
CARL'S PROBLEM

1 Carl sat on the couch in the living room, his head in his hands, groaning in agony. "I didn't mean to do it," he kept repeating. "It was an accident, and I didn't mean to, I would never do that on purpose!"

2 His older sister, Emily, just home from school, came into the room carrying her backpack and a notebook. "Why the glum face and groans?" she asked

3 Carl moaned again, "What was I thinking!?"

4 "So what did you do this time?" Emily asked.

5 "I just won the school spelling bee," he groaned, "and I didn't mean to do it!"

6 "Let me get this straight. You just won a spelling contest, and you're all upset? You, who are the best soccer player in the school, who always gets "A"s on everything. Why are you so discouraged? That makes no sense at all although, truthfully, you often don't make sense"

7 "Quit it," Carl said, "you just don't understand. This is terrible."

8 "Okay, I got the terrible, life-is-miserable part, but could you possibly explain your problem so that I WILL understand?"

9 Carl threw himself face down in a couch pillow and beat his fists against the edges. "Tim is the best speller in school and probably the world, and I beat him!"

10 "Nobody wins all the time and just because Tim happens to be your best friend is no reason to carry on like a wet cat."

11 Carl stopped beating the pillow and sat up, sighing. "Tim is my best friend, but he is terrible at sports; he can't run fast, and he always misses the ball no matter what we play. He is okay at school, but he doesn't get "A"s. The one thing he does do well, does better than anybody else, is spell."

12 "But you beat him," Emily pointed out, "so he can't be THAT great; you misspell every other word you write."

13 "Tim feels inferior, and it simply is not fair. I only guessed at how to spell "delirious." The one thing that he did better than me is gone."

14 “Aha!” Emily said, “The sun of truth is rising on the horizon. Tim feels like he doesn’t have any talents and that’s really sad.”

15 “Yes, that’s how he feels and it is sad, but it simply cannot be true. There must be something Tim can do really great besides spell!”

16 “Think about what he’s good at,” Emily suggested.

17 Carl thought a minute, and then said, “He’s really good at imitating people.” “Well, little brother, I think I have a remedy for your unhappiness,” Emily said, smiling.

18 Carl stared at her in disbelief. “Now it’s my turn not to understand.”

19 “Mr. Beck is having tryouts tomorrow for the school play. The main character has to imitate all the other characters in the play, so it’s

perfect for Tim. Here’s how it will work...”

20 The next day, Carl tried to persuade Tim to attend the play tryouts. Tim finally agreed, although he believed he would never get a part.

21 “Don’t TRY to be terrible,” Emily told Tim. “You do imitations easily enough with your friends. Just be yourself. You could not imitate a tired duck if you tried.”

22 The tryouts went as Emily had predicted. Carl did a dreadful imitation of his sister. He pitched his voice high, shaking his finger at Mr. Beck. Tim did a superb imitation of Carl. It took only seconds for Mr. Beck to decide who would play the lead. “Tim,” he beamed, “you’re a natural born actor!”

23 Tim grinned from ear to ear and so did Carl.

1. In paragraph 13, what does the phrase “The sun of truth is rising on the horizon” mean?

A It is nearly daybreak.

B Real events are very confusing.

C The facts are being discovered.

D Information will remain hard to get.

2. Why does Carl sit on the couch and groan?

- A He lost a soccer game. C He is sorry to have hurt a friend.
B He did not get a part in a play. D He has to finish his homework.

3. Which conclusion best states the theme?

- A Everybody feels bad once in a while. C Some people are naturally good at sports.
B Helping a friend gain confidence is rewarding. D Big sisters often know a great deal of information.

4. Which word best describes how Carl feels at the end?

- A puzzled C concerned
B surprised D pleased

5. Which sentence best expresses the author’s point of view?

- A Some events can make a person feel uncomfortable. C Everyone is good at something.
B People should work together to reach their goals. D Success is not important.

6. An example of a simile is best seen in paragraph

- A 6. C 14.
B 10. D 22.

THE NURSE WHO TAUGHT THE DOCTORS

1 It could happen in seconds. One minute a child would be running and playing. The next minute, the youngster would crumple to the ground in pain. The terrible disease, polio, had struck.

2 These painful moments usually occurred without warning. Many children were suddenly crippled. Doctors tried locking their legs in braces and casts. They thought keeping the legs rigid would ease the muscle pain. They also believed the supports would strengthen their muscles. Actually, as a simple country nurse proved, the opposite was true.

3 Elizabeth or "Sister" Kenny, as she became known, was from Australia. She was born on a farm there in 1880. Until well into her 20s, she worked on the family farm. As a teenager, she had shown an interest in medicine. While treating her broken wrist, a doctor let Kenny borrow some medical books. He taught her about the body's muscles.

4 When Kenny was about 30 years old, she was offered a nursing job. The job meant working in the

Australian bush. The bush was a very rough land, but Kenny didn't mind. Bush settlements were far from hospitals and doctors. She knew the people living there needed her.

5 In 1911, Kenny was called to help a little girl. The girl was in great pain and couldn't move. Kenny had never seen this illness. She called upon her former doctor for help. He told her the girl had polio. He also said no one knew how to treat it. "Do your best," was his only suggestion.

6 Kenny's best idea was to dip wool strips in warm water. She wrapped these strips around the girl's legs. Amazingly, the moist heat eased her pain. Next, Kenny helped the girl exercise her legs. Before long, the girl was walking again without any help. Six other children in the area also got polio. Kenny handled them the same way. They also got better and were able to walk again.

7 Many doctors did not believe in Kenny's methods because her handling of polio was so different from theirs. Many hated that a simple nurse succeeded where they were

failing. World War I interrupted Kenny's effort to win them over.

8 Kenny served bravely as a nurse during the war. She performed well and earned the rank of "Sister."

9 After the war, polio remained a problem. By the 1930s, it was breaking out around the world. In 1933, Sister Kenny opened a polio care center in Townsville, Queensland. Patients from around the world came to receive her care. Still, many doctors would not treat polio using her methods.

10 In 1940, some supporters suggested Sister Kenny travel to

America. There some doctors finally listened. They helped her start the Sister Kenny Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. At the Institute, she showed doctors how to care for polio patients.

11 Sister Kenny continued her work until she passed away in 1952. That same year, a new medicine was introduced. People who took this medicine no longer worried about getting polio. By then, doctors realized her exercises had other uses. Today, they ease many kinds of bone or muscle problems. Sister Kenny had introduced the new medical field of physical therapy.

7. After reading the title of this article, the reader probably expects to learn about

A how nurses help doctors learn about new discoveries in medicine.

C doctors who teach nurses new methods of working with children.

B a specific nurse who shared new ideas with some doctors.

D how nursing practices have changed in the last 100 years.

8. Kenny's treatment of polio was different from most doctors because she

A suggested bed rest.

C taught her patients how to walk again.

B used moist heat and exercise.

D used supports to hold a patient's leg straight.

9. Kenny opened her first medical institute in

- A the Australian bush.
- B Townsville, Queensland.
- C Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- D a large Australian city.

10. What new medical concept was developed as a result of Elizabeth Kenny's methods?

- A physical therapy
- B treatment clinics
- C emergency care
- D medicine preventing polio

11. Elizabeth Kenny first learned about medicine from

- A attending nursing school.
- B her experiences during World War I.
- C reading books given to her by a doctor.
- D practical experience in Australia's bush country.

12. What did Kenny do after she dipped wool strips in warm water?

- A She wrapped them around the patient's leg.
- B She put a special medicine on the strip.
- C The strip was cut to fit the child's leg.
- D The patient held the strip in place.

13. The reader can tell that Kenny's treatment of polio was successful because

- A many people from many countries came for her care.
- B a few Australian doctors began using her methods.
- C a drug preventing polio was developed.
- D she earned the rank of "Sister" for her nursing.

14. This story is mainly about a

- A woman who wanted to help children with a terrible disease.
- B serious disease that became a problem around the world.
- C severe disease that often effected people suddenly.
- D woman who wanted to become a doctor.

21. When studying for a test, a good way to remember the important events in Elizabeth Kenny's life would be to

- A make a time line showing her achievements. C copy the first and last paragraphs in your notes.
B read the article aloud and silently three times. D underline the important dates in the article.

22. The best way to remember the important events in Elizabeth Kenny's life would be to

- A read the article several times. C make an outline showing her achievements.
B copy the first and last paragraphs in your notes. D underline the important dates in the article.

23. What would be the third step in writing a report about Elizabeth Kenny?

- A take notes from the sources of information C decide what you want to learn about her
B write a rough draft copy of the report D go to the library and look for information

24. Which key words would be most helpful in locating information about Elizabeth Kenny on the Internet?

- A polio, cure for C Australia, famous nurses
B Kenny, Elizabeth D Sister Elizabeth, treatment

25. What information should be included in notes about why Elizabeth Kenny was successful?

- A Visitors are welcome to tour the Sister Kenny Institute in Minneapolis. C Elizabeth grew up on a farm in Australia and was educated at home.
B In 1952 a new medicine was developed which prevented polio. D She worked to re-educate the medical people who were against her.

26. The sources listed will be useful in finding information to include in a report about Elizabeth Kenny except

- A** a book named *A Healing Warrior*, written by Sister Kenny. **C** a magazine article describing polio and efforts to cure it.
B an atlas of Australia showing the number of hospitals. **D** an Internet article, “Can Polio Victims Walk Again?”

From “Carl’s Problem” and “The Nurse Who Taught the Doctors”:

27. Carl and Elizabeth are alike because they both

- A** are determined to help others. **C** have the same interests.
B become easily discouraged. **D** enjoy living in a small town.

General Knowledge Question:

28. What is the best way to make sure words are spelled correctly when using a computer?

- A** look up the words in a dictionary **C** go to spelling and grammar on the tool bar
B locate the words in a thesaurus **D** find “language” under tools on the computer

5th Grade Reading Test Practice
Dual Selection-“Carl’s Problem” / “The Nurse Who...”

	State Obj.:	DOK:	ANSWER:
1.	1.1b	3	C
2.	3.1.b	2	C
3.	3.3.b	2	B
4.	4.2.a	2	D
5.	4.2.c	2	C
6.	4.3.c	3	B
7.	3.1.a	2	B
8.	3.1.b	1	B
9.	3.1.b	1	C
10.	3.1.c	1	A
11.	3.1.d	1	C
12.	3.1.d	1	A
13.	3.2.a	2	A
14.	3.3.a	2	A
15.	3.3.b	2	B
16.	4.1.a	2	D
17.	4.1.b	2	A

18.	5.1.a	2	C
19.	5.1.b	2	B
20.	5.1.c	2	C
21.	5.1.f	2	A
22.	5.1.f	3	C
23.	5.2.a	2	A
24.	5.2.a	2	B
25.	5.2.c	2	D
26.	5.2.d	2	B
27.	4.1.c	3	A
28.	5.2.e	1	C