

“The Park”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



Reem likes to go to the park with her mom.

She likes to play at the park with her friends.

Today when Reem goes to the park, she looks around and becomes very sad.

“What is wrong, Reem?” Mom asks.

“There is so much trash on the ground,” Reem says. “It seems like each day, I see more trash here.”

Reem and her mom look around.

There are old boxes on the ground.

There are popped balloons on the ground.

There are old cans, too.

“You are right,” Mom says. “The park is very dirty.”

“What can we do?” Reem asks.

“I am sure you will think of something,” Mom says.

Reem and her mom go home. Reem paints a picture of a park. She uses blue, green, brown, and yellow paint.

PLEASE KEEP OUR PARK CLEAN, she writes in big letters on top of her picture.

“Let’s go back to the park, Mom,” Reem says.

“Okay,” Mom says.

Reem grabs a bunch of trash bags to take with her. She also brings along some tape.

When Reem gets to the park, she tapes her picture on a big trash can.

“Here you go!” she says to her mom. She hands her mom a bag. “Will you help me pick up the trash?”

"I sure will," Mom says.

The children at the park run over to see what is going on.

Reem hands them bags. "Let's clean this place up," she says.

The children pick up lots of trash. They talk and laugh as they work. Soon all the bags are full.

"We need to **come back another day**. There is still some trash on the ground," Reem says. "But the park looks much better."

"It does," Mom says. "I knew you would think of some way to help."

Questions:

1) Why is Reem sad?

- A. Her friends are not at the park.
- B. She cannot find her mom.
- C. There is a lot of trash at the park.
- D. She hurts herself on the slide.

2) What is on the ground?

- I. old boxes
 - II. paper
 - III. plastic wrappers
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

3) What does Reem do when she gets home?

- A. She makes a sign.
- B. She eats dinner.
- C. She paints her face.
- D. She cleans her room.

4) What is the purpose of Reem's picture?

- A. to encourage people to clean up the park
- B. to make the park more beautiful
- C. to improve her skills as an artist
- D. to show people how beautiful the park is

5) Why does Reem tape her picture to the trash can?

- A. so people can see it
- B. so it falls to the ground
- C. so people get mad
- D. she is tired of holding it

6) Who helps Reem pick up trash?

- I. her dad
 - II. her mom
 - III. other children
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

Questions (continued):

7) What does Reem give the children? 8) What does Reem learn at the park?

- A. brooms
- B. gifts
- C. mops
- D. trash bags

- A. that she can help make things better
- B. that people do not care about the park
- C. that her mom does not like to pick up trash
- D. that the park has no trash cans

9) How might Reem and her friends feel after cleaning up?

- A. cold
- B. good
- C. mad
- D. sad

10) How does the park look after everyone cleans it up?

- A. all clean
- B. better
- C. very dirty
- D. dirtier

11) At the end of the story, why does Reem say that she needs to come back another day?

- A. to play at the park
- B. to clean up more trash
- C. to empty the trash bags
- D. to show her dad her work

What are some ways we can fight pollution and preserve the environment?

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

At the beginning, the story says, “Today when Reem goes to the park, she looks around and becomes very sad.” When Reem’s mom asks Reem what is wrong, Reem says, “There is so much trash on the ground.” Reem also says, “It seems like each day, I see more trash here.” We can understand from this that Reem is sad because there is a lot of trash at the park. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **A**

In the middle of the story, Reem and her mom look around the playground and see that “there are old boxes on the ground.” This supports **option (I)**. The story does not say that there is paper on the ground, so that eliminates **option (II)**. The story does not say that there are plastic wrappers on the ground. That eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

3) **A**

In the middle of the story, “Reem and her mom go home. Reem paints a picture of a park. She uses blue, green, brown, and yellow paint. PLEASE KEEP OUR PARK CLEAN, she writes in big letters on top of her picture.” We can understand from this that when Reem got home, she made a sign. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **A**

When Reem and her mother go to the park, Reem notices that it is very dirty. Reem wonders what she can do about the dirty park. Reem’s mother tells Reem, “I am sure you will think of something.” As soon as Reem gets home, Reem makes a sign that says, “PLEASE KEEP OUR PARK CLEAN.” Reem then goes back to the park and places the sign over a trashcan. We can understand from this that Reem wanted to do something to help clean up the park. Reem decided to make a sign that encourages people to keep the park clean. Reem places the sign right above the garbage can to remind people to throw trash into the garbage can. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

Reem wants to make the park more beautiful by getting rid of the garbage, not by putting up pretty posters. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Reem is trying to clean up the park, not become a better artist. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The posters do not show how beautiful the park is. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

5) **A**

Reem is sad because the park is dirty. Reem wants to do something about the dirty park, so Reem makes a sign encouraging people to keep the park

clean. Reem tapes the sign up to a garbage can. Since Reem wants to clean up the park and has made a sign encouraging other people to keep the park clean, Reem must want people to read the sign. It will help people remember to keep the park clean. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The purpose of a sign is to tell something to the person who reads it. A sign that falls to the ground cannot tell people anything, so Reem would not tape up a sign just so it could fall to the ground. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Reem wants people to throw their trash away, not to be mad. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The story does not say that Reem is tired of holding the sign. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

6) **C**

Reem's dad is not in the story, so this rules out **option (I)**. Near the end of the story, Reem gives her mom a bag and asks if her mom will help pick up the trash. "I sure will," Reem's mom says. We can understand from this that Reem's mom helped pick up the trash. This supports **option (II)**. Also near the end of the story, "the children at the park run over to see what is going on. Reem hands them bags." Then, "the children pick up lots of trash." We can understand from this that the children help Reem pick up trash at the park. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

7) **D**

When the children at the park come up to Reem, she "hands them bags." Then the children help pick up trash. This means that Reem gave the children trash bags. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

While brooms are helpful items for cleaning, the children were picking up trash and putting it in trash bags, not sweeping. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not provide information to support **(B)**, so it is incorrect. Mops are helpful items for cleaning, but the students were not mopping the ground. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

8) **A**

In this story, Reem first sees that the park is dirty. Reem wants to help change the park. Reem decides to make a sign to help people remember to keep the park clean. Reem also decides to pick up trash. After Reem does these things, the park looks much better. We can understand from this that Reem has learned that she can help to make things better. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

The children in the park helped Reem, so the children must care about the park. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Reem's mom helped pick up trash. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The park did have a trash can. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

9) **B**

While Reem and the children clean up the park, "they talk and laugh." When they are finished, "the park looks much better." Since the children had fun

working together and accomplished their goal, they should feel good about cleaning up. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

The story does not tell us what the weather is like at the park, so there is not enough information to know whether they are cold. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The children had fun working together and did something good, so they should not feel mad. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. For these reasons, they should not feel sad, either. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

10)**B**

Reem and the children fill all the garbage bags. Reem says, “We need to come back another day. There is still some trash on the ground.” Then Reem says, “But the park looks much better.” We can understand from this that there is still some trash at the park, but the park looks better. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Since there “is still some trash on the ground,” the park is not all clean. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Since “the park looks much better,” it does not still look very dirty. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The park looks better because there is less trash, not because it is dirtier. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

11)**B**

At the end of the story, Reem says, “We need to come back another day. There is still some trash on the ground.” Since we know that Reem wants the park to be clean and there is still trash on the ground, we can understand that Reem wants to “come back another day” to pick up the rest of the trash. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Reem says she wants to come back because there is still trash at the park, not because she wants to play. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(C)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.