

New Kid in Town

Reading Comprehension - Fiction

Instructions:

Read the story and answer the questions below. As you answer each question, go back to the text and underline where you found the answer.

Helpful Hint:

Try reading the questions before you read the story. That way, you'll know exactly what information to look for as you read!



New Kid in Town

In July, when the moving van pulled up at the house next door, Bill was excited. Ever since the Jacksons had moved out, he had been wondering who his new neighbors would be. And when he saw a boy's bicycle being carried into the garage, he was even more pleased. Maybe the new neighbors had a son his age! But when the family showed up later in the day, Bill's hopes for a new friend crashed. The family had a son, to be sure, but he was skinny and wore his hair all spiked up. He didn't look like someone Bill wanted to be friends with.

The next day, at his mother's insistence, Bill carried a plate of cookies to the new neighbors' house and introduced himself. He learned that the new kid's name was Aaron, and he wasn't a sports fanatic like Bill was. Instead, Aaron was into music. Aaron went inside and brought back his guitar. Then he sat on the front steps and played song after song. Soon Bill was accompanying him by singing along, and within a few weeks, Aaron had taught Bill how to play the guitar, too. Aaron said he was a natural.

In September, Bill was eager for school to start. On the first day, he ate lunch with Matt and Rob, his best friends. He had really missed them over the summer. "Did you guys see that strange new kid—the one with the spiked-up hair?" Matt asked. At the same time, Rob punched Bill lightly in the arm and pointed to Aaron, who was walking toward them. "Weirdo alert!" he whispered.

Bill felt confused. A part of him hoped that Aaron would keep walking, but Aaron stopped right in front of Bill and his friends, obviously waiting for Bill to say hello. Bill gulped and finally said, "Guys, meet my new neighbor, Aaron, a great musician who taught me to play the guitar." Matt and Rob looked at each other in surprise. Then Matt said, "Cool! Do you think you could teach us, Aaron?" After a few lessons, Matt and Rob were getting pretty good at playing the guitar. By October, the four boys had formed a band. Rob had even spiked his hair!

Questions

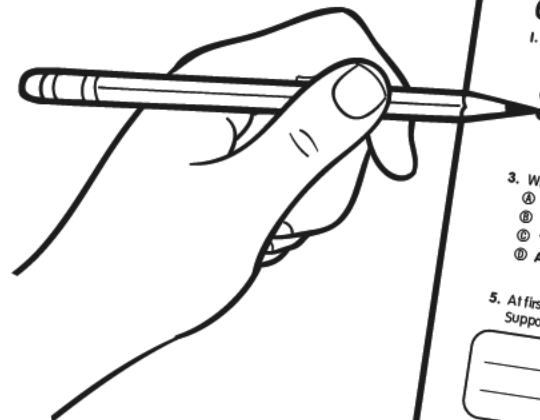
1. Why did Bill take cookies to his new neighbors?
- Ⓐ He hoped to become friends with Aaron.
 - Ⓑ He wanted to borrow Aaron's bicycle.
 - Ⓒ He wanted to eat some cookies himself.
 - Ⓓ His mother made him do it.

2. Why did Matt and Rob think Aaron was weird?
- Ⓐ Aaron had spiked-up hair.
 - Ⓑ Aaron didn't like sports.
 - Ⓒ Bill told them Aaron was strange.
 - Ⓓ Aaron had punched Bill for no reason.

3. Which of these events happened during the story?
- Ⓐ Matt and Bill spiked their hair.
 - Ⓑ Aaron taught Matt and Rob to play the guitar.
 - Ⓒ The Jacksons moved out.
 - Ⓓ Aaron joined the soccer team.

4. When Aaron said Bill was "a natural," he meant that Bill _____.
- Ⓐ looked better in natural light
 - Ⓑ enjoyed being out in nature
 - Ⓒ was friendly by nature
 - Ⓓ had a natural talent for playing guitar

5. At first, why didn't Bill want to introduce Aaron to his other friends? Support your answer with details from the story.



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Answer Key

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Possible Answer: Bill didn't want to introduce Aaron to his friends because his friends had said mean things about Aaron and called him a weirdo.