

Name _____ Date _____

Key Vocabulary	
adopt	make someone part of the family
guardian	someone who takes care of someone else

Pickles the Rabbit

Some people don't understand how much care rabbits need and make the mistake of buying them (instead of **adopting** them) even though they're not prepared to offer a good home. Pickles had a **guardian** who kept him in a laundry basket at night. One day, she called PETA to ask for a cage to keep him in. PETA explained that rabbits shouldn't be kept alone in a cage all day, so the guardian agreed to let PETA find Pickles a better home.



Pickles likes to hop around, eat kale, play with friendly cats, and nibble on shoelaces. Before, he couldn't do any of those things. Now he has a loving home where he's free to hop around and play as much as he wants.

Adopting is a big responsibility. Before your family adopts, make sure that everyone is ready to take care of the animal for many years.

Name _____ Date _____

Comprehension Questions: Pickles the Rabbit

1. Pickles' guardian was keeping him in a _____ at night.

- a. cardboard box
- b. cage
- c. laundry basket
- d. dirty garage

2. Before being rescued, Pickles probably felt _____.

- a. lonely
- b. surprised
- c. cheerful
- d. relaxed

3. What should a family be ready to give an animal they're thinking about adopting?

- a. a cage outside
- b. candy
- c. a TV
- d. lots of room to run around and play

4. What can you do to help take care of an adopted animal?

Answer Sheet: Pickles the Rabbit

1. Pickles' guardian was keeping him in a _____ at night.

Answer: c. laundry basket (Literal)

2. Before being rescued, Pickles probably felt _____.

Answer: a. lonely (Inferential)

3. What should a family be ready to give an animal they're thinking about adopting?

Answer: d. lots of room to run around and play (Inferential)

4. What can you do to help take care of an adopted animal?

Answer: Answers will vary. Students can help feed, walk, and clean up after their adopted animals. They can also play with them.
(Evaluative)

Name _____ Date _____

Key Vocabulary	
rescuers	people who save someone from a bad situation
spay	operation that prevents an animal from having babies
animal companions	animals who live with and are cared for by humans

Florence the Cat

Rescuers from PETA spent days saving animals from the floods after Hurricane Florence. They were about to go home, but they decided to stop and check one last time. It's a good thing they did, because they spotted a skinny cat sitting on the front porch of a flooded house. She had no food, no water to drink, and no way of escaping.



The rescuers named her Florence after the storm that left her stranded. They took her to a vet, who **spayed** her and gave her a check-up. Now Florence is safe and warm and living indoors, where all cats should be.

Sometimes, when dangerous weather hits, people have to leave their homes and go somewhere safe. It's important for them to take their **animal companions** with them because sometimes they can't go back home for a long time. People should make sure they have an emergency plan that includes their animal companions. They can also help cats like Florence by adopting from an animal shelter.

Name _____ Date _____

Comprehension Questions: Florence the Cat

1. Why did Florence need help?

- a. She was stuck in a tree.
- b. She was stranded on the front porch of a flooded house.
- c. She was lost and couldn't find her family.
- d. She had a hurt leg.

2. Before she was rescued, Florence probably felt _____.

- a. calm
- b. excited
- c. scared
- d. happy

3. Check all the things that our animal companions need in order to be happy and healthy.

- food
- water
- a safe place to live indoors
- regular visits to the vet
- love and affection

4. It's important for people to take their animals with them when they have to escape from dangerous weather. What could happen to the animals if they're left behind?

Answer Sheet: Florence the Cat

1. Why did Florence need help?

Answer: b. She was stranded on the front porch of a flooded house.
(Literal)

2. Before she was rescued, Florence probably felt _____.

Answer: c. scared (Inferential)

3. Check all the things that our animal companions need in order to be happy and healthy.

Answer: All the items are needed for animal companions to be happy and healthy. (Inferential)

4. It's important for people to take their animals with them when they have to escape from dangerous weather. What could happen to the animals if they're left behind?

Answer: Animal companions left behind during dangerous weather have no one to take care of them and give them all the things they need. They might end up stranded, lost, sick, or injured, like Florence.
(Inferential)

Name _____ Date _____

Key Vocabulary	
rescuers	people who save someone from a bad situation
animal companions	animals who are adopted and cared for by humans
natural habitat	place where plants and animals are meant to live and grow

Herman the Duckling

Herman was a fluffy baby duck living all alone in a dirty cage. He needed more space, some water to swim in, and other ducks to play with. Luckily, **rescuers** saved him and took him to a safe place with a pond and lots of other ducks. Now, Herman is all grown up and gets to swim every day with his duck friends.



Wild ducks are sweet, but they aren't toys and shouldn't be **animal companions**. Like all wild animals, wild ducks are happiest and healthiest in their **natural habitat**.

Comprehension Questions: Herman the Duckling

1. Why did Herman need help?

- a. He was sick.
- b. He was living all alone in a dirty cage.
- c. He had a broken wing.
- d. He was lost.

2. What does Herman do every day now?

- a. Take naps in the sun
- b. Eat his favorite food
- c. Swim with other ducks
- d. Play chase with his friends

3. Where are wild ducks happiest and healthiest?

- a. In their natural habitat
- b. In a cage
- c. In a house
- d. In a pool

4. How do you think Herman felt before he was rescued, and how did he feel afterward? What makes you think so?

Answer Sheet: Herman the Duckling

1. Why did Herman need help?

Answer: b. He was living all alone in a dirty cage. (Literal)

2. What does Herman do every day now?

Answer: c. Swim with other ducks (Literal)

3. Where are wild ducks happiest and healthiest?

Answer: a. In their natural habitat (Literal)

4. How do you think Herman felt before he was rescued, and how did he feel afterward? What makes you think so?

Possible Answer: Herman was probably scared, confused, and uncomfortable before being rescued, because he lived all alone in a dirty cage. After being rescued, he probably felt safe and happy, because he had everything he needed and he was surrounded by other ducks. (Evaluative)

Name _____ Date _____

Key Vocabulary

pregnant	having a baby growing inside the body
calf	baby cow
sanctuary	place where animals are safe and cared for
bond	feeling of closeness or connection with someone
dairy	made from cow's milk

Note: This version of Idabelle's rescue story is ideal for reading aloud to students in grades K-2. For images to accompany the text, please visit the blog feature at TeachKind.org/Idabelle. Discuss the comprehension questions that follow as a class. For a passage and questions that your students can read and complete independently, see pages 4 and 5.

Idabelle's Great Escape

If there was one thing that Idabelle knew for sure, it was that she was not staying on that boat. It was docked in Virginia but would soon be going somewhere far, far away. Her future did not look good: Once she and the other cows on the boat got to where they were going, they would be milked until they had no milk left. She didn't want to think about what would happen after that.

Like most cows raised for their milk, Idabelle was **pregnant**. That's the only way a cow can make milk. Just like human moms, cows produce milk for their own babies. Idabelle knew that staying on the boat would lead to disaster for

both herself and her **calf**. She had to do something. So she made her way to the boat's railing, broke through the ropes, and jumped into the James River! Even though she was probably scared, she was able to swim all the way to an island.

Idabelle climbed out of the river and disappeared into the woods. Thankfully, somebody found her and took her to a **sanctuary**, where she gave birth to her calf, who was named Jimmy. She got to spend every day with him, grazing peacefully and taking care of him, just like all mothers want to do. Thanks to her bravery, they would be together for the rest of her life.



Like all animals, cows love their families. Mothers and their babies have a strong **bond**. They lick and groom their calves and even take turns babysitting for each other. Normally, mother cows would spend their whole lives with their babies, but that's not allowed on **dairy** farms.

On dairy farms, baby cows are taken away from their mothers when they're just a day or two old so that their milk can be sold in stores instead of given to them. Cow's milk is for baby cows, just like human milk is for baby humans. Instead of cow's milk, you can enjoy delicious dairy-free versions of foods like macaroni and cheese, pizza, and ice cream.

Comprehension Questions and Answers: Idabelle's Great Escape

1. Why do cows produce milk?

Answer: Cows produce milk for their babies, not for humans.
(Literal)

2. Why do you think Idabelle jumped off the boat?

Possible answer: She was scared and wanted to save her baby. (Evaluative)

3. What can you do to help cows?

Answer: You can choose not to eat or drink anything made from milk and instead enjoy delicious vegan versions of your favorite dairy foods. (Literal)

Name _____ Date _____

Key Vocabulary

pregnant	having a baby growing inside the body
calf	baby cow
sanctuary	place where animals are safe and cared for
dairy	made from cow's milk

Idabelle's Great Escape

Idabelle was a **pregnant** cow on a boat sailing far, far away. She knew that if she wanted to save her **calf**, she had to do something. So she jumped off the boat and into the river. Even though she was scared, she swam and made it to the woods. Kind people found her and took her to a **sanctuary**, where she gave birth to her calf, who was named Jimmy.



Cow's milk is for baby cows. You can enjoy foods like macaroni and cheese, pizza, and ice cream that are not made with cow's milk.

Comprehension Questions: Idabelle's Great Escape

1. Why do cows produce milk?

2. Why do you think Idabelle jumped off the boat?

3. What can you do to help cows?
