Name: _____ Date: _____

Reading Comprehension



I Had A Hippopotamus

I had a pet hippopotamus; I kept him in a shed.
I fed him cabbages, grass and bread.
I loved to draw his picture. It took a lot of chalk!
And every day we'd go on a long, lovely walk.

I walked him down the street in the winter and the spring.
I took him to school, I led him on a string.
Early every morning my hippo would rejoice,
Singing a hippo song in his awful hippo voice.

The people who lived next door, looked me in the eye.
They said "Get rid of that hippo! Tell him goodbye.
Send him to the jungle or donate him to a zoo.
He cannot stay here, he's driving us cuckoo!"

I listened to them calmly and didn't make a fuss.
Instead, I kissed my hippopotamus and put him on a bus.
Then I went to the pet store and bought me a cat.
Absolutely no one can complain about that.

Read the poem and answer the questions.

1. Click on the food that the hippo did NOT eat?
   a. grass
   b. candy
   c. bread
   d. cabbages

2. Why did the writer use a lot of chalk to draw the hippo?
   a. He liked chalk
   b. The hippo asked him to
   c. The hippo was big
   d. Mom told him to

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3. Why did the people next door dislike the hippopotamus?
   a. He was loud
   b. He smelled bad
   c. He ate their food
   d. He was a mean hippo

4. In stanza three of the poem, the word donate means:

   a. sell b. give c. buy d. put

5. How did the writer find out his neighbors didn't like his pet?
   a. They wrote him a letter
   b. They looked in his eyes and told him
   c. They called the police
   d. They told his mother

6. "He's driving us cuckoo!" What does the word cuckoo mean in this sentence?
   a. Happy
   b. Laughing
   c. Crazy
   d. Sad

7. Is this poem fantasy or reality?

   a. Fantasy b. Reality

8. Write Fact or Opinion on the line.

   a. Hippo's make great pets. _____

   b. The author took the hippo to school. _____

   c. The people next door didn't like the hippo. _____

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