The Very Bad Day

As I sit on the couch after eating an incredible dinner that my dad made, I start to think back over my day.

I woke up this morning to the sound of my dad’s voice hollering up the stairs to get up. Oblivious to the sound of my alarm going off, I had overslept and was going to be terribly late. I really should have known it would be a bad day from the start. I was already late before my feet even hit the floor. So I threw on my clothes and ran down the stairs as fast as I could. Needing something wonderful for breakfast to turn my day around, I was disappointed by a soggy bowl of Wheat Squares, my least favorite cereal.

“Dad, it’s gross. You eat it.”

He grimaced. He didn’t like Wheat Squares either.

“They’re too sweet for me,” he said. “And I’m not the one who is late for school.”

“How about eggs?”

“Manya, you don’t have time for anything else,” he replied. “Hurry and eat and then let’s go!”

I shoved down a couple bites of cereal and sprinted to the car. I got to school late, of course, and had to walk in front of the entire class to get to my seat. I sat down, relieved in advance that my best friend would be waiting in the next row over. I flopped my backpack down, pulled out my books, and glanced over to see her. What I saw instead was an empty chair. She was out sick—great. This was the perfect combination of circumstances for a very bad day.

After school I dropped my backpack in a huge mud puddle. I was picking it up and trying to dry it off when my bus flew by. My bus! I had missed it by mere seconds. So I walked home … the last thing I wanted to do.

I walked in the door and fell onto the couch, exhausted and dejected. I had enough of this day. Just then, my dad rounded the corner with a big grin.
“Guess what is for dinner tonight?”

“I couldn’t guess if I tried, Dad. It has been a wretched day.”

“Well this should turn things around. I made your favorite—chicken with macaroni and cheese. I also made your favorite chocolate mousse for dessert!”

“Dad, you may have the power to turn a bad day into a good day after all!”

So I have just stuffed myself on my dad’s stupendous cooking. I’m realizing that maybe the day wasn’t so rotten after all. Maybe it was just my reaction to the things that happened. My best friend calls and we talk and talk about my very bad day. She is feeling better and will be back at school tomorrow. What a relief! And now I know that my very bad day wasn’t so bad after all.

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

Part A
From whose point of view is the passage told?

A. Manya’s best friend
B. Manya’s teacher
C. Manya’s father
D. Manya

Part B
Read the sentences from the passage. Underline the two sentences that best support the answer to part A.

He grimaced. He didn’t like Wheat Squares either.

“They’re too sweet for me, he said. “And I’m not the one who is late for school.”

“How about eggs?”

“Manya, you don’t have time for anything else,” he replied. “Hurry and eat and then let’s go!”

I shoved down a couple bites of cereal and sprinted to the car.
Which event caused Manya’s day to improve?

A. missing the bus  
B. sprinting to the car  
C. seeing her friend at school  
D. eating chicken with macaroni and cheese

Read the sentence from the passage.

Needing something wonderful for breakfast to turn my day around, I was disappointed by a soggy bowl of Wheat Squares, my least favorite cereal.

What is the best definition of the word disappointed as it is used in the passage?

A. upset  
B. excited  
C. thrilled  
D. surprised

What caused the beginning of Manya’s bad day?

A. She woke up late.  
B. She lost her backpack.  
C. She couldn’t find her shoes.  
D. She forgot to brush her teeth.

Which of the following shows how Manya’s attitude changes throughout the day?

A. In the beginning and the end, Manya is having a bad day.  
B. In the beginning, Manya is convinced it is a terrible day. At the end, she isn’t so sure.  
C. In the beginning, Manya is having a great day. At the end, she is having a terrible day.  
D. In the beginning, Manya can’t wait to see her friend, but at the end, she is ready to go home.
Which details in the passage tell you that a flashback is part of the passage? Why has the author included the flashback? Support your answer with details from the story.

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Which sentence contains a spelling error?

- But today, he is going to fly!
- He is very excited and a little scared.
- Jessie has never been on a plane before.
- Last year, he rode a trane for the first time.

Which sentence has an error in grammar usage?

- The large boat.
- The car was blue.
- The skateboard skidded.
- The bicycle had a flat tire.

Read the sentences. Underline the sentence that contains an error in grammar usage.

Dad’s blue car made a funny noise. It groaned. It hiccupped. Started smoking. Then it stopped. This was going to be a long day.

Jeb wrote a paragraph about his pet hamster. Read the paragraph and then complete the task that follows.

My pet hamster is named Tony. He is small and brown. He lives in a cage. The cage is in my room. He likes to play and eat vegetables.

Rewrite the paragraph and add more details to help a reader picture the hamster and his cage.