

Comprehension

1. What subject does Mr. Underwood teach?

- a) Math
- b) Science
- c) Phys Ed (P.E)
- d) History

2. Why was the cafeteria a "madhouse" after the announcement?

- a) The food was bad that day.
- b) It was picture day.
- c) A fight broke out.
- d) The boys were excited about the wrestling unit.

3. How did Greg prepare for the wrestling unit?

- a) Read books about wrestling.
- b) Rented wrestling video games to learn moves.
- c) Joined an after-school wrestling club.
- d) Watched professional wrestling on TV

4. What happened to Preston Mudd after he became Athlete of the Month?

- a) He became the most popular kid in school.
- b) He got injured and quit sports.
- c) His name was laughed at.
- d) He was chosen to lead the wrestling unit.

True or False

1. Mr. Underwood announced a four-week wrestling unit for the boys. _____

2. Greg is excited and confident about wrestling from the very start. _____

3. Preston Mudd's became Athlete of the Month because of basketball. _____

4. Greg is scared that wresting success could bring negative attention. _____

Vocabulary

1. In this context, "madhouse" means:

- a) A hospital for the mentally ill.
- b) A scene of noisy confusion.
- c) A place where mad scientists work.
- d) A quiet and orderly space.

2. To be "twisted into a pretzel" is a:

- a) Literal cooking instruction.
- b) Figure of speech meaning to be physically overpowered or tied up.
- c) A way to describe becoming flexible.
- d) Figure of speech meaning reward for winning.

3. "Get the hang of it" means:

- a) To hang something up.
- b) To give up on something difficult.
- c) To learn how to do something properly.
- d) To feel nervous about something.

4. What does Greg mean by saying he could be "**a real threat**"

in the wrestling unit?

- a) He might be in danger of getting hurt.
- b) He will likely cheat to win.
- c) He plans to threaten the other students.
- d) He could become a strong, competitive opponent.

Short Answer

1. Why does Greg say Mr. Underwood "might as well have set off a bomb" with his announcement?

Hint: The boys' reaction = 

2. What is Greg's main conflict (problem) at the end of the passage?

Hint: Just like Preston Mudd

Page 80 to 83

Comprehension

1. How is the school wrestling unit different from professional wrestling on TV?
a) It uses chairs and pile drivers.
b) It has more rules and referees.
c) It uses singlets and bans violent moves.
d) It takes place in a ring with ropes.

2. Why did Greg and Rowley move away from the back of the gym?
a) Fregley was already there.
b) The wrestling mat smelled bad.
c) They were near the girls' gymnastics area.
d) Mr. Underwood asked for volunteers.

3. Why does Greg believe Mr. Underwood chose him to demonstrate holds?
a) He is the lightest and easiest to move.
b) He volunteered from the start.
c) He was hiding and got caught.
d) He was wearing a funny singlet.

4. Who does Greg end up wrestling in his weight class?

- a) Benny Wells
- b) Rowley
- c) Fregley
- d) Mr. Underwood

True or False

1. Greg feels relieved to be in a separate weight class from Benny Wells. _____
2. Fregley wasn't paying attention during instructions. _____
3. Greg's singlet fit perfectly and caused no embarrassing moments. _____
4. Greg is a skilled wrestler by the end of the lesson. _____

Vocabulary

1. In wrestling, a "singlet" is:

- a) A song sung before a match.
- b) A type of score.
- c) A tight one-piece uniform.
- d) A kind of wrestling move.

2. Someone **straining** to lift a heavy box is:

- a) reading the instructions
- b) using great physical effort
- c) laughing with a friend
- d) walking away from it

3. Feeling a **breeze** on a hot day is:

- a) feeling a gentle wind
- b) finishing work early
- c) eating something spicy
- d) running very fast

4. If you would help a friend **in a heartbeat**, you would help:

- a) after checking your schedule
- b) right away
- c) only if they paid you
- d) once a year

Short Answer

1. Why is Greg so unhappy about wrestling Fregley, even though Fregley is in his weight class?

2. What **TWO** reasons make Greg feel especially embarrassed during Mr. Underwood's demonstration?

Page 84 to 89

Comprehension

1. Why does Greg think kids will "start the Cheese Touch all over again"?

- a) Because someone brought rotten cheese for lunch.
- b) Because the teachers are using cheese as a prize
- c) Because the cafeteria started serving cheese sandwiches.
- d) Because he fears wrestling kids will roll onto the moldy "Cheese" on the playground.

2. How does Greg first try to move out of Fregley's weight class?

- a) By drinking lots of water before weigh-in.
- b) By stuffing his clothes with socks and shirts.
- c) By wearing heavy shoes and a coat.
- d) By secretly holding weights in his pockets.

3. Why does Greg decide to gain muscle instead of fat?

- a) His parents won't let him eat junk food.
- b) Muscle is easier to gain than fat.
- c) He wants to look good for the shirts-and-skins football unit in the spring.
- d) Fregley told him muscles are better for wrestling.

4. What is Mom's condition for getting a weight set?

- a) Prove his commitment by doing sit-ups and jumping jacks for two weeks.
- b) Get straight A's on his next report card.
- c) Use his own allowance money to buy it.
- d) Get a permission note from Mr. Underwood.

True or False

1. Greg is excited about wrestling in the hallways after lunch. _____
2. Greg's father supports him in getting stronger but doesn't buy him equipment. _____
3. Greg is confident his parents will help him solve his wrestling problem. _____
4. Rowley is excited about wrestling in the hallways after lunch. _____

Vocabulary

1. What does it mean if someone tells you they want to “**keep their distance**” from you?

- a) They want to be your close friend.
- b) They want to stand very close to you.
- c) They want to stay away from you or avoid you.
- d) They want to measure how far apart you are.

2. What does it mean if you are “**enthusiastic**” about a gift you receive?

- a) bored and uninterested.
- b) eager and excited.
- c) confused and unsure.
- d) quiet and shy.

3. What does it mean if you have a “**nervous breakdown**” before a big exam?

- a) You are perfectly prepared and confident.
- b) You might break a pencil.
- c) You are extremely anxious or overwhelmed.
- d) You are excited to see the school nurse.

4. What does it mean if you “**take matters into your own hands**” when no one else is?

- a) You ask more people to join in.
- b) You wait patiently for someone else to act.
- c) You handle the situation yourself.
- d) You give up entirely.

Short Answers

1. Why does stuffing clothes with socks fail to solve Greg's problem?

2. What is the real reason Greg wants to gain muscle instead of fat? *Hint: shirts vs. skins*

89 to 93

Comprehension

1. Why does Greg make his own exercise equipment?

- a) He enjoys building things from junk.
- b) His mom wouldn't buy him real weights.
- c) He wants to impress Rowley.
- d) Real equipment is too heavy for him.

2. Why does Greg ask Rowley to use the bench press first?

- a) Rowley is stronger and needs to warm up.
- b) Greg wants to test if his homemade barbell will break.
- c) Rowley insisted on going first.
- d) Greg was too tired to start.

3. What experiment does Greg try on Rowley?

- a) Putting extra sand in the milk jugs.
- b) Timing how long Rowley can lift.
- c) Wearing a fake nose and mustache to break Rowley's focus.
- d) Making Rowley lift with one hand.

4. Why does Rowley eventually go home?

- a) He got frustrated and lost interest after Greg's prank.
- b) Greg told him to leave.
- c) He had to finish homework.
- d) The equipment broke.

True or False

- 1. Greg's mother bought him the weight set he asked for. _____
- 2. Greg makes his barbell by filling milk jugs with sand. _____
- 3. Rowley is more dedicated to weightlifting than Greg is. _____
- 4. Greg eventually helps Rowley when Rowley gets stuck. _____

Vocabulary

1. In a gym, a **spotting partner** is there to:

- a) cheer the loudest from the sidelines.
- b) clean the equipment after use.
- c) compete against you in a race.
- d) help you lift safely and prevent injury.

2. If your friend shows up in a **ridiculous getup**, they are wearing something:

- a) formal and expensive.
- b) silly or absurd.
- c) perfect for the occasion.
- d) invisible.

3. A coach who wants to **push you beyond your limits** aims to:

- a) let you set your own pace.
- b) have you repeat easy tasks.
- c) help you achieve more than you thought possible.
- d) reduce your workout time.

4. If you lose concentration while driving, you might:

- a) arrive at your destination faster.
- b) lose focus and miss your turn.
- c) see the road more clearly.
- d) turn off the radio.

Short Answer

1. Why did Gren not help Rowley when Rowley gets stuck under the barbell?

2. What does Greg's homemade equipment reveal about his character? What is he like?

Comprehension

1. Why was Greg confident about the geography quiz?

a) They had studied all week.
 b) They sat next to a map with the answers.
 c) The quiz was open-book.
 d) Patty Farrell promised to help them.

2. What did Patty Farrell do before the quiz started?

a) She gave Greg the answers.
 b) She suggested the teacher cover the map.
 c) She asked to change seats with Greg.
 d) She admitted she hadn't studied.

3. What was the result for Greg after Patty's suggestion?

a) The quiz was cancelled.
 b) Greg failed the quiz.
 c) Greg got the highest score.
 d) The quiz was rescheduled.

4. How does Greg feel toward Patty at the end?

a) Grateful.
 b) Indifferent.
 c) Sympathetic.
 d) Vengeful / Angry.

True or False

1. The quiz was on U.S state capitals. _____

2. Greg was seated at the back of the class. _____

3. Greg thanked Patty for helping make the quiz fair. _____

4. The capitals are written in big blue print. _____

Vocabulary

1. What does it mean if you're prepared for an interview and you say you "**have it in the bag**."

- a) extremely confident you'll get the job.
- b) anxious and unprepared.
- c) like you need more practice.
- d) ready to cancel the interview.

2. During a meeting, if someone "**pipes up**" with a good idea, they:

- a) leave the room quietly.
- b) send a private text message.
- c) speak up unexpectedly to contribute.
- d) ignore the discussion.

3. If a student "**flunks**" their driver's license test, it means they:

- a) passed on the first try.
- b) decided to reschedule it.
- c) failed and have to retake it.
- d) received a perfect score.

4. What does it mean when a friend says they'll "**pay you back**" for embarrassing them?

- a) give you cash.
- b) write you a thank-you note.
- c) get revenge when they can.
- d) forgive you quickly.

Short Answer

1. Why was Greg's plan to use the map unfair?

2. What does this situation show about Greg's attitude toward schoolwork?

95 to 104

Comprehension

1. Why does Greg decide he wants to be a Tree in the play?

- a) Trees have the most lines.
- b) Trees don't have to sing and get to throw apples at Dorothy.
- c) The costume has arm holes and looks comfortable.
- d) His mom told him it was the best role.

2. What does Greg realize about the Tree costume that disappoints him?

- a) It is too heavy to wear.
- b) It is only for girls.
- c) It requires him to sing a solo.
- d) It doesn't have arm holes, so he can't throw apples.

3. What happens to Rodney James?

- a) He is cast as the Shrub, a made-up character.
- b) He gets the lead role of the Tin Man.
- c) He decides to quit the play.
- d) He is chosen to be a Tree instead of Greg.

4. Why does Greg say, “be careful what you wish for”?

- a) He got a bigger part than he wanted.
- b) He got the role he wanted, but it isn’t what he expected.
- c) His mom made him apologize to Patty Farrell.
- d) He ended up having to sing after all.

5. How does Mrs. Norton solve the problem of too many kids and not enough roles?

- a) She cuts several kids from the play.
- b) She lets everyone share the same roles.
- c) She starts making up new characters.
- d) She cancels the play.

True or False

- 1. Mrs. Norton cut Rowley from the play after auditions. _____
- 2. Greg is excited to thank his mom for making him join the play. _____
- 3. Greg is the only one who had the idea to sign up to be a Tree. _____
- 4. Patty Farrell was Dorothy and a second-grader was her dog, Toto. _____
- 5. The mom allowed her child with the dog role to crawl on stage. _____

Vocabulary

1. When you have a bone to pick with a friend who forgot your birthday, you:

- a) want to buy them a gift.
- b) plan to ignore them forever.
- c) feel you need to confront them about it.
- d) decide to throw them a party.

2. If you are singled out by a teacher in class, you are:

- a) asked to work in a large group.
- b) given a prize for perfect attendance.
- c) chosen individually for attention.
- d) told to leave the room.

3. If meeting your favorite athlete is a dream come true, you are:

- a) disappointed and bored.
- b) nervous about what to say.
- c) thrilled because a wish has finally happened.
- d) unsure who they are.

4. A live audience is a group of people:

- a) watching a recording from home.
- b) present and watching in person.
- c) who are not paying attention.
- d) performing on stage.

104 to 113

Comprehension

1. Why is Greg relieved Rodrick won't be at the play originally?

- a) Rodrick doesn't like musicals.
- b) Greg thinks Rodrick wouldn't dress semiformal to attend.
- c) Rodrick is out of town.
- d) Rodrick is in the play with him.

2. How did the Trees get permission to have arm holes in their costumes?

- a) Archie Kelly tripped and chipped a tooth because he couldn't break his fall.
- b) Mrs. Norton decided the costumes were too hot.
- c) The students complained about not being able to eat snacks.
- d) Rodney James refused to wear his costume without arm holes.