

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*In this story, Benny wants to buy a present for his grandfather. Read it to find out what happens to Benny and then answer the questions that follow.*

## A Present for Grandfather

*by Gertrude Chandler Warner*

Benny Alden had a dollar. "Tomorrow is Grandfather's birthday," he told his dog, Watch. "But I don't know what to get him." Watch wasn't much help. He was busy chasing a squirrel.

Grandfather saw Benny on the steps. "Let's go to the shopping center," he said.

Benny leaped up. Great! He could buy Grandfather a present!

As they drove down the street, Benny said, "There's Michael. Can he come, too?" Michael was Benny's friend. Michael asked his mother and was back in a flash.

Grandfather parked the car in front of the shopping center. There was a barbershop, a bank, a bakery, and a gift shop on one of the blocks.

"I need a haircut," said Grandfather.

"We'll be in the gift shop," Benny said.

Benny took Watch outside. "Wait here," he said.

Back inside, he saw a brass pen set. "That's neat," said Michael.

"It would look nice on Grandfather's desk," Benny agreed. Then he saw the price tag. "Twenty dollars! I only have one dollar!"

A furry blur hopped up and down outside the window. The blur was Watch. "Watch doesn't like it out there," said Michael.

"I'll talk to him," said Benny. When he went outside, Watch ran down the sidewalk. Benny chased his dog. "We can't play now!" he scolded.

Benny took Watch back to the gift store. "Sit," he said. But Watch wouldn't sit.

Benny found a box for Watch to stand on. "Now you can see us."

Benny went into the store again.

Michael held out a key ring. "This only costs one dollar," he said.

"It's not very special," Benny said. "But it's all I can afford." He reached into his pocket and pulled out...nothing! "My dollar!" He cried. "It's gone!"

1. Why didn't Benny buy the brass pen set?

- A. It cost too much.
- B. His dollar was gone.
- C. It was not a good gift.
- D. He had to chase after his dog.

2. How much money did Benny have to spend on Grandfather's present?

- A. one dollar
  - B. two dollars
  - C. five dollars
  - D. twenty dollars
- 

3. Which word rhymes with *flash*?

- A. flies
  - B. float
  - C. trash
  - D. crush
- 

4. Who was Michael?

- A. Grandfather's friend
  - B. Benny's friend
  - C. Benny's dog
  - D. a store owner
- 

5. Where did Grandfather go first?

- A. to the bakery
  - B. to the bank
  - C. to the gift shop
  - D. to the barbershop
- 

6. In the passage, *back in a flash* means

- A. Michael had a flashlight when he came back.
  - B. Michael returned quickly.
  - C. Michael was wearing a bright-colored shirt.
  - D. Michael turned the lights back on.
- 

7. What did Benny think Grandfather would do with the pen set?

- A. keep it on his desk
  - B. keep it in his jacket
  - C. keep it in his car
  - D. keep it in his desk
- 

8. How did Benny feel when Watch ran down the sidewalk?

- A. happy
  - B. proud
  - C. angry
  - D. worried
-

The Story of Andre is a book about a seal who really lived in Maine with a family. Read the passage from The Story of Andre and then answer the questions that follow.

## Andre Becomes a Celebrity

by Lew Dietz

As Daddy continued his training of the seal, more and more people began gathering at the seawall to watch. When they clapped, it was easy to see that Andre enjoyed the attention.

My father put a beach ball into the pen and taught the seal to swim about with the beach ball balanced on his nose. Then Andre would toss it into the air for Daddy to catch. One day we heard a lady say, "Why that seal is almost human!"

Daddy said to Andre, "Perhaps we ought to tell the nice lady that you're only acting like a seal. Doesn't she know that seals were pushing things around with their noses a million years before humans learned to throw a rock?"

So it wasn't at all hard to have Andre do things seals had been doing for a million years. Since seals leap into the air when they are feeling playful, Andre leaped through a motorcycle tire hung up in his pen. Seals are curious, too, so when objects were thrown into the water, Andre would chase after them and bring them back.

When a little boy in the audience yelled, "Hey, how do you catch a seal?" my father tied a knot on the end of a rope and tossed it into the water. Andre grabbed the knot and began tugging. Daddy hauled Andre onto the dock. "That's one way to catch a seal, son," he said. "But first you should get to know the seal."

I suppose a bear has to be taught to ride a bicycle, and a poodle has to be taught to stand on its hind legs and drink tea. Daddy didn't bother with that sort of nonsense. He asked Andre only to do things that seals have always done, except, of course, for a few silly things.

For instance, this is how he taught Andre to pretend to be ashamed of himself. One day, seeing Andre stretched out with one flipper over his eyes, he said, "Andre, aren't you ashamed of yourself?"—and right away gave him a fish. The very next time he asked Andre, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself?" the seal stretched out and hid its eyes with its flipper.

It was just a wonderful game to Andre.

9. When people clapped, Andre felt

- A. frightened.
  - B. happy.
  - C. angry.
  - D. sad.
- 

10. What did Andre balance on the end of his nose?

- A. a fish
  - B. a knot
  - C. a ball
  - D. a tire
-

11.

Daddy hauled Andre onto the dock.

The word *hauled* has the same meaning as

- A. called.
  - B. pulled.
  - C. pushed.
  - D. chased.
- 

12. Which word sounds the same as *would*?

- A. wood
  - B. wool
  - C. owned
  - D. old
- 

13. This writing is BEST described as

- A. a friendly letter.
  - B. a poem.
  - C. fiction.
  - D. nonfiction.
- 

14. Daddy said it was easy to teach Andre tricks because

- A. Andre was really smart.
  - B. he had Andre do things that seals have always done.
  - C. Andre liked people to clap and cheer.
  - D. Andre wanted to please Daddy.
- 

15. Which word means the OPPOSITE of word *ashamed*?

- A. sorry
  - B. fine
  - C. happy
  - D. proud
-

Read the story to find out what scientists really did with a spider named Arabella and then answer the questions that follow.

## Arabella the Spider

Arabella was a spider with a special talent. She could build the best spiderwebs at Marshall Space Flight Center. Her skill at constructing webs landed her a job as the first spider to go up in space.

Scientists knew that Arabella would have problems building webs during the space flight. There is no gravity out in space. Everything is weightless and will float if not attached to something stable. Scientists wanted to see if Arabella could adapt to weightlessness.

Arabella didn't know that she was weightless in space, but when she took her first step, she knew that something was wrong. Her eight legs seemed useless as she slid across the wall of her cage.

Nevertheless, Arabella quickly learned to move in her cage. On Earth, Arabella would spin a long, sticky thread and let the wind attach it to a plant. But there was no wind in the spaceship; so she had to carry the thread from corner to corner and attach it to the frame by herself.

Arabella tried to find a new way to conquer each problem. Her first webs in space were not very neat, but after three days she was able to build a web as perfect as the ones she had made on Earth. However, there were no insects to get caught in her web; so the astronauts fed her bits of steak instead. In this way they helped her overcome her only unsolved problem.

16. Why was Arabella chosen to go up in space?

- A. She could live in a cage.
  - B. She could build the best spiderwebs.
  - C. She could float in space.
  - D. She could trap other insects.
- 

17. What does the word *stable* mean in paragraph 2?

- A. heavy
  - B. strong
  - C. large
  - D. unmoving
- 

18. Arabella had to discover a new way to spin her web in space because there was no

- A. food.
  - B. water.
  - C. plant life.
  - D. wind.
-

19. What did scientists learn about spiders during this experiment with Arabella?

- A. Spiders can trap their own food in space.
  - B. Spiders make better webs in space than they do on Earth.
  - C. Spiders can get used to making webs while in space.
  - D. Spiders float when they are weightless.
- 

20. The word *constructing* in paragraph 1 means

- A. finding.
  - B. fixing.
  - C. making.
  - D. moving.
- 

21.

In the words *weightless* and *useless*, the suffix *-less* means

- A. without.
  - B. like.
  - C. having less.
  - D. full of.
- 

22. The word *conquer* in paragraph 5 means

- A. add.
  - B. overcome.
  - C. cause.
  - D. understand.
- 

23. How long did it take Arabella to spin a perfect web in space?

- A. three minutes
  - B. three hours
  - C. three days
  - D. three weeks
- 

24. What is this story MOSTLY about?

- A. what causes weightlessness
- B. how scientists kept a spider alive in space
- C. how spiders make webs
- D. how Arabella got used to living in space

**Answer Key**

1. A) It cost too much.
2. A) one dollar
3. C) trash
4. B) Benny's friend
5. D) to the barbershop
6. B) Michael returned quickly.
7. A) keep it on his desk
8. C) angry
9. B) happy.
10. C) a ball
11. B) pulled.
12. A) wood
13. D) nonfiction.
14. B) he had Andre do things that seals have always done.
15. D) proud
16. B) She could build the best spiderwebs.
17. D) unmoving
18. D) wind.
19. C) Spiders can get used to making webs while in space.
20. C) making.
21. A) without.
22. B) overcome.
23. C) three days
24. D) how Arabella got used to living in space