

“The 20”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

It is Levi’s birthday.
He has a party at home with his family.
Everyone sings, “Happy Birthday!”

Levi has nine candles on his cake. He blows them out. He opens his presents.
Levi’s mother and father give him a bicycle.
Levi’s little sister gives him a game.
Levi’s uncle gives him a baseball jersey.
Levi’s grandma and grandpa give him 20 dollars!

“Thank you!” he yells to everyone.

Levi is excited. He likes all his presents.
He likes the 20 dollars best.
It means he can go to the store. He can buy anything he wants!

“Can we go to the store now, Mom?” asks Levi.
Mom frowns. “Levi, your guests are still here. I will take you to the store tomorrow.”

That night, Levi dreams of all the things he might buy with his 20 dollars.

Maybe I will buy a video game!
Maybe I will buy a guitar!
Maybe I will buy a camera!
Maybe I will buy a tool kit!

In the morning, Mom takes Levi and his little sister to the store.

“Will you buy me something, too?” asks Levi’s little sister.
“Maybe,” Levi says. He runs to look around the store.

Ugh!
The guitar costs more than 20 dollars.
The video game costs more than 20 dollars.
The camera costs more than 20 dollars.
The tool kit costs 12 dollars.
Levi buys the tool kit.

He buys his little sister a key chain.
He buys his mom a pack of gum.

“You are a sweet boy,” Levi’s mom tells him.



Questions:

1) Who is at Levi's party?

- I. his parents
 - II. his friends
 - III. his teachers
- A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III

2) How old is Levi?

- A. 9
B. 10
C. 11
D. 12

3) What does Levi's sister give him?

- A. a baseball jersey
B. a bike
C. a game
D. money

4) How does Levi feel about his presents?

- I. He likes all of them.
 - II. He likes the money best.
 - III. He likes the game least.
- A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III

5) Levi dreams about buying a

- A. bike
B. camera
C. key chain
D. baseball jersey

6) Levi's mom frowns at Levi because he

- A. is mean to his sister.
B. asks for more money.
C. does not thank everyone for his gifts.
D. wants to go to the store during the party.

7) When Levi goes to the store, it is

- A. morning
B. afternoon
C. evening
D. night

8) Levi doesn't know that

- A. he has received many presents
B. his baseball jersey is too big
C. most things he wants cost more than 20 dollars
D. his sister has more money than he does
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Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

At the beginning, the story says, "It is Levi's birthday. He has a party at home with his family." The story also says, "Levi's mother and father give him a bicycle." Since Levi's family was at the party and his parents give him a present, we can understand from this information that Levi's parents were at the party. This supports **option (I)**. The party was with Levi's family, and not with other people like his friends. This eliminates **option (II)**. Since only Levi's family was there, his teachers were not there. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(A)** is the correct answer.

2) **A**

Near the beginning, the story says, "Levi has nine candles on his cake." Since the number of candles on a birthday cake is the same as the age of the birthday person, we know that Levi is 9 years old. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)** and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect. Levi buys a tool kit that costs 12 dollars, but he is 9 years old, not 12. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

3) **C**

Near the beginning, the story says, "Levi's little sister gives him a game." Therefore **(C)** is correct. Levi's uncle gives him the baseball jersey. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Near the beginning, the story says, "Levi's mother and father give him a bicycle." His sister does not give him the bike. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Levi's grandma and grandpa give him 20 dollars, which is money. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

4) **B**

Near the middle of the story, it says, "Levi is excited. He likes all his presents." This supports **option (I)**. The story also says, "He likes the 20 dollars best." This supports **option (II)**. The story does not say that Levi didn't like any of the presents. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is the correct answer.

5) **B**

In the middle of the story, Levi dreams of what he could buy with the 20 dollars. Levi thinks, "Maybe I will buy a camera!" Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Levi does not think of buying a bike. Levi's parents give him a bike as a gift. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Near the end of the story, Levi buys his sister a key chain. However, Levi did not dream of buying the key chain. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Levi's uncle gave him the baseball jersey. Levi did not dream of buying it. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

6) **D**

In the middle of the story, we learn that Levi likes the 20 dollars best because he "can buy anything he wants." Although the party is still going on, he asks his mother, "Can we go to the store now, Mom?" Then, "Mom frowns. 'Levi, your guests are still here. I will take you to the store tomorrow.'" We can understand from this information that the reason Levi's mom frowned was

because Levi asked to go to the store during his party. It would be rude to go while the guests were still there. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)** and **(B)**. Therefore they are incorrect. After Levi opens his gifts he yells, "Thank you!" to everyone. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

7) **A**

In the middle, the story says, "In the morning, Mom takes Levi and his little sister to the store." Therefore **(A)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

8) **C**

In the middle of the story, Levi dreams of what he can buy with the 20 dollars. When Levi got to the store, he discovered, "The guitar costs more than 20 dollars. The video game costs more than 20 dollars. The camera costs more than 20 dollars." Only the tool kit cost less than 20 dollars. We can understand from this information that most of the things Levi wants to buy cost more than 20 dollars. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Since Levi yells "Thank you!", he must know he has received many presents. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(B)** or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

9) **B**

In the middle, the story says, "In the morning, Mom takes Levi and his little sister to the store." This means Levi goes to the store with his sister. This supports **option (I)**. This also means that Levi goes to the store with his mother. This supports **option (II)**. The story does not tell us that Levi goes to the store with his uncle. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

10) **D**

Near the end, the story says, "Levi buys the tool kit." This means Levi buys himself a tool kit. Therefore **(D)** is the correct answer. Levi buys the pack of gum for his mom. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Levi buys a key chain for his little sister. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. The guitar costs more than 20 dollars, so Levi cannot buy it. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

11) **B**

Levi buys himself the tool kit that costs 12 dollars. At the end of the story, it says, "he buys his little sister a key chain. He buys his mom a pack of gum." Therefore **(B)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

12) **D**

Near the end of the story, Levi "buys his little sister a key chain. He buys his mom a pack of gum." Then Levi's mother says, "You are a sweet boy." We can understand from this that Levi's mother calls him a sweet boy because he spent his birthday money on his mother and his sister. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.