Name_____

Walt Disney's Greatest Storyman

Sometimes we think more about how animation is created than the people behind the scenes. Bill Peet has written and illustrated over thirty books for children, and he is one of the major storytellers behind well-known animated movies.

Bill Peet began to develop his creative abilities at a young age. Peet grew up in Indianapolis, near the edge of the city, with access to the countryside. He also had the opportunity to visit his grandfather's farm, which bordered wilderness. Those experiences, combined with trips to the zoo, provided the foundation for future drawings of animals. When Peet entered school, his constant drawing sometimes became a problem, although one teacher encouraged his drawing. He dared to dream of a career in which he could put his drawing habit to use. He won a scholarship to an art school after high school and studied there for three years.

After art school, Peet needed to figure out a way to earn a living. He heard that Walt Disney was looking for artists, so he moved to California. There, Peet sketched and planned screen stories. He eventually became a storyman. Animated movies are made up of many individual drawings. Peet did the complete storyboards for two movies, *The Sword in the Stone* and *101 Dalmatians*. He also worked on *Peter Pan*, *Dumbo*, and *The Jungle Book*.

Peet's children's stories began as bedtime stories for his sons. He illustrated his stories with many animals and some people, too. Peet claims the reason for this is he loves to draw animals.

Bill Peet used different media for his drawings. He drew in pastels, pencils, and ballpoint pen. He dabbled in oil painting for a brief time. Many of his book illustrations are done in colored pencils and ink.

Two of Peet's animated works won awards. He's more well-known, though, as "Walt Disney's Greatest Storyman."

Text Questions

1. Based on the passage, which of the following movies did Bill Peet not work on?
   a. *A Bug's Life*
   b. *Dumbo*
   c. *101 Dalmatians*
   d. *The Jungle Book*

2. What does the word *access* mean as it is used in the second paragraph?
   a. able to approach
   b. a way of using something
   c. the ability to get to a place
   d. to retrieve data from a computer

3. What inspired Bill Peet's drawings of animals?
   a. the countryside near his home
   b. his grandfather's farm and wilderness
   c. visits to the zoo
   d. all of the above

4. What characteristic might have contributed to Disney's acceptance of Peet as a main storyman?
   a. his high-school drawings
   b. his ability to write and illustrate stories
   c. his growing up in the city
   d. his oil paintings

5. How can your passions and abilities relate to possible careers in the real world? Give examples to support your answer.

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