

## **A New Life**

### **“Welcome Home”**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Comprehension Questions- discuss or write answers**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

1. Why is Grammy Mare leaving her job?
2. How do the neighborhood people feel about the police horse?
3. How do Grammy Mare’s feelings change during the story?
4. What made Grammy Mare feel more comfortable when she arrived at the farm? How?
5. What lesson did Grammy Mare learn? How?
6. Write, draw, or tell about a time you felt uncomfortable with a new situation.

#### **Compound Words to Spell**

1. basketball
2. countryside
3. four-legged
4. goodbye
5. granddaughter
6. playground
7. snow-covered
8. snowflakes
9. snow-filled

#### **Vocabulary Words to Learn: Write the part of speech as it is used in the story in ( ).**

1. clomp- ( )
2. droop- ( )

3. dreary- (    )
4. filly- (    )
5. frisky- (    )
6. gallop- (    )
7. trot- (    )

## **A New Life**

### **“Welcome Home”**

## **KEY**

### **Comprehension Questions**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

1. Why is Grammy Mare leaving her job?

She is retiring to a farm, probably because she is older. The police officer tells her she is going back to the farm where she was born. He calls her “old girl.”

2. How do the neighborhood people feel about the police horse?

They love her and are sad to see her leave. Police officers, neighborhood people, and kids gather on the street to say goodbye to her. One woman brings her an apple and cries as she waves to the horse.

3. How do Grammy Mare’s feelings change during the story?

At the beginning of the story, Grammy Mare is nervous. She wonders what the farm would be like. Then she is sad as she says goodbye to her friends and the lady who brought her an apple. She is bothered when boys seem to act rough around her. She is grateful when the boys bring her a carrot. Finally, she is worried about not knowing anyone at the farm when she arrives, but she is relieved when she hears Farmer Thomas’s voice and meets her daughter and granddaughter.

4. What made Grammy Mare feel more comfortable when she arrived at the farm? How?

The first thing that makes her feel more comfortable is when she recognizes the big gray barn and the white fence. She also remembers the apple tree and how delicious its apples tasted. When she hears the farmer’s voice, she feels less worried. She is happy when she meets her daughter. When her granddaughter Pinkie brings all the horses to meet her, Grammy Mare is glad to tell them a story.

5. What lesson did Grammy Mare learn? How?

Grammy Mare learns that change can be scary, but it can work out just fine. She learns this when even though she is scared to leave the city, she finds friendly people who want to be her friend at the farm.

Grammy Mare learns that many people love her. Police workers and neighborhood people come to tell her goodbye.

Grammy Mare learns she can be happy in more than one place. She has spent many years serving her neighborhood and the school. She also is happy to return to her farm and spend time with her family and new animal friends.

7. Write, draw, or tell about a time you felt uncomfortable with a new situation.

Responses will vary.

### **Compound Words to Spell**

1. basketball
2. countryside
3. four-legged
4. goodbye
5. granddaughter
6. playground
7. snow-covered
8. snowflakes
9. snow-filled

### **Vocabulary Words to Learn (Definitions from Google)**

1. clomp- (v) to walk heavily
2. droop- (v) to bend or hang downward limply
3. dreary- (adj) dull, bleak, lifeless; depressing
4. filly- (n) a young female horse, younger than four years old
5. frisky- (adj) playful and full of energy
6. gallop- (v) to run at the fastest pace, with all four feet off the ground (usually a horse or four-legged animal)
7. trot- (v) to move faster than a walk (usually a horse or four-legged animal)

## **A New Life**

### **“The Big Question”**

Name\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Comprehension Questions- discuss or write answers**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

1. What conflicts are in this story?
2. Describe Mommie’s personality, based on her actions and words.
3. How does Scarlet interact with the other birds?
4. Who is telling this story? How is that helpful to readers?
5. How could this story’s lessons relate to kids today?
6. Write, draw, or tell about something else Grammy Mare might observe in the barn

#### **Words to Spell**

1. arguing
2. flutter
3. pigeon
4. nervously
5. speckled
6. squawk
7. twitter
8. volunteered

#### **Vocabulary Words to Learn: Write the part of speech as it is used in the story in ( ).**

1. darted- ( )

2. hayloft- (   )
3. rafter- (   )
4. ruckus- (   )
5. scold- (   )
6. stall- (   )
7. swoop- (   )
8. warbling- (   )

## **A New Life**

### **“The Big Question”**

#### **KEY**

#### **Comprehension Questions- discuss or write answers**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

1. What conflicts are in this story?

- The major conflict is that an egg has been abandoned and the other birds are worried about it.
- Two minor conflicts are when the birds argue about why the mother bird left the nest and who should go look for her. Another is when Jay is bossy to the other birds.

2. Describe Mommie’s personality, based on her actions and words.

Mommie is a peacemaker and a leader. She suggests the birds all stop arguing, and she names ways they can help: sit on the nest, check in the barnyard and trees for the lost bird, and sing to help the bird find her way back to the barn.

3. How does Scarlet interact with the other birds?

Scarlet does not interact much with the other birds. She is very pretty, and her father is a fancy pet pigeon that belongs to the farmer’s son. She shares an opinion about the missing mother bird, even though she has taken a morning nap, according to Jay. She goes back into her nest ignoring the others until Mommie Bird suggests she sing.

4. Who is telling this story? How is that helpful to readers?

Grammy Mare is telling the story from her stall below the birds. It’s helpful because she can see and hear almost everything that happens and can report it accurately.

5. How could this story’s lessons relate to kids today?

- Kids might relate to getting lost, as the mother bird did.
  - Kids might relate to classmates arguing, as the birds did.
  - Kids might relate to individual birds, like Mommie, who is a peacemaker; Lagrange, who is willing to help others; Cocoa, who is small, but worried about others; or Jay, who likes to be the boss.
7. Write, draw, or tell about something else Grammy Mare might observe in the barn.

Responses will vary.

### **Words to Spell**

1. arguing
2. flutter
3. pigeon
4. nervously
5. speckled
6. squawk
7. twitter
8. volunteered

### **Vocabulary Words to Learn (Definitions adapted from Google)**

1. darted- (v) moved or ran somewhere suddenly
2. hayloft- (n) a space over a stable or barn that is used to store hay or straw
3. rafter- (n) one of several internal beams that hold up a roof
4. ruckus- (n) a disturbance or commotion
5. scold- (v) to rebuke or reprimand someone in anger
6. stall- (n) an individual compartment for an animal in a stable or barn
7. swoop- (v) to move rapidly downwards through the air
8. warbling- (v) singing softly with changing musical notes



## **A New Life**

### **“Silly Sheep Sisters”**

Name\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Comprehension Questions- discuss or write answers**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

1. Summarize the story in three sentences.
2. How did Grammy Mare keep the younger animals who were listening from being frightened by the storm?
3. Parts of the story are realistic, but other parts are not. Choose one of each type and explain how realistic they are.
4. How are the two sheep different?
5. Write, draw, or tell about what could happen if an animal got loose in your house.
6. Write, draw, or tell about a time you did something you shouldn't have done. How did it end?

#### **Words to Spell**

1. blobs
2. bolted
3. complained
4. cupboards
5. hurried
6. neighed
7. nibbling
8. perched

**Vocabulary Words to Learn: Write the part of speech as it is used in the story in ( ).**

1. bleated- (   )
2. brewing- (   )
3. butted- (   )
4. fragrant- (   )
5. herded- (   )
6. pasture- (   )
7. plodded- (   )
8. yearling- (   )

## **A New Life**

### **“Silly Sheep Sisters”**

#### **KEY**

#### **Comprehension Questions- discuss or write answers**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers*

1. Summarize the story in three sentences.

During a thunderstorm, a horse gathers animals to listen to a story about two sheep who ran away from their farm. They went to a forest and then to a nearby house. One of the sheep went inside and ended up accidentally having her coat dyed purple.

2. How did Grammy Mare keep the younger animals who were listening from being frightened by the storm?

She told about how the sheep were misbehaving and that kept the listeners interested in what would happen next. She also asked them what the kitchen was.

3. Parts of the story are realistic, but other parts are not. Choose one of each type and explain how realistic they are.

Realistic elements: animals being scared of a thunderstorm; sheep jumping a fence and getting loose; a crow scolding animals.

Unrealistic elements: a horse telling stories; a crow telling a horse a story; sheep getting into someone's bathroom; a sheep spilling a bottle of hair dye.

4. How are the two sheep different?

Sister Sheep seems bored and is always looking for adventures- in the forest or by meeting the girl or exploring the kitchen and bathroom of the farmhouse. In contrast, Suzy is a rule follower: she doesn't want to wander from the farm and is worried when the family comes home.

5. Write, draw, or tell about what could happen if an animal got loose in your house.

Responses will vary.

6. Write, draw, or tell about a time you did something you shouldn't have done. How did it end?

Responses will vary.

### **Words to Spell**

1. blobs
2. bolted
3. complained
4. cupboards
5. hurried
6. neighed
7. nibbling
8. perched

### **Vocabulary Words to Learn (Definitions adapted from Google)**

1. bleated- (v) made a wavering cry (usually from a sheep, calf or goat)
2. brewing- (v) beginning to develop
3. butted- (v) hit with the head or horns
4. fragrant- (adj) having a pleasant or sweet smell
5. herded-(v) moved in a particular direction
6. pasture- (n) grass-covered land for animals to graze or feed themselves
7. plodded- (v) walked slowly with heavy steps
8. yearling- (v) an animal that is between one and two years old (foal, calf, or sheep)

## **A New Life**

### **“Rattford the Braggart”**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Comprehension Questions- discuss or write answers**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

1. How is Rattford unlike the farm animals?
2. Why does Grammy Mare not like Rattford?
3. Do you agree or disagree with Pellet that people should not boast about themselves? Why?
4. What did the Farmer’s call mean?
5. Write, draw, or tell about what might happen at your school after the kids and staff go home.

#### **Words to Spell**

1. braggart
2. chemicals
3. cocoa
4. custodian
5. dangerous
6. disgusted
7. rumble
8. twitched

#### **Vocabulary Words to Learn: Write the part of speech as it is used in the story in ( ).**

1. boasting-- ( )
2. braggart- ( )
3. chuckled- ( )

4. flexed- (    )
5. pounce- (    )
6. scamper- (    )
7. scurry- (    )
8. snickered- (    )

## **A New Life**

### **“Rattford the Braggart”**

#### **KEY**

#### **Comprehension Questions- discuss or write answers**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

1. How is Rattford unlike the farm animals?

He lives at a school. He roams where he wants at night. He eats human food. He boasts about himself. He spends his day with kids. He tricks the people at the school.

2. Why does Grammy Mare not like Rattford?

She thinks he is not a good example of how to behave when he talks about sneaking out of his cage and carrier. He boasts about how handsome he is and how he eats all the leftovers at school. She doesn't like his language about the pigs.

3. Do you agree or disagree with Pellet that people should not boast about themselves? Why?

Responses will vary.

4. What did the Farmer's call mean?

It was supertime for the pigs. He was calling them to their trough.

5. Write, draw, or tell about what might happen at your school after the kids and staff go home.

Responses will vary.

#### **Words to Spell**

1. braggart
2. chemicals
3. cocoa
4. custodian

5. dangerous
6. disgusted
7. rumble
8. twitched

**Vocabulary Words to Learn (Definitions adapted from Google)**

1. boasting- (v) talking with excessive pride about oneself, achievements or possessions
2. braggart- (n) a person who boasts about achievement or possessions
3. chuckled- (v) laughed quietly or inwardly
4. flexed- (v) bent or tensed (as in a muscle)
5. pounce- (v) to suddenly spring or swoop down on something
6. scamper- (v) to run with quick, light steps, especially in fear
7. scurry- (v) to move quickly with short, quick steps
8. snickered- (v) gave an unkind, half-laugh



## **A New Life**

### **“What a Lady Must Do”**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Comprehension Questions- discuss or write answers**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

1. Summarize the story in three sentences.
2. How are the animals like humans in this story? How are they different from humans?
3. Explain one external conflict in the story and how it is resolved.
4. Based on the story, how might the spa owners suspect they have mice in their building?
5. What life lessons does the story offer?
6. Write, draw, or tell another adventure these mice have at the spa.

#### **Words to Spell**

1. accidentally
2. dodging
3. faucet
4. obstacle
5. strenuous
6. stretch
7. tangled
8. yearling

**Vocabulary Words to Learn: Write the part of speech as it is used in the story in ( ).**

1. acquainted- ( )
2. canter- ( )
3. ceramic- ( )
4. currycomb- ( )
5. lanky- ( )
6. makeshift- ( )

## **A New Life**

### **“What a Lady Must Do”**

#### **KEY**

#### **Comprehension Questions- discuss or write answers**

*Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

1. Summarize the story in three sentences.

A horse tells farm animals about two mice that live in a spa and do their Saturday workout. They relax in a steam room, do yoga, and run through the rooms, but they have trouble in the hair salon. One of the mice falls into the sink, and the other helps it get out before they style their fur and finish their spa day.

2. How are the animals like humans in this story? How are they different from humans?

They are the same in how they talk, help each other, and enjoy the elements of the spa.

They are different in that they are much smaller and that creates problems. They have to dodge obstacles on the floor when they run, and one mouse falls into the sink and can't get out. They also must be careful to stay hidden from humans.

3. Explain one external conflict in the story and how it is resolved.

Jennie was not finished with her workout when Carrie was, but Carrie just waited for her.

A worker forgot to sweep the floor, leaving wads of hair. The mice were careful to avoid getting tangled in them.

Jennie falls into the sink and can't get out. Carrie puts a comb in the sink for Jennie to use as a ladder to climb out.

4. Based on the story, how might the spa owners suspect they have mice in their building?

The cotton balls in the steam room might be out of place.

Water might still be on the sink after Carrie turned on the faucet.

The comb jar was knocked over or the comb in the sink.  
The lid to the perfume bottle might be left off the bottle.

5. What life lessons does the story offer?

- Making time to take care of yourself is important.
- Teamwork can solve problems.
- Even though things might not be perfect, you can usually find a workaround.

6. Write, draw, or tell another adventure these mice have at the spa.

Responses will vary.

### **Words to Spell**

1. accidentally
2. dodging
3. faucet
4. obstacle
5. strenuous
6. stretch
7. tangled
8. yearling

### **Vocabulary Words to Learn (Definitions adapted from Google)**

1. acquainted- (v) made aware of or became familiar with
2. canter- (v) to move in a slow, three-beat run (a horse)
3. ceramic- (adj) made of clay and hardened
4. currycomb- (v) to rub with a special brush for horses that has rows of teeth or ridges
5. lanky- (adj) ungracefully thin and tall
6. makeshift- (adj) serving as a temporary substitute