

# 5th Grade Packet Ms.Sharon's Class

Name-  
Class

\*Please answer all essay questions in 3 paragraphs.

\*Be sure to check grammar, spelling,  
And punctuation.

\* You may work on Commonlit and IXL.





# The Meadowlands

by ReadWorks



*The Meadowlands in New Jersey*

When they described the swamp at the end of Schuyler Avenue, the adults in Sarah's life seemed confused. Whenever she asked about it, Sarah's dad would chuckle.

"You'd better stay away from the Meadowlands," her father said.

Sarah's sixth grade teacher, Mr. Morrison, said only parts of the Meadowlands are swamps. He explained to the class that the Meadowlands are precious wetlands, one of the last places near New York City where birds migrating from Florida could stop and rest.

"The Meadowlands once had a lot of garbage dumps, which polluted the water pretty badly," Mr. Morrison said. "But most of the dumps are closed now. And the habitat for wild birds is recovering."

From her yard in the winter, the Meadowlands was as her dad described: brown, dead-looking weeds with Doritos bags lying at the water's edge. By springtime, however, the reeds turned green and flowers grew along the shoreline.

So which one is it, Sarah wondered. Is the Meadowlands a big, ugly, dangerous swamp? Or is it a beautiful oasis of birds and flowers? Despite her dad's warnings to stay away, Sarah

wanted to see for herself. She went under the porch and dragged out her dad's old fiberglass canoe. She threw the paddle and an old pink life jacket into the boat and dragged it across the yard, down Schuyler Avenue to the edge of the swamp.

Whatever it was, she saw now, the Meadowlands was big. Sarah always thought of it as the swamp at the end of her street. Now she realized that the wetlands actually stretched to the north and south, and she couldn't see either end. Directly across the water, the skyscrapers of Manhattan seemed to line the opposite shore, even though they were actually twelve miles away.

Sarah could feel the fear in her throat. But she didn't want to drag the canoe back up the hill. She zipped the life vest up to her neck, pushed the boat into the water and jumped in.

Past the reeds, she found herself paddling in a shallow pond surrounded by muddy islands. She saw ducks, swallows, yellow flowers, purple flowers, white egrets. A blue heron, disturbed by the splashes of Sarah's paddle, jumped into the air, uncurled its long wings and flapped away.

"This is all so beautiful!" Sarah thought.

The canoe slowed down, as if caught by invisible hands. Sarah looked down and saw the boat was scraping along the muddy bottom. Clouds of brown mud rose to the surface with every paddle stroke, and inside each cloud little bubbles of gas burst when they hit the surface. It smelled like a combination of old paint and rotting food. Sarah nearly threw up.

Soon she was stuck. She tried paddling backward to free the canoe from the mud, but each stroke released an overwhelming gas smell. She started to cry.

Just then something heavy and dark crashed through the weeds in front of the canoe.

A hand pulled the reeds apart, and out poked the head of Sarah's dad.

"Sarah! What are you doing out here?" he called.

Sarah tried to explain, but all she could do was cry.

"Well, it's a good thing you dragged the canoe-you left a trail in the gravel a mile wide," her dad said. "Here, take this rope."

He threw a yellow plastic rope, and after a few tries, Sarah grabbed it. Her dad pulled, and the boat skidded over the mud to shore.

Sarah worried that her father would be furious. But when he offered his hand to help her out of the boat, he laughed.

"I did the same foolish thing when I was your age," he said. "Did I ever show you the otter den?"

Sarah wiped tears from her cheek and shook her head no.

"Well, c'mon. I'll show you," her dad said. "The swamps can be pretty disgusting, but there's some beautiful stuff in here. You just have to know where to look."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The adults in Sarah's life seem confused about what?
  - A. New York City
  - B. garbage dumps
  - C. birds and wildlife
  - D. the Meadowlands
  
2. Sarah takes her dad's canoe to explore the Meadowlands. What motivates Sarah's actions?
  - A. She wants to know if the Meadowlands are an ugly swamp or a beautiful oasis.
  - B. She wants to prove that her dad is wrong about the danger of the Meadowlands.
  - C. She wants to study the Meadowlands to complete a class project.
  - D. She wants to show her dad that she is brave and adventurous by exploring on her own.
  
3. There are different, contrasting opinions about the Meadowlands. What evidence from the story best supports this statement?
  - A. Sarah doesn't know what the Meadowlands are really like, so she decides to go and see for herself.
  - B. The Meadowlands used to be polluted by garbage dumps, but now the Meadowlands are recovering.
  - C. Some say the Meadowlands are a dangerous swamp; other say they are a precious habitat for birds.
  - D. Sarah's father warns her not to go to the Meadowlands, but Sarah ignores his warnings and visits them anyway.
  
4. Based on the story, what can you conclude about the Meadowlands?
  - A. The Meadowlands are dangerous and should be left alone.
  - B. The Meadowlands can be both beautiful and disgusting.
  - C. The Meadowlands are always a beautiful and flowering oasis.
  - D. The Meadowlands are still too polluted for animals to live there.

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A. Sarah goes to the Meadowlands, and her father gets mad at her.
- B. Sarah discovers that the Meadowlands are dangerous and ugly.
- C. Sarah asks her teacher about the history of the Meadowlands.
- D. Sarah goes to the Meadowlands to learn more about them.

6. Read the following sentences: "Well, the Meadowlands once had a lot of garbage dumps that polluted the water pretty badly. But most of the dumps are closed now. And the habitat for wild birds is **recovering**."

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**recovering**" most nearly mean?

- A. getting better
- B. getting smaller
- C. getting older
- D. getting sick

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Sarah wants to see what the Meadowlands are like, \_\_\_\_\_ she takes her dad's canoe and paddles into the swamp.

- A. soon
- B. namely
- C. so
- D. but

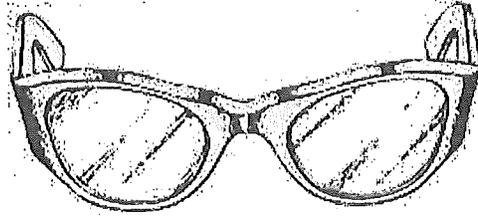
8. According to Mr. Morrison, why are the Meadowlands precious?

9. Why does Sarah start to cry in the Meadowlands?

10. In the story, there are two different views of the Meadowlands: 1) the Meadowlands are a dangerous and ugly swamp, and 2) the Meadowlands are a beautiful and precious oasis. Which of these views (if any) accurately describes the Meadowlands? Support your answer using information from the story.

# The Magic Glasses

by Rebecca White



Violet had always worn glasses, for as long as she could remember. Being ten years old, it was possible she'd been wearing them for ten years. Maybe she was born with glasses!

Violet couldn't see things that were far away from her, but she also had trouble reading. Her eyesight was very poor.

Sometimes, while she was doing her homework in study hall, her glasses would slide down to the tip of her nose. Once, they even fell off her face and landed on the floor.

"Violet, what's going on?" her teacher, Mrs. Shellsworth, asked when she saw Violet crawling on the floor once with her hands stretched out.

"I can't find my glasses," replied Violet, shyly. The rest of the students looked up from their books and started to laugh.

When Violet found the brown specs behind her desk, she quickly put them back onto her face. But they wouldn't stay on; they were broken.

Not wanting to draw any more attention to herself, Violet held her glasses onto her face with her index finger and pretended to read.

That night, she told her mother what had happened.

"We're going to have to get you new glasses," she said, sternly. Violet's mother was a doctor, and she worked long hours. When she came home, she was often too tired to do much of anything other than watch television with Violet. Her father didn't live with her. He'd moved out of the house when Violet was just a little girl. She visited her father on weekends, though. He lived in a nearby town and always took her to baseball games in the summer.

But it wasn't summer yet. Violet still had three months left of school, and that meant three more months of being made fun of because of her silly loose glasses.

Violet hated her glasses.

The day after her glasses had fallen to the floor, Violet's mother took her to the eye doctor. They did all sorts of tests to see whether she needed a new prescription. After the tests, which showed that her eyes had gotten worse since the last time she'd been there, it was time to pick out new glasses frames.

Violet looked at the shiny glass case that was almost as tall as she was. There were boring brown frames and simple black frames. But there were also some pink and blue frames, and even some sparkly yellow frames.

"Mom, can I get those?" Violet said, pointing to the sparkly yellow frames.

"No, you cannot. Those glasses are not appropriate for school," said her mother tersely.

"But..." said Violet.

"No 'buts.' You will get these frames right here," said her mother, pointing to some round gray glasses that Violet hadn't even noticed.

Violet was sad, but there was no use arguing with her mother. She was stuck with the gray frames.

Still, Violet wasn't about to put them on right away. She decided to pout, instead, all the way home.

The next day was a Saturday. It was raining hard, and Violet wouldn't have gone outside if her father weren't coming to take her to the movies.

"You all ready, Bug?" her dad asked, when he came to pick her up. He always called her Bug. "Where are your glasses?" he asked, when he saw her squinting up at him.

"I got new ones," said Violet. Worried that her father wouldn't like them, she'd put them in her backpack and was going to wear them in the dark theater where she knew no one could see them.

"Well, where are they?" he said.

Violet, not wanting to cause a scene, reached into her bag and put the round gray frames

onto her face. She didn't like them and was hoping maybe she could convince her dad to buy her new ones.

On the way to the movie theater, she noticed something very strange while peering through her new glasses. Way in the distance, a small bird was smiling at her. Flapping its wings and smiling.

*That can't be right*, she thought. Then she looked around and noticed that other birds were making faces as well. A pigeon in a tree almost a mile away looked as if it had smelled something strange; its beak was twisted to the side as if in disgust. Then, on the sidewalk near a park they were approaching, she could see a squirrel sneeze, rub its nose, then move its lips as if to say, "Excuse me!"

Immediately, she pulled the glasses off of her face, in shock.

"What's wrong?" asked her father.

But Violet didn't want to say what she had seen. Were animals supposed to be so animated? Were these magical glasses?

She didn't know, but one thing was for sure: she'd never seen such things before in her life, and she wanted to see more.

Slowly, she put the glasses back on. They were almost at the movie theater, so she made sure to look at as many trees as possible in search of more squirrels, more birds, and more little creatures.

Pushing her face up against the car window to her right, she started to stare intently and noticed a man walking his dog. The man was walking slowly, playing with his cell phone while his white poodle was pulling hard on its leash. Violet started to focus on the poodle, and she could have sworn she saw the pet roll its eyes and shake its head.

"Hurry up!" she said loudly, as her car went by the man with the cell phone. "Your dog is getting bored!"

"Excuse me?" said her father. "Who are you yelling at?"

"Oh, nothing," said Violet. Her new glasses were her little secret, for now. And she couldn't wait to explore the world through a new set of eyes!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Violet visits the eye doctor after her glasses break. What happens when she visits the eye doctor?

- A. She refuses to do eye tests.
- B. She breaks her new pair of glasses.
- C. The doctor gives her medicine for her eyes.
- D. She gets a new pair of glasses.

2. When in the story does Violet want to wear her glasses?

- A. at the beginning of the story
- B. in the middle of the story
- C. at the end of the story
- D. at the beginning and the end of the story

3. Violet hated her old glasses.

What sentence from the story provides a clue about why Violet feels this way?

- A. "Violet couldn't see things that were far away from her, but she also had trouble reading."
- B. "Violet still had three months left of school, and that meant three more months of being made fun of because of her silly loose glasses."
- C. "It was raining hard, and Violet wouldn't have gone outside if her father weren't coming to take her to the movies."
- D. "Violet started to focus on the poodle, and she could have sworn she saw the pet roll its eyes and shake its head."

4. How does Violet feel about her glasses at the end of the story?

- A. angry
- B. excited
- C. upset
- D. sad

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A. a girl whose feelings about wearing glasses change after she gets a new pair that lets her see facial expressions on animals
- B. a girl who goes on a trip to the eye doctor with her mother and gets upset when she is not allowed to choose new glasses with sparkly yellow frames
- C. a pair of glasses that slide down to the tip of a girl's nose and finally break after falling off her face
- D. a pair of glasses that a girl has to hold against her face after she finds them lying broken on the floor behind her desk

6. Read the following sentences: "Violet had always worn glasses, for as long as she could remember. Being ten years old, it was possible she'd been wearing them for ten years. **Maybe she was born with glasses!**"

Why does the author write, "**Maybe she was born with glasses!**"

- A. The author is making a joke to show readers how long Violet feels like she has been wearing glasses.
- B. The author is describing what Violet felt like on the day that she was born to show readers how unhappy she is.
- C. The author is including a detail to help readers understand what it would be like to have the name "Violet."
- D. The author is providing a summary of all the events in the story to help readers keep track of them.

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Violet puts on her new glasses \_\_\_\_\_ her dad asks where they are.

- A. after
- B. although
- C. before
- D. like

8. What is the first strange thing Violet notices after she puts on her new glasses?

9. At the end of the story, Violet cannot wait to explore the world through a new set of eyes. What does the author mean by "a new set of eyes"?

10. Why is Violet excited to explore the world through a new set of eyes?

