He was 15 miles¹ from his home.

¹ 24 kilometers

B) MAN'S BEST FRIEND: Complete the blank spaces with ONE word.

- 1) John and Bobby weren't but they had a life.
- 2) They took long And spent time in front of the
- 3) After John died, Bobby spent at the cemetery.
- 4) Bobby by John's every day.
- 5) Bobby, John's best friend, was a



C) A NEW MAN: Mar the sentences TRUE or FALSE.

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|---|------|-------|
| 1) Roley McIntyre had a normal life; he could do things like everyone else. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2) Roley went on a diet because he wanted to. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3) Roley's doctor advised him to get in shape. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4) He met Josephine while he was on a diet. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5) He never saw Josephine again. | TRUE | FALSE |



D) A LITTLE TRAVELER: Read the sentences and choose the correct option from the drop down menu (click on it)

- 1) Vicente Cabrera takes his son with him while he works.
- 2) One day, while Mr. Cabrera was working, Tomas
- 3) Mr. Cabrera thought that Tomas may have
- 4) The U.S. Border Patrol officers
- 5) The land around the U.S./Mexico border was



E) YOUR STORY: Answer these questions about the story you selected. Write complete sentences.

- 1) What happened?
- 2) When and where did this happen?
- 3) How was the situation solved? How did it end?
- 4) What name would you give to this story? (give a title to the story)