

A MODERN FABLE

Multiple Choice Comprehension Questions

(Hey, the story wasn't very long, so neither is the worksheet.)

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1. How big is Oscar Glompers?
 - A. He is large and weighs around 250 pounds.
 - B. He is extremely large and weighs between 300-350 pounds.
 - C. He is enormous and weighs 500-700 pounds.
 - D. He is impossibly large and his weight is obviously exaggerated.

2. The P.E. teacher was not happy when he had to stay past midnight so Oscar could finish the quarter-mile run. Let's say Oscar started at 1:30 (in the afternoon, of course) and finished at 12:30 AM. About how fast was he going during the quarter-mile run? (Yes, you can use a calculator.)
 - A. He was going about one mile per hour.
 - B. It was taking him a minute to go just two feet.
 - C. He was moving very slowly – about 10 yards a minute.
 - D. He wasn't very fast. He was going about 100 yards every half hour.

3. [*When Oscar was stuck in the tub, he*] needed more than a hand. He needed a **hydraulic lift**. What is the most likely meaning of **hydraulic lift**?
 - A. a strong hoist from a powerful person
 - B. an explosive that would blow him out of the tub
 - C. a medicine that would make Oscar less nervous and embarrassed
 - D. a machine that is used to raise cars in a garage so mechanics can work on them

4. Which is the most accurate description of Oscar's disposition?
 - A. He is talkative and playful.
 - B. He is gentle and rather sad.
 - C. He is resentful and full of anger.
 - D. He is discouraged, but optimistic about his future.

5. *Because he was so large, his world was very small.* What did the author probably mean by this statement?
 - A. Oscar didn't notice how big he really was.
 - B. Because he is so big, Oscar can take giant steps.
 - C. Because of Oscar's great size, he couldn't go very far.
 - D. Everyone looks very short to Oscar because of his size.

6. Why did the author most likely call the story *A Modern Fable*?
 - A. One of the characters is an animal, just like in *Aesop's Fables*.
 - B. It is clearly untrue even though it takes place in modern times.
 - C. It is a story that takes place in the future with very modern technology.
 - D. It is a story of a present-day man and there is a lesson to be learned from the story.

7. [*Oscar*] *continued to grow like the national debt*. The national debt is how much the United States government owes. How great is our national debt, as of December 2011? (Oh, take a guess. What's the worst that could happen?)

- A. around \$10 million (\$10,000,000)
- B. around \$500 million (\$500,000,000)
- C. around \$800 billion (\$800,000,000,000)
- D. around \$15 trillion (\$15,000,000,000,000)

8. [*Roy*] *had muscles where Oscar didn't know muscles even existed*. Like on his elbows and fingernails. This is a specific example of which literary device?

- A. alliteration
- B. hyperbole
- C. personification
- D. simile

9. Why would the conclusion of this story be considered so tragic?

- A. Oscar lost his closest companion.
- B. Oscar most likely would blame himself for this accident.
- C. Many people would laugh at Oscar for what happened.
- D. A, B, and C are all correct.

10. **Foreshadowing** is when the author provides hints to the reader as to what might happen later on in the story. (For example, if a gun is shown or mentioned early in the story, it usually will become important later on.) Three of the following items foreshadow Snookums' sad fate. One item does not. Choose the **three** examples of foreshadowing. (You must pick **all three** correctly to get credit.)

- A. Oscar fails in all his attempts to lose weight.
- B. A flattened bologna sandwich is found in the folds of Oscar's skin.
- C. The picture of Snookums lying on Oscar's stomach shows folds of skin nearby.
- D. The folds in Oscar's skin are mentioned twice when the story describes him playing with Snookums.