Responsibility- What Does It Mean?

When I was young, I had a large, black cat, which my sister and I named Sir Blackie Tomcat. Most of the time you think of dogs, not cats, as being animals, you can **depend** on (count on). But Sir Blackie, the cat, was as **dependable** as the best dog. Each day as I returned from school, I would find Sir Blackie waiting patiently for me on the porch steps. Each morning and evening, he would appear for mealtimes at the very same hour. Blackie must have known that I was dependable, too. He knew that he could count on me to feed him at the same time every day.

One day, when the two of us were on the porch, a big angry dog came down our driveway, snarling at Sir Blackie. It was well known that this dog ate cats for dessert. I jumped up, yelling at the dog and waving him away. Sir Blackie never moved from his perch on the porch. He just kept purring. He must have known that he could depend on me again. And he was right. I shooed that mean dog away.

I was **responsible** for Blackie, and he must have known he could always depend on me to care for him and keep him safe. You need to be responsible, too. A responsible person does what he or she promises to do. In that way, it's like being trustworthy. Your mom needs to know if you tell her, you'll be home at a certain time, you'll be there. If you run into a problem, you'll call her on the phone. When people know that you're responsible, they don't have to worry so much about you. Parents will usually give you more freedom, and teachers will usually give your more privileges. Responsibility means you learn to be a leader – someone who starts things and keeps them going. It means taking responsibility for yourself, too – learning to think about choices and make good decisions about ways to act and things to do. Being responsible helps make the world a better place.

1. Blackie the cat was dependable. What does the word dependable mean? [1]
   a. someone who takes from you
   b. someone you cannot trust
   c. someone who is responsible
   d. someone unreliable

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2. What would Blackie do each morning and each evening? [2]

_____

_____

3a. Was the writer dependable to Blackie? Write YES or NO? [1] _____

3b. Use evidence from the passage to support your answer. [2]

_____

_____

4. Use the numbers 1 to 4 to put the events in the correct order. [4]

_____ The mean dog was shooed away.

_____ I jumped up, yelling at the dog

_____ A big angry dog came down our driveway

_____ Blackie just kept purring

5. According to the passage, what does a responsible person do?[2]

_____

_____

6. What are TWO things adults will allow you to do when you are responsible? [2]

_____

_____

7. How can responsibility help our world? [1]

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