

A New Friend

By ReadWorks

One day in March—not a special day for any reason, not a birthday or a holiday—Charlie woke up to the sound of panting right outside his bedroom door. Light from the sun was shining through the gaps in the window blinds, and Charlie squinted, rubbing his eyes and stretching. When he listened more carefully, he also heard squeals of delight along with the panting noises. That must be Lila, his little sister, who was always excited about everything. Their mom called Lila the Energizer Bunny, even though neither Charlie nor Lila knew what that was.

Really, though: Lila got excited about *everything*—pizza toppings, the mail, the first day of school, going to the park, getting a gold star sticker when she did her chores, watching her favorite cartoon, helping their mom make snickerdoodle cookies. Charlie could go on and on. He had gotten used to being the “boring one,” the kid who didn’t scream and shout and get excited about things.

Charlie groaned and rolled out of bed. *I guess I have to go see what this is all about*, he thought. He pulled on some jeans and a t-shirt, and then took a deep breath before opening the door to his bedroom.

Something small and furry rushed at him and Lila started happy-screaming (as she called it). Charlie looked down at the tiny thing that was head-butting his ankles. He bent down and picked up the puppy, holding it a few inches away from his face. It was so small! It kept jumping forward in his arms to lick his face, and he finally hugged it to his chest and let it. Its tongue was scratchy and warm.

Wow, Charlie thought. Lila was jumping around Charlie in circles and chanting in a singsong voice, “He’s excited, he’s excited, Charlie is so excited!”

Their mom walked into the hall and smiled when she saw Charlie holding the puppy.

“You like him, Char?” she asked.

“I love him!” Charlie said. He rubbed the top of the puppy’s head and played with his floppy ears. His whole body was so soft and pillowy. Charlie wanted to bury his face in the puppy’s fur.

“What should we call him, kids?” their mom said, picking Lila up and setting her on her hip to quiet her down.

“How about Happy?” Charlie suggested.

“That’s a great idea!” shouted Lila.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What tiny furry thing did Charlie find outside of his bedroom?

- A** a mouse
- B** a kitten
- C** a puppy
- D** a rat

2. Which two things does the author contrast in the second paragraph of the text?

- A** Charlie's and Lila's personalities
- B** Charlie's and Lila's looks
- C** Charlie's and Lila's tastes in clothes
- D** Charlie's and Lila's voices

3. Read this paragraph from the text.

"Charlie groaned and rolled out of bed. I guess I have to go see what this is all about, he thought. He pulled on some jeans and a t-shirt, and then took a deep breath before opening the door to his bedroom."

Based on this evidence, what conclusion can you draw about Charlie?

- A** Charlie felt enthusiastic and pleased about what was happening.
- B** Charlie did not feel excited or eager to see what was happening.
- C** Charlie felt curious and scared about what might be happening.
- D** Charlie did not feel happy and was worried about what might be happening.

4. When Charlie met the new puppy, Lila jumped around him in circles chanting, "He's excited, he's excited, Charlie is so excited!" What did Charlie do that showed he was excited?

- A** Charlie groaned as he rolled out of bed to see what was happening in the hall.
- B** Charlie looked down at the puppy as it head-butted his ankles.
- C** Charlie hugged the puppy to his chest and let it lick his face.
- D** Charlie did not stop Lila from jumping around him in circles and chanting.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A** Lila gets very excited because her family gets a new puppy.
- B** Charlie and Lila are brother and sister, but they are very different.
- C** Charlie is not the kind of kid who screams and gets excited about things.
- D** Charlie meets and immediately loves his family's new puppy.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Really, though: Lila got excited about everything—pizza toppings, the mail, the first day of school, going to the park, getting a gold star sticker when she did her chores, watching her favorite cartoon, helping their mom make snickerdoodle cookies. Charlie could go on and on. He had gotten used to being the 'boring one,' the kid who didn't scream and shout and get excited about things."

Why might the author have discussed the difference between Charlie and Lila in this paragraph?

- A** to show the reader that Lila is more interesting than Charlie
- B** to show the reader that Lila is a better student than Charlie
- C** to show the reader that Charlie doesn't get excited easily
- D** to show the reader how much Charlie loves his sister, Lila

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Lila was always excited about everything, _____ Charlie didn't scream and shout and get excited about things.

- A** but
- B** because
- C** so
- D** then

8. Unlike his sister, what had Charlie gotten used to being?

9. Describe how Charlie's feelings changed from the beginning to the end of the story. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Why might Charlie have suggested Happy as a name for the new puppy? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
