



# READING COMPREHENSION

## 9 “The Packing Boy” FACT and OPINION



Read the letter carefully. Look at questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Read the letter a second time, then answer the questions as best you can.

I couldn't wait to turn 11. That's how old I needed to be to get an after-school job at the food store. My mom had taken me to speak to the manager when I was 10. He told her to bring me back when I turned 11. So, there I was at the food store the day after my 11th birthday, anxious to start working. Finally, I would be making my own money- mine!

The manager of the food store told me that I could start the next day. He told me the starting time would be 4:00 PM and that I would work until 7:30 PM. I had to speak to my mom first before I said yes to him. Mom agreed to me working, but only on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. She did not want my grades to suffer because I didn't have enough time to study and do my homework.

A packing boy's job is not as easy as most people think. I have to pack each customer's grocery items into bags, making sure not to break anything or cause anything to get broken. The food store owners do not pay packing boys; we make our money from the tips we receive from customers. Most customers do not tip us because they feel that we do not deserve it. They don't realize that without their tips we will make no money.

Friday and Saturday nights are the best nights of all. Those are the days when I make the most money. I work harder on those days too. More people shop on Fridays and Saturdays than on any other day of the week. I am beginning to save my money. Mom says if I have enough money, I can use it as my spending money when we go to Disney World this summer. She said I could use it to buy the things I really want. I can't wait!

-Adapted from Preserving Our Heritage



1. Why was the packing boy anxious to turn 11?





2. Why did his mom only agree for him to work three days out of the week?

3. Why do you think she selected those three days?

4. In paragraph **THREE** the packing boy mentions that his job '*is not as easy as most people think.*'

Write at least **TWO** details from the passage that support his statement.

5. According to paragraph **FOUR**, how are Friday and Saturday nights different from other night of the week?

6. Using the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 put the sentences in the correct order as they happened.

\_\_\_\_\_ I could spend my money at Disney World this summer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Some customers think packing boys don't deserve tips

\_\_\_\_\_ I had to speak to my mom first.

\_\_\_\_\_ On Fridays and Saturdays were days packing boys work hardest.

7. Read each sentence written below carefully. Choose **FACT** if the sentence can be proven. Choose **OPINION** if the sentence expresses a thought or feeling.

a. My mom had taken me to the manager when I was 10.

b. A packing boy's job is not easy.

c. The food store owners do not pay packing boys.