

“Vet Emergency!”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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



It is 10:00 on a Saturday night. The doors to the animal emergency room fly open.

Cyrus carries a tiny, black lab puppy into the building.

"Save him. Please!" cries Cyrus. "He ran out into the street and got hit by a car."

The puppy is whining. There is a lot of blood.

Dr. Williams comes from behind the desk. She reads the puppy's name tag.

"Here, let me take Lobo from you," Dr. Williams tells Cyrus gently. "I will take him in the back for x-rays and see what needs to be done."

When Dr. Williams gets to the back, she takes a closer look at Lobo. Her face is **grim**. She can see the dog's leg is broken badly. She fears there is other damage she cannot see.

The assistants in the room are silent. Everyone knows that Lobo may not survive. If he does survive, his leg injury may be so **severe** that walking will be hard for him to do.

The x-rays show that Lobo's front leg has been broken in three places. He is also bleeding inside.

Dr. Williams gets to work. She knows she must stop the bleeding quickly.

The surgery takes just under two hours. Dr. Williams fixes the damage to Lobo's leg. She stops the bleeding inside his chest.

"I will go tell Lobo's owner that this little pup is going to make it," Dr. Williams says. "We'll see in a few weeks how well he will walk again."

Questions:

1) The story takes place in a(n)

- A. police station
- B. waiting room
- C. doctor's office
- D. animal hospital

2) What does the mood in the room seem to be?

- A. angry
- B. joyful
- C. relaxed
- D. tense

Questions (continued):

3) Dr. Williams knows just how badly Lobo has been hurt when

- A. Cyrus asks for help
- B. she takes a closer look
- C. she sees Lobo is a lab puppy
- D. she looks at the x-rays

4) Around what time did Lobo's surgery end?

- A. 10:00 at night
- B. 10:00 in the morning
- C. noon
- D. midnight

5) As used in the middle of the story, which is the best synonym for **grim**?

- A. calm
- B. serious
- C. hopeful
- D. pleasant

6) For about how long is Lobo in surgery?

- A. 45 minutes
- B. 1 hour, 30 minutes
- C. 1 hour, 50 minutes
- D. 2 hours, 15 minutes

7) Dr. Williams is a(n)

- A. pediatrician
- B. dentist
- C. internist
- D. veterinarian

8) To have a **severe** injury means to

- A. have a mild injury
- B. have a lot of pain
- C. not be able to walk
- D. have a very bad injury

9) In how many places was Lobo's leg broken?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

10) What does the reader know about Lobo by the end of the story?

- I. He will survive.
 - II. He is a black lab.
 - III. He will walk fine.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

How do you think Cyrus will react when Dr. Williams tells him about Lobo? Why?

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

At the beginning, the story says, "It is 10:00 on a Saturday night. The doors to the animal emergency room fly open." Animal emergency rooms are in animal hospitals. Since the story starts in the animal emergency room, we can understand that the story takes place in an animal hospital. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

There is no police station mentioned in the story. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Animal hospitals do have waiting rooms. However, the puppy has surgery in the story, and surgery does not take place in the waiting room. This means the story does not take place in the waiting room. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Animals are not treated in doctor's offices. Since Lobo is a puppy, Lobo is treated in an animal hospital, not a doctor's office. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

2) **D**

At the beginning of the story, Cyrus brings the puppy in and cries out for Dr. Williams to save him. When Dr. Williams takes a look at Lobo, her face is "grim." The assistants are silent. Everyone is worried about Lobo. We can understand from this information that everyone in the room is scared for Lobo and no one knows what will happen to the puppy. *Tense* means in a state of suspense or nervous tension. Since everyone in the story is in suspense wondering what will happen to Lobo, the mood of the room is tense. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Everyone is worried about Lobo, but no one does anything that makes us think he or she is angry. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. To be *joyful* is to be happy and feel good. No one feels happy, because Lobo is badly hurt. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. To feel *relaxed* is to feel at ease. Everyone is worried, so no one feels at ease. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

3) **D**

In the middle of the story, Dr. Williams takes a look at Lobo. The story says, "She can see the dog's leg is broken badly. She fears there is other damage she cannot see." Then Dr. Williams looks at the x-rays. "The x-rays show that Lobo's front leg has been broken in three places. He is also bleeding inside." We can understand from this information that Dr. Williams knew how badly the puppy's leg was broken and knew for sure that the puppy was bleeding inside after she looked at the x-rays. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

When Cyrus first asks for help, Dr. Williams has not looked at the puppy at all. She could not have known at that time how badly Lobo was hurt. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. When Dr. Williams takes a closer look, she knows the dog's leg is broken, and she is afraid that there is more damage. However, she is not sure that the dog is bleeding inside until after she looks at the x-rays. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Dr. Williams sees that Lobo is a black lab before she has a chance to take a look at his injuries. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

4) **D**

At the beginning, the story says, "It is 10:00 on a Saturday night." Near the end, the story says, "The surgery takes just under two hours." Since the story starts at 10:00 at night and the surgery takes just under two hours, the surgery ends around midnight. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The story begins at 10:00 at night, but the surgery isn't done until two hours later. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story happens at night, not in the morning. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. The surgery did not end at noon, because the story happens at night. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

5) **B**

grim (*adjective*): dismal or gloomy; stern; resolute.

In the middle, the story says, "When Dr. Williams gets to the back, she takes a closer look at Lobo. Her face looks grim. She can see the dog's leg is broken badly. She fears there is other damage she cannot see." This information tells us that Dr. Williams knows that the dog is badly hurt and is afraid for the dog. Since Dr. Williams knows that the dog is hurt, her face must look stern and gloomy. We can understand from this information that *grim* means stern and gloomy. Something *serious* is earnest or so important it causes anxiety. *Serious* a good synonym for *grim*. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Calm means still, serene or not excited. While Dr. Williams was not excited by the condition of the dog, it is unlikely her face would look serene because she felt anxious for the dog. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Something *hopeful* is optimistic or promising. Since Dr. Williams is afraid that the dog is badly hurt, her face would not look optimistic. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. *Pleasant* means giving a sense of happy satisfaction. Since Dr. Williams is so worried about the puppy, the look on her face is probably not one of happy satisfaction. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

6) **C**

Near the end, the story says, "The surgery takes just under two hours." 1 hour, 50 minutes is only 10 minutes less than two hours. This is just a little less than two hours. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

45 minutes is less than 1 hour, so it is not even close to 2 hours. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. 1 hour, 30 minutes is in between 1 and 2 hours, so it is not just under two hours. Therefore **(B)** is not the best choice. 2 hours, 15 minutes is over 2 hours, not just under 2 hours. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

7) **D**

A *veterinarian* is a doctor that takes medical care of animals. Since Dr. Williams treated Lobo, and Lobo is an animal, Dr. Williams is a veterinarian. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

A *pediatrician* takes care of children. Dr. Williams takes care of animals, not children. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. A *dentist* takes care of people's teeth. Dr. Williams takes care of animals, not people's teeth. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

An *internist* is a doctor that specializes in human internal medicine. Since Dr. Williams treats animals, she is not an internist. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

- 8) **D**
severe (*adjective*): very serious; harsh or strict.

Lobo is badly hurt. No one knows if he will even survive. In the middle, the story says, "If he does survive, his leg injury may be so severe that walking will be hard for him to do." Since the injury might make walking hard for Lobo because the injury is severe, *severe* means very serious. To have a very serious injury is to have a very bad injury. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Mild means gentle or moderate. If Lobo had a mild injury, it wouldn't make him unable to walk, or even possibly die. This means having a mild injury is the opposite of having a severe injury. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Although a severe injury might cause a lot of pain, severe means very serious, not very painful. Other things besides a severe injury could cause a lot of pain, such as an illness. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. The word severe tells us how bad the injury is. It does not tell us what type of injury it is. We know that the injury might affect Lobo's ability to walk because it is a leg injury. A severe injury does not necessarily affect the ability to walk. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

- 9) **C**
In the middle, the story says, "The x-rays show that Lobo's front leg has been broken in three places." Lobo's leg was broken in 3 places. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)** or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

- 10) **B**
At the end of the story, Dr. Williams says, "I will go tell Lobo's owner that this little pup is going to make it[.]" We can understand from this sentence that Lobo will survive. This supports **option (I)**. Near the beginning, the story says, "Cyrus carries a tiny black lab puppy into the building." We can understand from this information that Lobo is a black lab. This supports **option (II)**. At the end of the story, Dr. Williams says, "We'll see in a few weeks how well he will walk again." We can understand from this sentence that Lobo may or may not walk fine. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is the correct answer.