

# READING COMPREHENSION

## 5 "THE HAIRCUT"

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

Just a trim! That's what my mother said. My mother gave me \$8.00 and dropped me off at Lou's Barber Shop. I didn't want to go. I protested, telling her my hair was the perfect length, besides, I needed it a little longer to keep my head warm in the winter. Mom smiled and said, "Tell Lou you only want a trim. I'll be back in half an hour."

I've known Lou since I was a little kid. He always seemed like a pretty decent guy. Last year he sponsored our baseball team. We wore candy-red tee shirts with big black letters that said, "Lou's Barber Shop-A Cut above the Rest." He came to all the games and even gave the guys free haircuts.

I walked into the shop and saw Lou cutting Mr. Fox's hair. He said, I'm almost finished, hop up in the next chair." A few minutes later, Lou came over with the scissors and electric trimmers in his hands. I told him, "I want a trim because my hair is the perfect length and just right for keeping my head warm."

He nodded and began to trim, and trim, and trim some more. The next thing I knew my hair was "trimmed" almost completely away! My ears were cold and my forehead was much bigger than I remembered it. Didn't he know what a trim was? Either Lou was going deaf or he was still angry about all those baseball games we lost!



1. How long did the mother estimate the writer's haircut would take?  
Choose the correct answer.

[1]



2. The writer describes Lou as **“a pretty decent guy.”**  
Based on evidence from the passage, write **TWO** statements to support the writer’s description of Lou. [2]
3. What evidence from the story suggests that the baseball team did not play well? [2]
4. **“Lou’s Barber Shop-A Cut above the Rest.”** This statement is telling us that Lou’s barber shop is... [1]
5. According to the passage, how did Lou advertise his business? [1]
6. **“I’ve known Lou since I was just a little kid.”** What message is being inferred by the writer in that statement? [2]
7. Read the sentence and the dictionary entry for the word **“hop”** then answer the question that follows.

Lou told the writer **“to hop up in the other chair.”** Choose the definition from the box that closely fits the way **“hop”** is used in the sentence. [1]

**hop (v.)**

- jump lightly on one foot
- leap over something
- get on or off
- jump aboard a vehicle
- ride a bus without paying

