



"I WISH" SYNDROME

Byron was spoiled and always got his way. He even began throwing fits when he didn't get what he wanted. His parents were concerned but at a loss for what to do. It all came to a head on Saturday when Bryon woke up in a grouchy mood.

"I wish I had waffles for breakfast instead of cereal," commanded Byron.

Poof! A stack of waffles appeared on his plate. Byron was surprised and squealed with delight.

Later in the morning, Byron said, "I wish Jason could play today instead of being at his soccer game."

Poof! Jason showed up in Byron's living room with his soccer uniform on. Everyone was amazed. Byron's parents were perplexed and wondered what to do. Why was Byron getting his way? How could he make a wish and have it granted immediately?

Byron was starting to catch on to the magic of the words "I wish." Anything he wished for came to be. He began wishing for chocolate cake, a new bike, roller blades, and even a new dog. Poof! Poof! Poof! Every wish was granted.

Byron's parents were panicked. Byron began eating and playing and indulging in every single wish he could think of. It reached a point where Byron was exhausted from all the activities and lay sick on the couch from all the food.

"Oh, I just wish everything would go away," said Byron. In an instant, the living room was cleared and back to normal. Byron's parents breathed a huge sigh of relief.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which sentence shows that this is a fantasy story?
 - a. Byron was spoiled and always got his way.
 - b. "I wish I had waffles for breakfast instead of cereal," commanded Byron.
 - c. Byron's parents were panicked.
 - d. Anything he wished for came to be.
2. What is the meaning of the word *perplexed* as used in the story?
 - a. honestly
 - b. mystified
 - c. easily
 - d. carefully
3. Which of the following statements did not happen in the story?
 - a. Byron forced others to give things to him.
 - b. Everything that Byron wished for was granted.
 - c. Byron's parents were worried about the granted wishes.
 - d. Byron wished for a pair of roller blades.



Name _____

Date _____

SHHH!

Allison had awakened that morning at 5:00 A.M. That was exactly two hours before she had to be up, but she couldn't sleep. She was wide awake. It was in the early hours of the morning that she first heard a whisper. Someone was whispering something in her ear. She tossed the pillow off her head and sat up. No one was there. Allison figured that she must be hearing things.

She heard the whisper again on the school bus. She quickly turned around to see who was there.

"Did you hear that?" Allison asked her friend Lisa.

"What? I didn't hear anything!" replied Lisa.

"I keep hearing whispers in my head," confided Allison.

Allison wondered again if she was just hearing things. The whispers came again after fifth period. Allison was at her locker, and there was a lot of commotion going on with the other students. She was surprised that she could hear the whisper. It seemed to be directly inside her head.

Allison patiently went to class and ignored the whisper. The whisper was never quite clear enough for it's message to be understood, but it was loud enough to be annoying. At lunch, Allison determined that she would go to the school nurse and have her ears checked.

The school nurse checked Allison's ears and only found some wax. Just then, the fire alarm began blaring. The whispering got louder and louder inside Allison's head. She clasped her hands over her ears and scurried out with the rest of the students.

**STORY QUESTIONS**

1. What is the problem in this story?
 - a. Allison is going insane.
 - b. Allison is having a hard time getting people to trust her.
 - c. Allison can't stop the annoying whispers in her head.
 - d. Allison is having trouble with her friends.
2. What attribute does Allison display in this story?
 - a. patience
 - b. courage
 - c. selfishness
 - d. forgiveness
3. Which of the following statements is not a fact?
 - a. Allison tossed the pillow off her head and sat up.
 - b. Allison was determined to get the whispers to stop.
 - c. Allison sees a doctor for help with the whispers.
 - d. Allison wonders if she is just hearing things.



Name _____

Date _____

BLEACHED

Jenna washed out her paintbrush and took off her painting smock. It had been a busy day. Keeping the world all white was a busy job. Jenna was startled when her friend Crystal bolted through the door.

"That's enough!" said Crystal. "Aren't you tired of the same color? White is so boring and blah."

"I happen to like the color white. It's clean and pure," explained Jenna. Jenna had the power to determine the colors of the world. She had been given this gift at birth.

Crystal retorted, "But not everyone agrees! Many people would love to have a little color in their lives."

"Crystal, people clutter their lives with color," said Jenna.

"Color can also brighten spirits. Do you think you could splash a little color one day for me?" questioned Crystal.

"Alright, you choose the day," responded Jenna.

"Great!" cheered Crystal. "Do it on Monday. That's my birthday."

Early Monday morning, Jenna woke up and put on her painting smock. She mixed some color into her white paint. It had been a long time since she had done something like that. Mixing the yellow made her think happy thoughts. Making the blue made her feel peaceful and calm. The red was a fun color to mix! The black was a great contrast. Jenna was so excited by the time she was done.

Using the paint, Jenna painted a rainbow directly over Crystal's house. The colors were striking and beautiful.

"Happy birthday," she whispered. "Have a fun and colorful day."

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Jenna and Crystal are . . .
 - a. enemies.
 - b. students.
 - c. friends.
 - d. co-workers.
2. According to the passage, what does Jenna have against the other colors?
 - a. She is allergic to other colors.
 - b. She does not have the tools to make anything but white.
 - c. She thinks that other colors clutter the world.
 - d. She hasn't had training on how to make the colors.
3. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
 - a. reread the entire passage.
 - b. skim the passage and determine the main idea.
 - c. reread the fifth paragraph and search for clues.
 - d. none of the above



Name _____

Date _____

THE NIGHT OWL

The alarm sounded at 10:00 P.M. sharp. Alex yawned and rolled over in his bed. He couldn't imagine that it was already time to begin his night. After a few more minutes, Alex got up and put on his pajamas. It wasn't long before he went downstairs for dinner.

"Yum! Those hamburgers smell terrific," said Alex.

"Thanks, Alex. Can you set the table?" asked Mom.

After dinner, Alex, who didn't want to, lackadaisically loaded his backpack for school.

"Don't forget your flashlight tonight. The weatherman says it's supposed to be pretty dark all evening. It isn't a full moon, either, so be careful!" said Mom.

"I will, Mom," assured Alex.

Alex headed off for school. He was awfully tired. He needed to go to bed later in the morning next time.

When it came time for evening recess, Alex and his friends played hide-and-seek in the dark. Alex tripped over a rock and scraped his leg. He didn't notice the blood on his leg until he came back into the classroom.

For midnight snack, all of the students ate graham crackers and milk. Alex was still hungry. He couldn't wait to go home for breakfast. Then he could eat as much as he wanted. At school, he was given only a small portion of food.

On the way home from school, Alex saw an owl and a bat. He was hoping to have a slumber party that afternoon. He planned to ask his mom if they could all stay up early.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following could be a title for this reading passage?
 a. "From Day to Night" c. "Catching Some Sleep"
 b. "The Alarm Clock" d. "Reverse the Story"
- What is the meaning of the word *lackadaisically* as used in this passage?
 a. annoyingly
 b. not excitedly
 c. questioningly
 d. ignorantly
- Which of the following statements is an opinion?
 a. Alex planned to ask his mom if they could all stay up early.
 b. Alex has an interesting lifestyle.
 c. After dinner, Alex loaded his backpack.
 d. He needed to go to bed later in the morning next time.



Date

NO MANNERS

It had been a crazy day at school. Jordan walked in and slid his backpack off his shoulder. He collapsed in a chair and gulped down a glass of milk.

"Pass the cookies," said Jordan.

“Please,” insisted Mom.

"PLEASE pass the cookies," repeated Jordan. "I wish I never had to worry about manners."

"Interesting," said Mom as she left the room.

The next morning at breakfast, Jordan sat down to a plate of bacon and eggs.

"Yum!" said Jordan, and he piled the pancakes on his plate.

Suddenly, Dad reached over and grabbed the pancakes right off of Jordan's plate. Jordan was stunned. He was wondering what had happened to the *please*. Jordan noticed a black cloud covering his dad's face.

"Something strange is going on!" muttered Jordan.

A few seconds later, Mom downed a glass of orange juice and burped loudly. Jordan was flabbergasted. That was so unlike his mom. A black cloud covered her face, as well.

Jordan knew for sure that something was wrong with all the adults in his world when he showed up at school the next day and his teacher shoved his way through line, cutting in front of a bunch of teachers. The other teachers looked disgusted, and Jordan watched as another black cloud floated up in front of his teacher.

"Poor Mr. Smith," thought Jordan. "If only he would remember to use his manners!"

Jordan stopped fresh in his tracks. "Wait a minute," he thought. "I sound just like an adult. What is going on?"

STORY QUESTIONS



Name _____

Date

HOLD THE PIZZA

"Chicken again?" complained Tressa. "We always eat the same stuff over and over."

"What's that?" asked Mom, smiling.

"Fish, chicken, lasagna—you name it. It's always the same old stuff!"

"If you had it your way, what would you eat?" questioned Mom.

Tressa had to think about it. "I would definitely choose pizza." Tressa grinned.

"Pizza, ugh!" Mom replied, "Go brush your teeth and head off to bed, Pizza Girl."

That night, Tressa went to bed dreaming of pizza. In the morning, she was surprised to find pizza on her plate for breakfast. She also found pizza on the school menu. When dinnertime came, Tressa winced when she saw pepperoni pizza on the table. She was starting to wonder if she was seeing things.

Tressa looked at her mom questioningly, but her mom didn't seem to think anything different was going on.

For the next few days, Tressa ate nothing but pizza. She was so sick of pepperoni. She thought she'd die if she ate one more pizza crust. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner—it was always the same. What was she going to do?

Tressa woke up bright and early the next morning. She got out the toaster and the frying pan. She cracked some eggs and stirred up some orange juice.

"What's going on?" asked Mom as she yawned.

“Breakfast,” called Tressa ecstatically, “and I really mean breakfast!”

Mom grinned and pulled up a chair.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does *ecstatically* mean as used in this story?
 - joyously
 - vertically
 - quizzically
 - lamely
2. Which sentence hints at the resolution in the story?
 - She got out the toaster and the frying pan.
 - For the next few days, Tressa ate nothing but pizza.
 - She was starting to wonder if she was seeing things.
 - Mom grinned and pulled up a chair.
3. What is another title for this story passage?
 - “Tressa Learns a Lesson”
 - “Cooking in the Kitchen”
 - “Too Many Cooks Spoil the Broth”
 - “Pepperoni Pizzazz”