

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

Weekly Test Lesson 24

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Ahmed and the Hakim Kids

“Hi, Mom,” I called as I walked in the back door. My shoes, once crisp and white, were covered with mud from playing touch football in the park, so I took them off and left them on the mat. As I entered the kitchen in my socks, I couldn’t resist running a few steps and sliding across the room.

“Ahmed, I’m going to need your help this afternoon because we’re going to be having some overnight visitors.” Mom was sitting at the kitchen table, assembling a list. She added some more items to the grocery list. I knew this meant I’d be washing sheets and vacuuming floors for a while, but at least Mom wouldn’t make me clean my own room as well; she’d just make me keep my door closed.

“Who’s coming?” I asked.

“Mr. and Mrs. Hakim are going out for the evening, and they asked if we could babysit Nadia and Rabbie.”

My stomach instantly had a sinking feeling. Nadia and Rabbie Hakim were six and eight years old, and both were bundles of energy. I did not like the idea of having to entertain a couple of little kids all night. “Please tell me they’ll stay out of my room,” I said, dreading the thought of a couple hours of additional cleaning time.

Mom looked at me with an amused little smile. “They’re going to stay in the guest room. I want you to get a box of your old toys out of the attic for them to play with.”

I did my chores as quickly as possible while my mom went grocery shopping. When the Hakim kids arrived, I reluctantly came out of my room to greet them. “Hi, guys,” I said, a bit uncomfortably.

Nadia and Rabbie, however, were not the slightest bit uncomfortable. “Hi, Ahmed! We came over to play!” said Rabbie, his smile a mile wide, while Nadia ran up and gave me a huge bear hug.

I had to smile in spite of myself as I hugged Nadia and high-fived Rabbie. I’d met the Hakim kids only a couple of times and wasn’t sure they’d even remember me. They chattered on for the next half hour as they put their things in the guest room, exclaimed over my old toys, and finally sat down to eat dinner.

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Mom had actually planned enough activities to keep the kids busy all evening, and I realized I could go and hang out in my room if I wanted to. “I’ll go in a few minutes,” I kept telling myself. But I had to stay and play for a little while longer because I didn’t want to disappoint the kids, right? Soon, I got caught up making brownies and building a fort out of chairs and blankets and was even persuaded to braid Nadia’s hair. I did a terrible job of it, and the three of us ended up laughing and giggling until our stomachs hurt.

When it was time for the kids to go to bed, they insisted that I tell them a bedtime story. I thought for a minute, and then made up one about beautiful Princess Nadia and brave Prince Rabbie, who lived in the land of Hakimia and had a pet dragon named Ahmed, who flew them all over the world on his back.

“One day,” I said, “the royal hairdresser gave Princess Nadia a very ugly hairdo. Princess Nadia was terribly upset, so Ahmed the Dragon whacked the royal hairdresser with his mighty tail, making him as flat as a pancake and sending him flying through the air, over the hills, and out of sight. The royal hairdresser was never heard from again.” The kids loved that story so much that they begged me to tell it again and again.

Still, I think I must have tired out the kids pretty well, and they were soon fast asleep. After that, I collapsed on the couch, realizing that I was quite tired myself. Mom came into the living room and sat down beside me. She put an arm around me, kissed the top of my head, and whispered, “I’m very proud of you.”

“Aw, Mom,” I said squirming. I must have turned as pink as a rose.

“You know,” she went on, “you might want to think about doing this on a regular basis. I’m sure you could use the extra money.”

I hadn’t thought about getting paid for playing with kids! It had been a tough night, but it had been a lot of fun, too, so I smiled and said, “I’ll think about it!”

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1 Read the sentences from the text.

Mom was sitting at the kitchen table, assembling a list. She added some more items to the grocery list.

What does the word assembling mean as it is used in the text?

- (A) reading over
- (B) putting together
- (C) thinking about the groceries she needs
- (D) thinking about activities the children might like

2 Read the paragraph from the text.

Nadia and Rabbie, however, were not the slightest bit uncomfortable. “Hi, Ahmed! We came over to play!” said Rabbie, his smile a mile wide, while Nadia ran up and gave me a huge bear hug.

Explain what the underlined phrases show about the characters. Use details from the passage to support your answer.

3 Read the sentences from the text.

She put an arm around me, kissed the top of my head, and whispered, “I’m very proud of you.”

“Aw, Mom,” I said squirming. I must have turned as pink as a rose.

What does as pink as a rose mean?

- (A) Ahmed looked as pretty as a rose.
- (B) Ahmed was angry with his mother.
- (C) Ahmed turned and gave his mother a rose.
- (D) Ahmed was embarrassed by his mother’s praise.

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- 4 How did an evening with the Hakim kids affect Ahmed?
- (A) He was glad they did not go into his room.
 - (B) He was considering becoming a babysitter.
 - (C) He was relieved when the kids finally went to bed.
 - (D) He was looking forward to being paid for watching them.

5 Mark the boxes to match each cause with its effect.

	She wanted to keep the Hakim kids busy.	They are expecting overnight visitors.	Ahmed did a good job with the Hakim kids.
Mom said she needs Ahmed's help because . . .			
Mom planned activities because . . .			
Mom said she is proud because . . .			

6 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

From whose point of view is the text told?

- (A) Mom's
- (B) Ahmed's
- (C) Nadia and Rabbie's
- (D) an unknown narrator's

Part B

What detail **best** supports the answer to part A?

- (A) Readers know how much Nadia and Rabbie like Ahmed.
- (B) Readers know Ahmed's thoughts and feelings about the night.
- (C) Readers know how Mom feels about watching the Hakim kids.
- (D) Readers know all the characters' thoughts and feelings about the night.

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Writing

- 7 James is editing his essay about test taking. Read this paragraph from his essay.

Sometimes students are unable to finish a test within the time limit. This can certainly be dissscouraging, but it is a common mistake. The best way to avoid this problem is to go through the test and answer the easy questions first. Then if the time is up and your test is still incomplete, at least you answered the questions you were sure of.

Which of the underlined words contains a spelling error?

- (A) unable
 - (B) dissscouraging
 - (C) mistake
 - (D) incomplete
- 8 Which sentence contains an error in grammar usage?
- (A) Nolan thought the game was the worst one he'd ever seen.
 - (B) I thought the second cake we tried was the better one.
 - (C) By late afternoon, the storm was worser than ever.
 - (D) In math class today, Maddie got the best grade.
- 9 Which sentence contains an error in grammar usage?
- (A) She thought the orange cat was the prettiest one from the litter of six cats.
 - (B) Her software program was oldest than my software program.
 - (C) It was colder today than it was yesterday.
 - (D) Caroline is older than her brother, Ryan.
- 10 Read the story. Underline the **two** words that are used incorrectly.

Dad said to Mom, "Of the many times you've made spaghetti, this is the better spaghetti you've ever made."

My brother said, "I like it when you make it thinnest than this. Sorry, Mom!"

"Well," my sister said, "I'm happiest when we're all having dinner together! These nights are my best memories!"