Beginning Short Stories – "My Family"

Directions: First read the basic version of the story below. Next, read the advanced version of the same story. Then, try to answer the questions about the story.

Basic Version

Hi, my name is Eric. I want to tell you about my family.

I have two sisters. They are very nice. Their names are Rachel and Norma. Rachel is younger than me. She is twelve years old. Norma is older than me. She is eighteen.

My mother is very pretty. Her name is Adel. She has a very good memory. She can remember all the names of the presidents of the United States.

My father knows about very many things. He is an engineer. He builds bridges.

We also have a dog in our family. His name is Paw. He is a German Shepard. He is very faithful to us.

Advanced Version

Hi, my name is Eric. I want to tell you about my family.

I have two sisters. They are very nice. Their names are Rachel and Norma. Rachel is younger than me. She is twelve years old. Norma is older than me. She is eighteen.

My mother is *beautiful*. Her name is Adel. She has a *great* memory. She can remember all the names of the presidents of the United States.

My father is *smart*. He is an engineer. He builds bridges.

We also have a dog in our family. His name is Paw. He is a German Shepard. He is very *loyal*.

Questions:

1. How old is Norma?

2. What can Adel remember?

3. What is the job of the father?

4. What kind of dog is Paw?

Vocabulary:

To find word definitions: First, find the word in the advanced version of the story. Then, compare this part of the advanced version of the story to the same part of the basic version of the story. This will give you a general definition of the word.

1. What does **"*beautiful*"** mean? *(paragraph 3, sentence 1)*

2. What does **"*great*"** mean? *(paragraph 3, sentence 3)*

3. What does **"*smart*"** mean? *(paragraph 4, sentence 1)*

4. What does "*loyal*" mean? *(paragraph 4, sentence 4)*