

READING COMPREHENSION

Grade 3 Short Story & Questions

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Read the story carefully. Then answer the questions that follow. You may look back at the story as many times as you need.

Finn and the Tide Pool Treasure

Finn loved visiting his grandpa's house by the sea. Every summer morning, they walked down the rocky path to explore the tide pools before the sun grew too hot. Grandpa always said the tide pools were like tiny worlds hidden between the rocks, and Finn believed him.

One morning, the tide was extra low. Grandpa pointed to a wide pool Finn had never noticed before. "That one only shows up a few times a year," he said. Finn knelt beside it and peered into the clear water. Orange starfish clung to the rocks, and tiny fish darted between strands of green seaweed.

Suddenly, something moved in the corner of the pool. Finn jumped back, startled. A small hermit crab scuttled sideways across the sand, dragging a shell that looked far too big for its body. "Why does it carry that shell around?" Finn asked. Grandpa smiled and explained that hermit crabs did not grow their own shells. Instead, they borrowed empty ones for protection, and moved to a bigger shell whenever they outgrew the old one.

Finn watched the little crab for a long time. He noticed it kept nudging a second, larger shell that sat nearby, as if it were trying to decide whether to move in. Finn held his breath, waiting. Finally, the crab backed out of its old shell in one quick motion and slid into the new one. It looked, Finn thought, like the crab had just moved into a brand new house.

"That's the coolest thing I've ever seen," Finn said, grinning. Grandpa laughed and patted his shoulder. "The ocean has a new surprise every single day, if you know how to look for it." From then on, Finn never wanted to miss a single morning at the tide pools, because he never knew what tiny treasure he might discover next.

Comprehension Questions

Answer each question about the story. Circle the letter of the correct answer or write your answer on the lines.

1. What is this story mostly about?
 - A. A boy who is afraid of the ocean
 - B. A boy who watches a hermit crab find a new shell at the tide pools
 - C. A boy who goes fishing with his grandpa
 - D. A boy who builds a sandcastle on the beach
2. Where does this story take place?
 - A. At a swimming pool
 - B. At a rocky beach with tide pools
 - C. At an aquarium
 - D. At a lake near Finn's house
3. Why does the hermit crab carry a shell on its back?
 - A. It is building a nest.
 - B. It uses the shell for protection because it does not grow its own shell.
 - C. It is looking for food inside the shell.
 - D. It is playing with the shell.
4. What happens right before the crab moves into the new shell?
 - A. Finn picks up the crab.
 - B. The tide comes in.
 - C. The crab nudges the larger shell, as if deciding whether to move.
 - D. Grandpa moves the shell closer to the crab.
5. What does the word "scuttled" most likely mean in the story?
 - A. Slept quietly
 - B. Moved quickly in a sideways or scurrying way
 - C. Cried loudly
 - D. Floated gently
6. How does Finn feel while he watches the hermit crab change shells?
 - A. Bored and sleepy
 - B. Angry and confused
 - C. Curious and excited
 - D. Scared and worried
7. What can you tell about Grandpa based on the story?
 - A. He does not enjoy the beach.
 - B. He knows a lot about ocean life and enjoys sharing it with Finn.
 - C. He is visiting the beach for the first time.
 - D. He wants Finn to stop exploring the tide pools.
8. Which sentence from the story is a simile (a comparison using "like" or "as")?
 - A. Finn loved visiting his grandpa's house by the sea.

- B. It looked, Finn thought, like the crab had just moved into a brand new house.
- C. Orange starfish clung to the rocks.
- D. Grandpa laughed and patted his shoulder.

9. In your own words, explain what lesson or message Grandpa's last line teaches Finn.

10. Describe a time when you discovered something new and surprising, the way Finn did. What did you find, and how did it make you feel?

Answer Key

1. B

2. B

3. B

4. C

5. B

6. C

7. B

8. B

9. Answers will vary; look for the idea that the ocean (or the world) has new surprises every day if you look closely / pay attention.

10. Answers will vary; accept any reasonable personal response with a specific discovery and a described feeling.