

Twelve Short Stories for Learners of English



EASY READING

for ESL Students

BOOK 1

by Johnny Bread



CANADIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

Easy Reading for ESL Students – Book 1 is a comprehensive reader designed especially for beginning and intermediate students of English as a Second Language. The book was developed and tested by full-time teachers of English.

There are twelve short stories. Each story is designed to engage students in a well-rounded language learning experience. There are comprehension, vocabulary, speaking, and writing exercises following each story.

The stories are entertaining and have plot twists and surprise endings. Teachers of English as a Second Language will enjoy using them to engage students on a wide range of topics and interests.

The stories are short (260 – 460 words). Each story and its exercises can be completed in 60 minutes.

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THE SHAMAN



“Laura, I’m very frustrated,” Mary says to her friend. “I’m thirty-five years old, and I’m still single. I want to find a husband, but I can’t. I have to do something, but I don’t know what.”

“Go to the Indian reservation,” Laura says. “There is a shaman there. He can help you.”

“A shaman? Are you joking?” Mary shouts. “I can’t go to the Indian reservation. I don’t want to go to the Indian reservation.”

Six months later Mary drives to the Indian reservation. She wants to see the shaman.

“Looking for a husband?” the shaman asks.

“How do you know that?” Mary is surprised.

“I’m a shaman. I know a lot of things.”

“Can you help me?” Mary asks.

“Yes, I can.”

“What do I have to do?” Mary asks. She is happy.

The shaman gives her a small statue of a young man and says, “Touch his head and say three times, ‘Give me the power to find you.’”

Mary touches the head of the statue and says, "Give me the power to find you. Give me the power to find you. Give me the power to find you."

"Take the statue with you," the shaman says. "You have to do this every morning."

"Thank you very much," Mary says. "Good bye."

"Wait!" the shaman calls. "It costs \$1,000."

Mary gives the shaman the money and drives away.

Mary gets up every morning, touches the head of the statue and says, "Give me the power to find you. Give me the power to find you. Give me the power to find you."

A year later Mary gets up. She still doesn't have a husband. She is angry. This time she says, "The shaman is a big liar." Then she takes the statue and throws it out of the window.

She hears a scream. She goes to the window and looks down. There is a man lying on the ground. He is not moving. His head is bleeding.

Mary takes the man to the hospital. He has to stay there for a week. She visits him every day. "I am sorry," she says." They talk and talk. Mary likes the man, and he likes her. Six months later they get married.

"The shaman is very good," Mary says to her friend Laura. "Thank you."

Notes

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Mary is frustrated because she _____.
 - a. doesn't have a job
 - b. doesn't have a friend
 - c. doesn't have a husband

2. Laura tells her to _____.
 - a. go to see a psychologist
 - b. go to see a shaman
 - c. go on vacation

3. The shaman gives Mary _____.
 - a. a small statue
 - b. medicine
 - c. \$1,000

4. Mary has to touch the statue and say, "_____."
 - a. I don't want to be alone
 - b. Give me the power to find you
 - c. I want to find a husband

5. A year later, Mary throws the statue _____.
 - a. in the fireplace
 - b. in the wastebasket
 - c. out of the window

6. Mary takes the man _____.
 - a. to the hospital
 - b. to a restaurant
 - c. on vacation

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

bleeding	throws	statue	frustrated
liar	scream	joking	single

1. Mary doesn't feel good. She has a problem. She is frustrated.
2. Mary doesn't have a husband. She lives alone. She is _____.
3. When people try to make others laugh, we can say that they are _____.
4. A three-dimensional art work is sometimes called a _____.
5. Someone who doesn't tell the truth is a _____.
6. Mary is very angry. She _____ the statue out of the window.
7. Mary hears a _____. She looks out the window. Someone is hurt.
8. The man is hurt. He is lying on the ground and he is _____.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

looking for	get married
drives away	Indian reservation

1. Some Native Americans live on an _____.
2. Mary is _____ a husband.
3. Mary pays the shaman and _____.
4. Mary and the man want to live together and have a family. They _____.

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using them.

VI. Answer the question in full sentences.

1. Why is Mary frustrated?
2. What does Laura advise her to do?
3. Does Mary want to go to the Indian reservation?
4. How long does it take her before she goes there?
5. What does the shaman give her?
6. What does she have to do?
7. Does it work?
8. What does Mary do a year later?
9. What happens?

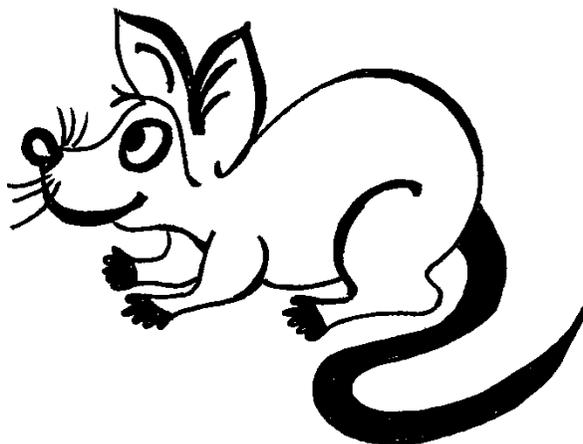
VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

YANEK AND MARIA



Yanek and Maria are happy. They are getting married, and they are going to Egypt on their honeymoon. The problem is that they don't speak English. Yanek has an idea. He finds a one-month English course. They are lucky. They have a good teacher.

"I have some good advice for you," the teacher says to his students. "If you don't know an English word, refer to something everybody knows. For example, if you want to speak about love, and you don't know the word, say Romeo and Juliet."

Six weeks later Yanek and Maria arrive in Egypt. They are very happy. The hotel is very nice. They swim in the sea and relax on the beach. Their first day is fantastic.

In the middle of the night Maria wakes up. She hears a noise in the bathroom. She gets up and goes to see what it is. She turns on the light and starts yelling, "Wake up, Yanek! Wake up and call the front desk. There is a mouse in the bathroom."

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Yanek and Maria are going on _____.
 - a. a business trip
 - b. their honeymoon
 - c. a cruise

2. They are worried because they _____.
 - a. don't have money
 - b. don't have much time
 - c. don't speak English

3. Yanek has an idea. He finds _____.
 - a. some money
 - b. a good dictionary
 - c. an English course

4. Maria wakes up at night because _____.
 - a. there is a noise in the bathroom
 - b. the people next door are having a party
 - c. Yanek is snoring

5. Maria goes to the bathroom. There is a _____.
 - a. man
 - b. mouse
 - c. mess

6. Yanek calls _____.
 - a. the front desk clerk
 - b. the hotel manger
 - c. the police

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

cartoon	yelling	honeymoon	clerk
idea	refer	advice	lucky

1. Yanek and Maria are going to Egypt on their honeymoon.
2. They have a problem, but Yanek knows what to do. He has an _____.
3. They study English. They are _____. They have a good teacher.
4. The teacher is smart. He gives them some good _____.
5. He advises them to _____ to something everybody knows if they don't know an English word.
6. Maria goes to the bathroom. She sees a mouse. She starts _____.
7. Yanek gets up. He picks up the phone and calls the front desk. He wants to speak to the _____.
8. The clerk knows Tom and Jerry. The clerk's children watch that _____.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

wake up	in the middle
gets up	turns on

1. Maria wakes up _____ of the night.
2. She hears a noise. She _____ and goes into the bathroom.
3. She _____ the light.
4. She starts yelling, “ _____, Yanek!”

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using these expressions.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Why are Yanek and Maria happy?
2. What problem do they have before their trip?
3. Yanek has an idea. What is his idea?
4. What does their English teacher advise them to do?
5. How is their first day in Egypt?
6. What happens in the middle of the night?
7. What does Maria want Yanek to do?
8. What is Yanek's problem?
9. What does Maria do?

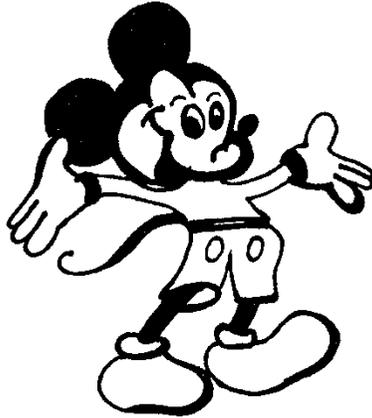
VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

1,500 MILES TO DISNEY WORLD



Richard is six years old. He lives in Montreal, Canada with his mother. One day he says, "Mom, take me to Disney World, please. I want to see the real Mickey Mouse."

"We don't have money for that, Richie," his mother answers. "Maybe next year."

They have the same conversation the next year and the next year and the next.

"Mom is not going to take me there," Richard says to his friends when he is twelve years old. "I'm going to Disney World alone."

Disney World in Orlando, Florida is 1,500 miles away. Richard starts saving money. He wants to buy a motorcycle to go to Disney world.

The years go by. Richard is twenty-one years old today, and he is in a club with his friends. And what about his dream? His dream is still alive. He still wants to go to Disney World. He has \$3,520 in his bank account.

Richard meets a girl in the club. Her name is Nancy. He likes her, and she likes him. They talk, laugh and dance together. They have a good time.

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Richards wants to go to _____.
 - a. Montreal
 - b. Los Angeles
 - c. Orlando

2. He wants to _____.
 - a. travel by train
 - b. ride a motorcycle
 - c. take a plane

3. Richard lives in _____.
 - a. the USA
 - b. Canada
 - c. France

4. Richard meets Nancy _____.
 - a. in a club
 - b. at school
 - c. during his vacation

5. Richard goes to Disney World _____.
 - a. with his friends
 - b. alone
 - c. with Nancy

6. The trip to Orlando takes them _____.
 - a. five days
 - b. one day
 - c. three days

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

still	alive	real	during
maybe	saving	same	silly

1. Richard wants to go to Disney World. He wants to see the real Mickey Mouse.
2. Richard's mother is not sure she can take Richard to Disney World. She says, "_____ next year."
3. They have the _____ conversation every year.
4. Richard wants to buy a motorcycle. He is _____ money.
5. The years go by. Richard is twenty-one years old today, but he _____ wants to go to Disney World.
6. Richard dreams about going to Disney World for years. His dream is still _____.
7. Richard and Nancy talk _____ their dance.
8. Nancy doesn't want to talk about her dream. She thinks that her dream is _____.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

dream comes true	having a good time
are joking	what about

1. Richard is twenty-one years old today. And _____ his dream?
2. Richard and Nancy talk, laugh and dance. They are _____.
3. Richard and Nancy say funny things and they laugh. They _____.
4. Nancy and Richard arrive at Disney World. Their _____.

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using these expressions.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. How old is Richard at the beginning of the story?
2. Where does he live?
3. Who does he live with?
4. Where does he want to go?
5. Why can't his mother take him there?
6. What does Richard decide to do?
7. Who does he meet in the club?
8. What dream does Nancy have?
9. How does Richard and Nancy's dream come true?

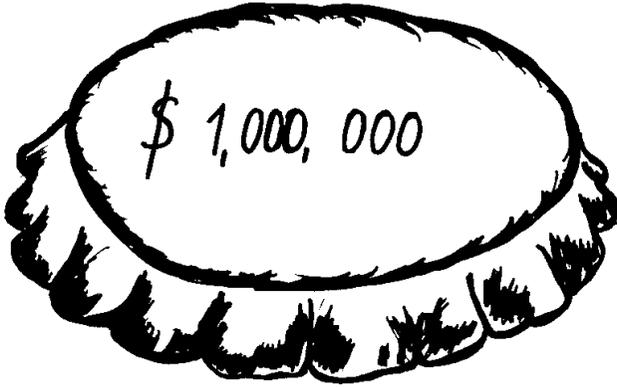
VII. Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

THE MILLION DOLLAR CAP



Johnny Ross lived with his parents in a noisy old apartment building in Chicago. Johnny's parents dreamed about buying a house, but they didn't have enough money to buy one. Johnny loved his parents very much. He wanted to do something for them, but he was only ten years old.

One day Johnny saw an interesting commercial on TV. "Buy a bottle of California Orange Juice and win \$1,000,000," a woman on TV said. "It's easy. Find the cap with a picture of an orange on it, and you are the winner."

"Cool," Johnny thought. He went to see his mom. She was cooking in the kitchen.

"Mom, can you give me three dollars, please," Johnny asked. "I have to buy something for my school project."

His mother gave him three dollars, and he ran to the store. "Good morning, Mr. Lee," he said to the clerk. "Do you have California Orange Juice?"

"Yes, I do," Mr. Lee answered. "They brought it yesterday. Do you want to win the big prize?"

“Give me three bottles, please,” Johnny said. He opened the first bottle and looked at the cap – nothing. He opened the second bottle – nothing. He opened the third bottle – nothing.

Johnny went back the next day, the next day and the next – nothing. He went there every day for a month to buy bottles of California Orange Juice. Sometimes he spent all his lunch money at the store, but he didn’t find the right cap.

One day Johnny saw a man at the store. The man also bought a bottle of California Orange Juice. He drank the juice at the store and threw the bottle and the cap in the garbage can. Johnny automatically looked at the cap. He was in shock. There was a picture of an orange on the cap.

“Wait a minute, sir,” Johnny called after the man showing him the cap. “You won \$1,000,000!”

“Oh really?” said the man and laughed. “You can keep it.” The man got into his truck and drove away. He evidently didn’t believe Johnny.

Johnny was an honest boy. He looked for the man at the store every day for three months. The man never came back.

Now Johnny lives in a beautiful house with his mother and father. He is not looking for the man anymore.

Notes

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Johnny lived in _____.
 - a. a house in Chicago
 - b. Los Angeles
 - c. an apartment in Chicago

2. His parents wanted to buy _____.
 - a. a big apartment
 - b. a house
 - c. a big car

3. Johnny wanted _____.
 - a. to win the big prize
 - b. to wash the dishes
 - c. to buy groceries

4. Johnny had to find _____.
 - a. a Californian beach
 - b. an orange
 - c. the cap with a picture of an orange

5. Johnny _____.
 - a. found the cap in the garbage can
 - b. got the cap from Mr. Lee
 - c. bought a bottle of juice with the cap

6. Johnny _____.
 - a. gave the cap to Mr. Lee
 - b. gave the cap back to the man
 - c. kept the cap and won the big prize

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

only	enough	interesting	winner
shock	commercial	evidently	anymore

1. Johnny's parents wanted to buy a house, but they didn't have enough money.
2. Johnny wanted to help his parents, but he was _____ ten years old.
3. One day Johnny saw a _____ on TV.
4. The commercial was very _____.
5. The person who finds the cap with a picture of an orange on it is the _____.
6. Johnny saw the cap with a picture of an orange on it. He was in _____.
7. The man _____ didn't believe Johnny.
8. Johnny looked for the man for a long time. Today he is not looking for him _____.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using these them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the verbs from the box below. Use the past tense.

keep – kept	win – won
throw – threw	think – thought

1. “I can win the big prize,” Johnny _____.
2. The man _____ the bottle into the garbage can.
3. The man didn’t want the cap. Johnny _____ the cap.
4. Johnny _____ the big prize. He was happy.

V. Choose two verbs from the box above and write a short paragraph using these verbs in the past tense.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Where did Johnny Ross live?
2. What did his parents dream about?
3. What did Johnny see on TV?
4. What did the woman in the commercial say?
5. What did Johnny do after he saw the commercial?
6. Did he find the winning cap on a bottle he bought?
7. Where did he find the winning cap?
8. Why didn't the man want the winning cap?
9. What did Johnny do with the money?

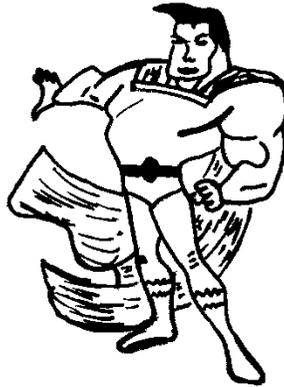
VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

THE TOY



It was December 25, 1978. Frank Kerry, a ten-year-old boy from Buffalo, was happy. It was Christmas, and for Frank it was the best time of the year.

Frank looked under the Christmas tree and saw a big box. His name was on it. He was excited. The present was from Uncle Myles, and Uncle Myles always brought good presents. He worked in Hollywood, and he was very generous.

“Can I open it, Uncle Myles?” Frank asked.

“Sure you can,” Uncle Myles answered smiling.

Frank opened the big box. There was another box in it. Uncle Myles was a joker. Frank opened the second box. There was another box in it. Frank opened the third box. In the third box he found a small toy, no bigger than his hand.

“Superman!” Frank shouted. “Thank you so much, Uncle Myles.”

That was thirty-five years ago.

Frank grew up. He didn’t play with toys anymore. He got married, and he had his own family. His son Jimmy studied at the university. Frank wanted to buy him a new computer for Christmas, but he didn’t have enough money for that.

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Frank lived in _____.
 - a. Hollywood
 - b. Buffalo
 - c. Los Angeles

2. Frank's favorite time was _____.
 - a. Halloween
 - b. Thanksgiving
 - c. Christmas

3. Uncle Miles worked in _____.
 - a. Hollywood
 - b. New York
 - c. Buffalo

4. Uncle Miles gave Frank a _____ toy.
 - a. Spiderman
 - b. Batman
 - c. Superman

5. Frank organized a _____.
 - a. garage sale
 - b. birthday party
 - c. trip to Hollywood

6. Frank sold the toy for _____.
 - a. \$100
 - b. \$500
 - c. \$5,000

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

toy	another	bigger	pointed
joker	a lot of	best	generous

1. Frank liked Halloween, but Christmas was the best time of the year for him.
2. Uncle Miles always brought nice presents. He was _____.
3. Frank opened the big box and found _____ box inside.
4. Uncle Miles liked to make jokes. He was a _____.
5. New York is _____ than Buffalo.
6. Superman was Frank's favorite _____.
7. Frank's son studied at the university. He needed _____ money.
8. The old man showed Frank what he wanted. He _____ at the Superman toy.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below. Use the past tense.

give up	garage sale
price is right	family treasure

1. When people sell old things from their house, they call it a _____.
2. When we have something valuable from our parents, it is a _____.
3. The man wanted the toy very much. He didn't want to _____.
4. Some people think that everything is for sale if the _____.

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using these expressions.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Where did Frank Kerry live?
2. How old was he at the beginning of the story?
3. Why was he happy?
4. What did he see under the Christmas tree?
5. Who brought him the present?
6. Why did Frank organize a garage sale?
7. Why didn't Frank want to sell the Superman toy?
8. Why did he sell it at the end?
9. How much money did the man make on the toy?

VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

THE CLEANING LADY



Barbara Burns grew up on a ranch in Montana. Her dream was to study at the university, but her parents needed her on the ranch. So she stayed on the ranch and worked hard every day. She took care of the horses.

When her parents finally sold the ranch and retired, Barbara was thirty years old.

“I can’t go study at the university,” she thought. “It’s too late for me. I have to find a job.”

She didn’t have a good education, so it was hard for her to find a good job. After cleaning a horse barn every day for twenty-five years she was good at cleaning. So she became a cleaning lady.

When the University of Montana needed a cleaning lady, she applied for the job. She was hired. “I can’t study there, but I am going to work there,” she thought with a smile.

Every day she cleaned a big library with thousands and thousands of books. When she finished cleaning, she sat down and started to read. She read everything. She read five books a week. She was amazed by the knowledge in the books. Reading became her passion.

In ten years Barbara read over 2,500 books. The students at the university knew the smart cleaning lady. Sometimes she helped them with their studies.

In 2003 Barbara Burns got appeared on the famous TV show, *Who Wants To Be a Millionaire*.

“Tell us Miss Burns, what is your profession?” the host asked her.

“I’m a cleaning lady,” Barbara answered.

“Miss Burns, you are the first cleaning lady on the show,” the host said smiling.

Barbara smiled too. “I clean a big library,” she said. “I read sometimes.”

Barbara was very good. She knew all the answers. When the host got to the last question, he paused for ten seconds, and said, “The million-dollar question, Miss Burns. Do you know anything about horses?”

“Try me,” Barbara answered with a smile.

“Horses have A. 90, B. 180, C. 270 or D. 360 degree vision?”

“It’s D,” Barbara said without thinking.

The host looked at her in surprise. “Are you sure?” he asked.

“Absolutely. I worked with horses for twenty-five years, sir. It’s D – 360.”

She was right, of course. She won one million dollars. Today, she is studying at the University of Montana.

Notes

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Barbara grew up _____.
 - a. on a farm in Utah
 - b. on a ranch in Montana
 - c. in a house in Colorado

2. Barbara's dream was _____.
 - a. to finish high school
 - b. to live in a big city
 - c. to study at the university

3. Barbara became a _____.
 - a. cleaning lady
 - b. horse trainer
 - c. host

4. The name of the show was _____.
 - a. Big Brother
 - b. Who Wants To Marry a Millionaire
 - c. Who Wants To Be a Millionaire

5. Horses have _____.
 - a. 360 degree vision
 - b. 270 degree vision
 - c. 180 degree vision

6. Today Barbara _____.
 - a. is teaching at the University
 - b. is studying at the University
 - c. is working at the library

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

sure	hard	paused	smart
passion	vision	absolutely	knowledge

1. Barbara worked every day from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. She worked very hard.
2. Barbara liked to read books. Reading books became her _____.
3. Barbara read a lot of books. She knew a lot of things. She had a lot of _____.
4. Barbara had a lot of knowledge. She was _____.
5. The host didn't speak for ten seconds. He _____ before he started to speak again.
6. Horses can see very well. They have good _____.
7. Barbara knew the answer. She was _____ that the answer was correct.
8. Barbara was 100% sure of her answer. She was _____ sure.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

they retired	have a good education
was amazed	took care

1. Barbara's parents were sixty-five years old. They stopped working. _____.
2. Barbara didn't study much when she was young. She didn't _____.
3. Barbara fed the horses, she washed them and brushed them. She _____ of them.
4. There were thousands of books. Barbara _____ at what she could find in books.

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using them.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Where did Barbara grow up?
2. What was her dream?
3. Why couldn't she study at the university?
4. How old was she when her parents sold the ranch?
5. What kind of profession did she choose?
6. Why was she so smart?
7. What show was she on?
8. What was the million dollar question?
9. Did she win the big prize?

VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

OLD WITCH



John Hackman used to be a US diplomat. He had lived in many foreign countries. His daughter Karen was born in Japan. She was a beautiful happy girl with blond hair and blue eyes, and everybody liked her. Her classmates were always nice to her and called her *Kawaii*, which means cute.

Karen's mother Jane was a piano teacher and taught Karen how to play the piano. John was a different kind of person. He used to be a soldier. He fought in the Korean War.

"My daughter has to be strong," he said one day. "We are living in Japan. She is going to learn karate."

John found a karate school for Karen, and she started going there. At first she didn't like it. She didn't want to fight. She thought that fighting was not for girls. But there were other girls, and she had a very interesting teacher. She slowly started to like her karate lessons. Her teacher, Mr. Masaru, explained to her that karate was not just fighting. He explained to her that karate was a way of life.

"It's not about physical strength. It's all about your mind," Mr. Masaru said to her.

The years went by. Karen grew up. Her parents went back to the USA, but she stayed in Japan, and became a well respected pianist. She stopped going to Mr. Masaru's karate school, but she never forgot his teaching.

After 55 years of living in Japan, Karen decided to live in the USA. She wanted to take care of her parents. It was not an easy decision. She liked Japan. Everybody was always so nice to her.

After she arrived in the USA, everything was strange for her. She was an American citizen, but she wasn't used to living in the USA. It took her some time to get used to it.

One day she went to a bank. She was at the counter when a man wearing a hood and sunglasses came in. He went directly to the counter and shouted at the teller, "Give me all the money! Do it fast!"

"Excuse me," Karen said. "You arrived after me. Get back in line!"

The man drew a gun and pointed it at Karen. "Get out of my way, old witch," he said.

Karen turned around, and suddenly she was in the air. She kicked the man in the head. The man fell and dropped the gun. Karen picked up the gun and pointed it at him. "Nobody calls me an old witch," she said. "Do you understand, young man?"

Somebody called the police. They arrived five minutes later and arrested the man.

Notes

1. John Hackman used to be _____.
 - a. an American businessman
 - b. a US diplomat
 - c. an American actor

2. The word *kawaii* means _____.
 - a. quick
 - b. strong
 - c. cute

3. John found _____ for his daughter.
 - a. a piano school
 - b. a bank
 - c. a karate school

4. Karen was a well respected _____.
 - a. pianist
 - b. fighter
 - c. model

5. Karen was used to living in _____.
 - a. the USA
 - b. Japan
 - c. South Korea

6. Karen got angry and kicked _____.
 - a. the robber
 - b. the teller
 - c. the policeman

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

foreign	mind	strong	cute
directly	decided	slowly	strange

1. John lived in China, South Korea, India and Japan. He lived in many foreign countries.
2. Karen was a beautiful little girl. Everybody liked her. She was _____.
3. John used to be a soldier. He was a big man. He was _____.
4. It took Karen many years to learn karate. She learned it _____.
5. Karate is not just about your physical strength. It is also about your _____.
6. Karen wanted to take care of her parents. She _____ to live in the USA.
7. To live in the USA was new for Karen. She wasn't used to it. It was _____ for her.
8. The man came in and went _____ to the teller.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

well respected	way of life
physical strength	get out of my way

1. The policemen who work on the street need _____.
2. Karate is not just a sport. It is a _____.
3. Steve Jobs was a _____ inventor.
4. I want to pass and you are in my way.
_____!

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using them.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. What did John Hackman use to be?
2. Where was his daughter Karen born?
3. How did her classmates treat her?
4. What did John want Karen to learn?
5. What did Mr. Masaru tell Karen about karate?
6. What kind of job did Karen have in Japan?
7. Why did she go to live in the USA?
8. Why did Karen get angry with the robber?
9. What did she do to him?

VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

THE DIVINE VOICE



Anita Harris is a famous opera singer from New York. They call her *The Divine Voice*. She is beautiful, talented and rich. But Anita was not always like that.

Her real name is Anita Da Giovanni, and she is originally from Italy. When she was a child, her parents couldn't take care of her. She grew up in a children's home in Italy. When she was eighteen years old she had a daughter. She named her Vanessa. But history repeated itself. Anita couldn't take care of her daughter, so the government took her and gave her to another family. Anita didn't know the name of her daughter's new family because the adoption was closed.

Two years after her daughter was adopted, Anita began making her living as a singer. She was so talented that she received an offer from the Metropolitan Opera Company and moved to New York. She thought that she could forget about her daughter, but she couldn't.

Anita became rich and famous, but she wasn't happy. She thought about her daughter every day. She wanted her daughter back. She hired several private detectives to look for her daughter, but they couldn't find her.

Twenty years later, Anita gave up and stopped looking for her daughter. She got married and wanted to start a new life. She chose Italy for her honeymoon.

Anita was lying on the beach on the Italian Riviera and was looking out at the sea. She was finally happy. She was enjoying her new life. Suddenly, she saw a newspaper flying in the air. The newspaper landed right on her towel. She picked it up. She wanted to throw it away when she noticed a picture in the newspaper. A young woman was smiling in the picture. She was a young Italian singer named Sophia Sorrento. *La Divina Voce*, the headline said.

“Wait a minute,” Anita said to herself. “It’s not Sophia Sorrento. It’s me! They can’t use my picture!” Then she realized. “It’s Vanessa. Oh my God!”

Anita arranged a meeting with Sophia Sorrento. Sophia was very happy to speak with a famous American opera singer, and she was very happy to accept her invitation to New York.

Sophia came to New York for six weeks. Anita’s plan was to sing with Sophia, but she also wanted to tell her that she was her mother. That was more important to her. But she couldn’t find the courage.

One evening Sophia surprised her. “Thank you for a wonderful day, Mom,” she said.

Anita was in shock. “How do you know about it?” she asked and started to cry.

“My parents told me when I was eighteen,” Sophia answered. “I didn’t contact you because I didn’t want to hurt them. Then fate brought us together, and I am very grateful for that.”

Notes

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Anita Harris is _____.
 - a. a politician
 - b. an opera singer
 - c. a government worker

2. Anita is originally from _____.
 - a. the USA
 - b. Canada
 - c. Italy

3. Anita's daughter _____.
 - a. was adopted by a family
 - b. kidnapped
 - c. got lost

4. Anita moved to _____.
 - a. Washington
 - b. New York
 - c. the Italian Riviera

5. She found her daughter _____.
 - a. with the help of two detectives
 - b. by chance on the Internet
 - c. by chance in a newspaper

6. Sophia knew who Anita was _____.
 - a. because her parents told her
 - b. because Anita told her
 - c. from a newspaper

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

noticed	talented	grateful	hired
fate	realized	originally	famous

1. Everybody who likes opera knows who Anita Harris is. She is famous.
2. Anita was born with the ability to sing well. She was _____.
3. Anita was born in Italy and grew up there. She was _____ from Italy.
4. Anita paid two detectives to work for her. She _____ them.
5. Anita wanted to throw away the newspaper, but then she _____ a picture.
6. Anita didn't know it at first, but then she _____ that the woman was her daughter.
7. Anita and Sophia met by chance. Sophia called it _____.
8. Sophia was very happy that she met her mother. She was _____ for that.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

find the courage	divine voice
make her living	adoption was closed

1. When a singer has an excellent voice, we can say that he or she has a _____.
2. If the name of the adoptive family was a secret, we say that the _____.
3. She started to sing and was paid for that. She started to _____ as a singer.
4. Anita wanted to tell Sophia everything, but she couldn't _____ for that.

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using them.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Who is Anita Harris?
2. Where did she grow up?
3. How old was she when she had a daughter?
4. What happened to her daughter?
5. Why couldn't Anita find her daughter?
6. Why did Anita move to New York?
7. What did she do to find her daughter?
8. How did she find her daughter?
9. Why didn't Sophia contact her famous mother?

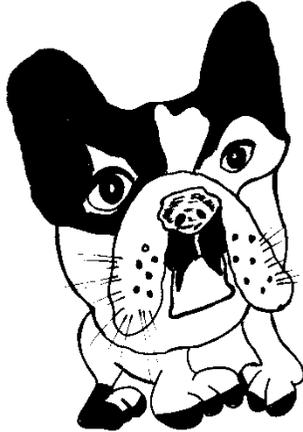
VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

THE FIGHT OF THE BULLDOG



Arturo Perro and his family lived in Montreal, Canada, but they were from Paraguay. They came to Canada because they wanted to have a happy life, but Arturo was not a happy boy. He was small from birth, and the children at school often made fun of him. Arturo hated school. He was suffering, but he was too proud to complain to his teachers or parents.

When Arturo was in high school, there was a boy named Andy McDowell. He called Arturo *Shorty* and bullied him every day. He often beat him too. Arturo didn't complain.

One day Andy McDowell hit Arturo so hard that he broke his nose.

"I fell down the stairs," Arturo said to his father. That night Arturo was crying in his bed. His father heard him crying and came to his room. He sat down on his bed and said, "Sometimes bad things happen to us for a good reason. Sometimes they are good for us."

Arturo didn't understand. "I have no friends at school, Andy beats me almost every day, and this is good for me?"

That night Arturo had a dream. In his dream he saw Muhammad Ali fighting. He had a broken nose too.

“You can do it,” the famous boxer said.

“I can do what?” Arturo asked, but the boxer didn’t hear him and continued fighting.

Arturo didn’t go to school the next morning. He stayed home and watched Muhammad Ali’s fights on the Internet. That morning he decided to become a boxer. He went to see his father and told him about his decision.

Arturo’s father wasn’t a rich man, but he found a special school for Arturo. There, Arturo could study and learn to box.

Arturo won the junior championship when he was just sixteen. At twenty-four he became the world champion. They called him *Bulldog* because he was small and never gave up.

One night Arturo entered his favorite bar, and he couldn’t believe his eyes. Andy McDowell was there with his friends, and he was having a good time. Arturo came to Andy and put his hand on his shoulder.

“Hello Andy,” Arturo said. “I often think about you. Do you know why?”

Andy’s smile froze. He stood up. He was a big guy, but his voice was shaking as he said, “If you want to fight me, Arturo, I am ready for you. I’m not afraid of you.” He didn’t call him *Shorty* this time.

“Relax, Andy,” Arturo said. “I don’t want to fight you. I want to buy you a beer. Thanks to you, I became the man I am today.”

Notes

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Arturo lived in _____.
 - a. Panama
 - b. Canada
 - c. Peru

2. Arturo was a _____ boy.
 - a. big
 - b. fat
 - c. small

3. Andy _____ Arturo at school.
 - a. bullied
 - b. protected
 - c. helped

4. Arturo dreamed about a _____.
 - a. famous karate fighter
 - b. famous boxer
 - c. famous kick boxer

5. Arturo left his school because _____.
 - a. he moved to Paraguay
 - b. he was afraid of his teacher
 - c. he wanted to become a boxer

6. In the end Arturo _____ Andy.
 - a. thanked
 - b. beat
 - c. ignored

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

bullied	shaking	suffering	gave up
voice	champion	complain	birth

1. Arturo was too small when he was born. He was small from birth.
2. Arturo was very unhappy at school. He was _____.
3. Arturo didn't tell his parents about his problems. He didn't _____.
4. Andy liked doing bad things to Arturo. He _____ him.
5. Arturo won all his fights. He became the world _____.
6. Arturo always fought to the end. He never _____.
7. When Andy spoke, he was not comfortable. His _____ was shaking.
8. Arturo was very comfortable when he spoke. His voice was not _____.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

too proud	a good reason
afraid of you	made fun of

1. The children laughed at Arturo. They _____ him.
2. Arturo never complained. He was _____.
3. Sometimes bad things happen to us for _____.
4. Andy said, "I'm ready to fight you. I'm not _____."

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using them.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Where did Arturo's family come from?
2. Why did they go to Canada?
3. Why was Arturo unhappy?
4. Why didn't Arturo complain to his teachers or parents?
5. What did Andy do to Arturo one day?
6. Who did Arturo see in his dream?
7. What did he decide to do the next day?
8. Why did they call Arturo *Bulldog*?
9. What did Arturo do to Andy in the end?

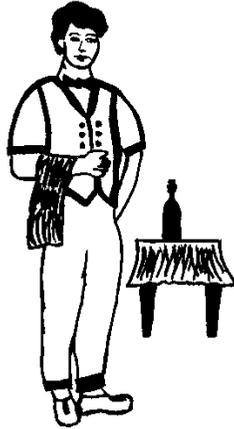
VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

A TIP



Patrick Sanders is a waiter in a luxury restaurant in New York. He is a real professional. He is always neatly dressed and treats the customers well. That is why he gets good tips.

One day a man came to Patrick's restaurant. He was wearing old clothes and looked lost. He didn't fit in the restaurant.

Patrick ran to him. "Can I help you?"

"Yes, you can," the man said. "I am hungry and thirsty."

"Excuse me, sir," Patrick said. "You came to the wrong place. This is not a charity. It's an expensive restaurant."

"I am not looking for charity," the man said. "I have money to pay for my meal." He showed Patrick a ten-dollar bill. "You see?"

"OK," Patrick said. "Follow me." He led the man to the back of the restaurant and showed him a small table in the corner. "Sit down here. Here is the menu. You can eat and drink what you want, and you don't have to pay for it. It's on me."

The man smiled. "Thanks," he said. "It's very kind of you." He studied the menu, and then he chose the most expensive meal. The meal cost \$150.

“Don’t you want to try the chef’s special?” Patrick asked. The chef’s special cost \$69.

“No, thank you.” the man said.

When the man finished eating, he called Patrick and said, “The meal was good, but I am still hungry. I want to try the chef’s special.”

Patrick started to regret his decision to pay for the man. But he said, “Yes, sir.”

When the man finished the second meal, Patrick came to him and asked, “You’re not hungry anymore?”

“No, I’m not,” the man said. Now I want something to drink.”

“Coffee, tea, beer, Coke, water?” Patrick asked forcing a smile. He was worried about what the man was going to order next.

“Wine. Bring me a bottle of champagne.”

Patrick’s smile froze. “It’s not funny,” he said. “A bottle of champagne costs \$199.”

“You said I could eat and drink what I wanted.” The man was raising his voice so everybody could hear it.

“OK,” Patrick said. He turned around and went to get a bottle of Champagne.

When the man finished the bottle, he called Patrick and said, “You are a good sport, Patrick. I don’t want you to pay for me. I’m going to pay for myself.” He handed Patrick a roll of bills. “Keep the change,” he said and left the restaurant.

Patrick counted the money. He couldn’t believe it. It was \$5,000.

Notes

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Patrick is a _____.
 - a. chef
 - b. brother of charity
 - c. waiter

2. The man wanted _____.
 - a. some money
 - b. to eat and drink
 - c. new clothes

3. The man showed Patrick _____.
 - a. his wallet
 - b. a ten-dollar bill
 - c. a gun

4. Patrick offered _____.
 - a. to pay for the man
 - b. the man some clothes
 - c. to pay for a taxi

5. The man ordered _____.
 - a. a beer
 - b. a whisky
 - c. a bottle of champagne

6. In the end the man _____.
 - a. didn't want to leave
 - b. didn't want to pay
 - c. didn't want Patrick to pay for him

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

treats	luxury	wrong	neatly
tip	regret	charity	raising

1. The restaurant was excellent, but also very expensive. It was a luxury restaurant.
2. Patrick's uniform was clean and very nice. He was _____ dressed.
3. Patrick is always very nice to his customers. He _____ them well.
4. When we give extra money to a waiter for good service, we call it a _____.
5. When something is not right, we say it's _____.
6. When people give other people food or clothes for free, It is _____.
7. Patrick promised to pay for the meal and the drink, but then he started to _____ it.
8. The man was _____ his voice so other people could hear him.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

forcing a smile	looked lost
keep the change	it's on me

1. The man looked like he didn't know where he was. He _____.
2. Patrick said he wanted to pay for the food and drink. He said, "_____."
3. Patrick didn't feel like smiling, but he was smiling. He was _____.
4. The man wanted Patrick to keep the extra money. He said, "_____."

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using them.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. What does Patrick do for a living?
2. What is he like?
3. Can you describe the man who entered the restaurant?
4. What did he want?
5. What did Patrick offer him?
6. Why did Patrick regret his decision?
7. What did the man order to drink?
8. Who paid for the man's meals and drink in the end?
9. How big was the tip that Patrick got from the man?

VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

THE MONSTER



Rock Corson grew up in a poor neighborhood in Detroit. When he was five years old, he started to have bad dreams. He dreamed about a monster who lived under his bed and who wanted to eat him at night. He spent many nights crying and calling for his mother. His parents took him to the doctor.

“What does the monster look like?” the doctor asked.

“It looks like a dog,” Rock answered.

“Are you afraid of dogs?” the doctor asked.

“No, but it’s not a dog. It’s as big as a horse. It has a long tail and shining eyes.”

“Are you afraid of horses?” the doctor asked.

“No, but it’s not a horse.”

“You see,” the doctor explained, “it’s not a horse, and it’s not a dog either. The monster doesn’t exist. It’s all in your imagination. The long tail is a shadow, and the shining eyes are lights coming from your bedroom window.”

Rock believed the doctor, and he stopped having bad dreams.

The years went by. Rock grew up. He became a strong and smart young man. When the time came to choose a

profession, Rock knew that he didn't want to live like his parents. He wanted to have a lot of money.

He became a burglar. He robbed houses. He was so smart that no security system could stop him.

One night he broke into a house. As usual he deactivated the security system and went to the bedroom. He opened a dresser drawer and looked in it. Suddenly he felt something behind him. He turned around.

"I am dreaming," he said to himself. "It's here again." There was the monster from his dreams looking at him with shining eyes.

Rock was five years old again. He ran to the closet and hid inside. The monster started growling and hitting the closet very hard. Rock was so scared that he called 911.

The police arrived ten minutes later and arrested him.

"What did you do with the monster?" Rock asked the policeman at the police station.

"The monster?" asked the policeman smiling. "It was an Irish Wolfhound puppy. He isn't a guard dog. He just wanted to play with you. But if he can scare a wolf, he can certainly scare some people."

Rock stayed in prison for three years. Today he doesn't rob houses anymore. He works for a security company, and he has his own house. He also has an Irish Wolfhound in his house. He calls him *Monster*.

Notes

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Rock Courtney grew up in _____.
 - a. the UK
 - b. Ireland
 - c. the USA

2. When he was a child, he had _____.
 - a. bad parents
 - b. bad friends
 - c. bad dreams

3. As a child, Rock was afraid of a _____.
 - a. dog
 - b. monster
 - c. horse

4. Rock became a _____.
 - a. burglar
 - b. dog trainer
 - c. policeman

5. When we call 911, we call _____.
 - a. animal protection
 - b. the police
 - c. the security company

6. Today Rock owns _____.
 - a. a German Shepherd
 - b. an Irish Wolfhound
 - c. a French Bulldog

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

growling	owner	monster	puppy
burglar	guard dog	own	imagination

1. When something is big and scary, we sometimes call it a monster.
2. The monster with shining eyes didn't exist. It was just in Rock's _____.
3. A person who breaks in people's houses and steals things is a _____.
4. When somebody buys a house, he becomes a home _____.
5. When a dog is angry, he is usually barking and _____.
6. A young dog is called a _____.
7. A German Shepherd is a smart dog. It is a good _____.
8. Rock used to be afraid of a monster. Today he has his _____ Monster.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

afraid of	bad dreams
looks like	poor neighborhood

1. Rock's neighbors had very little money. He lived in a _____.
2. He didn't sleep well during the night. He had _____.
3. He was _____ a monster.
4. Rock said, "The monster _____ a dog, but it's bigger."

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using them.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Where did Rock grow up?
2. What problem did he have when he was a child?
3. What did his parents do?
4. What did the monster from Rock's dreams look like?
5. What did the doctor say to Rock?
6. Why did Rock choose to become a robber?
7. What happened to Rock one day during a robbery?
8. What did Rock do?
9. How did Rock change after he got out of prison?

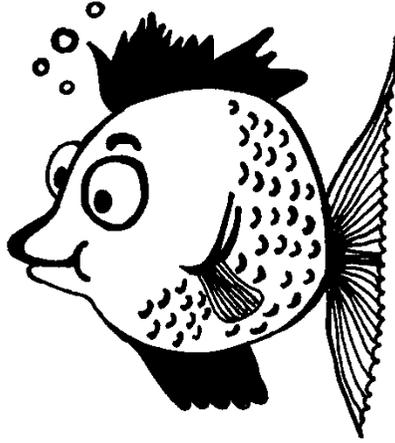
VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.

SARAH FISH



Marty Pike is a ranger. He works along Lake Superior. He checks on fishermen. His job is to check if the fish that the fishermen catch are the right size. The fish can't be too small, and they can't be too big. He also checks the fishermen's fishing licenses.

The fishermen know Marty very well, and they respect him. He is very strict. If he catches a fisherman with a fish too small or too big, he gets angry. Then he takes a picture of the fish next to a ruler. It's proof. And then he gives the fisherman a fine – sometimes hundreds of dollars.

Some fishermen tried to outsmart Marty. It never worked. A fisherman once said, "The fish was the right size when I caught it, sir. It grew during the day, sir." Another fisherman said, "The fish shrank while I was carrying it, sir." Marty laughed and said, "Do you think I am stupid?" He gave them both a fine.

Nobody could outsmart Marty until one day something strange happened.

One early morning Marty was driving his jeep along the lake when he saw a man walking by the water. The man was carrying a bowl, and he was looking in all directions. He looked nervous.

I. Choose the right answer.

1. Marty Pike is a _____.
 - a. policeman
 - b. fisherman
 - c. ranger

2. Marty checks on _____.
 - a. drivers
 - b. fishermen
 - c. robbers

3. Marty checks the _____ of the fish
 - a. weight
 - b. health
 - c. size

4. To fish legally, you need _____.
 - a. a fishing license
 - b. good skills
 - c. a fish bowl

5. Marty saw a man _____.
 - a. fishing
 - b. sailing
 - c. carrying a bowl

6. The man _____.
 - a. took the fish home
 - b. threw the fish into the lake
 - c. gave the fish to Marty

II. Complete the sentences with the words from the box below.

shrank	fine	respect	illegally
proof	pet	ordinary	strict

1. Marty has the authority to check on fishermen. The fishermen respect him.
2. Marty does his job very well. He gets angry when the rules are not respected. He is _____.
3. Marty takes pictures of the fish next to a ruler. He needs _____.
4. Sometimes the fishermen pay money for keeping fish that are too small. They pay a _____.
5. The fish was big, but it became smaller during the day. It _____.
6. If you fish without a fishing license, you fish _____.
7. If something is not common, it is special. It is not _____.
8. A dog is a good _____.

III. Choose two words from the box on the previous page and write a short paragraph using them.

IV. Complete the sentences with the expressions from the box below.

gets angry	checks on
committed infractions	outsmart him

1. Marty watches fishermen. He _____ them.
2. When a fisherman keeps a fish too small or too big, Marty _____.
3. Some fishermen tell Marty stories. They want to _____.
4. When the fishermen did illegal things, they _____.

V. Choose two expressions from the box above and write a short paragraph using them.

VI. Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Who is Marty Pike?
2. What does he do?
3. What is Marty like?
4. What did some fishermen try to do to Marty?
5. Did it work?
6. Who did Marty see by the lake one early morning?
7. What was the man doing?
8. What did the man say about the fish in his bowl?
9. What did the man do with the fish?

VII. Oral Summary

Retell the story in a few sentences.

VIII. Written Summary

Write a few sentences to summarize the story.
