

SECRET HOBBY

Jason loves his friends and school. Every morning when he wakes up, he looks forward to starting a new day. He gets dressed, eats breakfast, and eagerly awaits the school bus. Once arriving at school, he greets his teachers and talks to his friends before the bell rings to start the day.

As the day continues, Jason feels a bit less excited. He knows that when the bell rings at the end of the day, he has to do something he doesn't love. In the fall, this is going to football practice, and in the winter, this is going to basketball practice. However, none of Jason's friends or family know that he doesn't actually love playing sports. Therefore, his smile may fade some, but he works hard on the field and court to be a team player.

After practice ends, Jason is so excited to go home. The minute he opens the door, he runs inside to see his two cats, one lizard, one dog, and three rabbits. He spends time with each animal. Depending on the animal, he pets, brushes, feeds, and fills up the water bowl. Even while Jason does his homework, he stops to greet the animals that are all around him.

"Mom, can I go help at Dad's shop this weekend?" Jason asks his mom.

"Sure, honey. You haven't seen the new fish or hamsters since they arrived. Plus, the store has been so busy, so your dad will love the help," his mom explains.

"When I am old enough, do you think Dad will let me work at the shop?" Jason questions.

"I am sure your father would love the help. He used to help his dad at the shop when he was your age, so he would love to keep the family tradition," his mother explains.

This conversation shows Jason that caring for animals is a part of who he is. It is not something he needs to keep from his friends or try and hide. Therefore, Jason decides he will be honest with his friends at school the next day.

"Guys, did you see the game last night? Overtime was amazing," Jason's friend asks. Over the next twenty minutes, all of the friends talk about the exciting game.

"I have to be honest with you guys. I didn't watch the game last night because I don't really love sports. I spent time with my animals instead because I love taking care of them. The dog needed a bath, the lizard tank needed to be cleaned, and the cats and rabbits needed brushed," Jason explains to his friends.

"That's so cool! I see them when I'm at your house, but I didn't realize you were so interested in animals. You should have told us," one friend states.

"Can we come to see them sometime? I know we go to your house to hang out, but it would be cool to see something you love," another friend explains.

Jason instantly felt relief that his friends didn't make fun of him for loving animals so much. He could not wait for them to come over and see how he cares for each animal.

1. What can you infer about Jason's thoughts on going to school based on evidence in the text?

- a. Jason really enjoys school and has no problem getting up in the morning.
- b. Jason is angry over having to get up so early.
- c. Jason does not mind going to school, but he loves going to his sports practice more.
- d. Jason has a lot of nerves about going to school because he does not have many friends.

2. Which piece of evidence shows that Jason's excitement diminishes throughout the day as the time to go to practice nears?

- a. Once arriving at school, he greets his teachers and talks to his friends before the bell rings to start the day.
- b. After practice ends, Jason is so excited to go home.
- c. Therefore, his smile may fade some.
- d. In the fall, this is going to football practice, and in the winter, this is going to basketball practice.

3. What emotion did Jason feel as he prepared to tell his friends about his love of animals?

- a. Jason was so excited to tell his friends about his love of animals.
- b. Jason was relieved to have the confidence, to be honest with his friends.
- c. Jason was terrified to tell his friends about his love of animals.
- d. Jason was sad that his mom was forcing him to be honest.

4. Which sentence shows that a love of animals is a part of Jason's family?

- a. You [Jason] haven't seen the new fish or hamsters since they arrived.
- b. He [Jason's father] used to help his dad at the shop when he was your age, so he would love to keep the family tradition," his mother explains.
- c. Depending on the animal, he pets, brushes, feeds, and fills up the water bowl.
- d. "When I am old enough, do you think Dad will let me work at the shop?" Jason questions.

5. What was the author's purpose in writing this text?

- a. The author wrote the text to show that it is vital to be a team player even if it makes you unhappy.
- b. The author wrote the text to show that it is crucial to keep a positive mindset throughout the entire school day.
- c. The author wrote the text to show that you should hide your true interests from best friends.
- d. The author wrote the text to show that it is vital to be true to yourself and do what makes you happy.

KEY

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