

Test 1--Peter and the Beach

Directions: Read the passage to answer questions 1-5.

In front of the house there was a beach. Peter liked to stretch on the sand when the sun was warming it. From the back door of the house he would walk along a path as far as the sand, and stand at the water's edge looking at the sea. When nothing very interesting was happening on the water, he would go down on his knees and take a handful of sand. Through his fingers ran the sand until only small stones and shells were left. Then, with a large sweep of his arm and with as much strength as he could muster, Peter would throw them away as far as he could.

At other times, he would go on his back and gaze up at the clouds, his hands idly searching the sand at his sides. He never stopped playing with the sand and feeling it run through his fingers, however much he was absorbed by the changes in the clouds.

Occasionally some fishing boats came close enough to the beach for Peter to see what the fishermen were doing. Then with his hands clasped he would look and look, while his whole body moved with the boat from side to side. When the fishermen drew in their nets or cast them into the water, Peter would do the same with an imaginary net of his own from his place on the beach.

On this small beach, Peter had a world of his own.



1. This passage tells mainly about _____.
 - a. the fishermen
 - b. The beach
 - c. Peter's love for the beach
 - d. the house by the beach
2. When nothing interesting was happening on the water, Peter would _____.
 - a. take a handful of sand and let it run through his fingers
 - b. watch the fishing boats
 - c. pretend to be a fisherman by playing with his imaginary net
 - d. go back to the house
3. When did Peter like to stretch on the sand?
 - a. when it was cool and wet with the water
 - b. when the clouds were flying by
 - c. when the stones and shells washed up
 - d. when the sun was warming it
4. What did he do with the stones and shells left in his hand?
 - a. put them in his collection at home
 - b. throw them away as far as he could
 - c. buried them in the sand as he gazed at the sky
 - d. stuffed them in his pocket to play with later
5. In this passage, what was the last thing Peter did?
 - a. use his imaginary net
 - b. clasp his hands and look and look
 - c. move his body with the boat from side to side

Test 2--Aunt Prudence's Dog

Directions: Read the passage to answer questions 1-5.

Tom Hamilton liked his Aunt Prudence. She taught at the university. Her name was Dr. Prudence Hamilton. When she came to Tom's father's farm in the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island, which is part of the province of British Columbia, she always brought presents. Tom liked her.

He didn't like her constant companion, Genevieve Trueheart, a dog.

Tom Hamilton was fond of other dogs. He had a dog, a bull terrier called Rusty, a fighter right from the word go. Rusty kept the pheasants out of the garden and young grain. He worked for a living. Tom couldn't like Genevieve Trueheart. She was good for nothing. She never even looked like a dog. She was a great big soft wheezing lazy whagging monster, a great big useless lump.



1. What is Aunt Prudence's occupation?
 - a. Doctor
 - b. teacher
 - c. dog trainer
 - d. farmer
2. Where does Tom live?
 - a. in an apartment
 - b. on a British reservation
 - c. on a farm
 - d. in a mobile home park
3. What is the name of Tom's dog?
 - a. Bull Terrier
 - b. Genevieve Trueheart
 - c. Rusty
 - d. Hamilton
4. Which of the following DOES NOT describe Genevieve Trueheart?
 - a. a fighter from the word go
 - b. good for nothing
 - c. a great big useless lump
 - d. a lazy wagging monster
5. How does Tom feel about Genevieve Trueheart?
 - a. he admires how hard she works
 - b. he is afraid of such a big monster
 - c. he is very fond of her
 - d. he doesn't like her at all

Test 3--The History of Cats

Directions: Read the passage to answer questions 1-5.

Cats have a long and interesting history. In fact, the cat was probably the first animal kept as a pet. The Egyptians worshiped cats. In Europe cats were praised for their ability to catch rats and mice. They were much in demand during the Black Plague illnesses of the 14th century.

In the Middle Ages, cats lost much of their appeal because they became connected with devil worship. Many cats lost their lives and gave rise to superstitions still held by some people today.

The American Indian did not appear to keep cats as pets, so it wasn't until the white settlers came from Europe that cats were kept as pets in America. The Colonists, like the Europeans, found cats helpful in controlling rats and mice.



1. Through the ages, the cat _____.
 - a. has been a favorite pet
 - b. has been both prized and hated
 - c. has been kept by all races of people
 - d. has been valued for its intelligence
2. The group that DID NOT appear to keep cats as pets were _____.
 - a. the Colonists
 - b. the American Indians
 - c. the Europeans
 - d. the Egyptians
3. When did cats lose much of their appeal because they were connected with devil worship?
 - a. the 11th century
 - b. during Colonial times
 - c. in the Middle Ages
 - d. during the twentieth century
4. In this passage, the writer _____.
 - a. explains why the cat was the first pet kept by man
 - b. defends the importance of cats in the home
 - c. traces man's attitudes about cats
 - d. compares the cat with other animals
5. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
 - a. Cats have a long and interesting history.
 - b. In fact, the cat was probably the first animal kept as a pet.
 - c. Many cats lost their lives and gave rise to superstitions still held by some people today.
 - d. The Egyptians worshiped cats.