Name: Date: Score: / 6

The Stray Cat: Reading Comprehension

Fiction story · about 210 words

Read the story. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

The Stray Cat

For a week, a skinny orange cat had been hanging around the dumpster behind Carmen's apartment building. It had a torn ear and ribs that showed through its fur. Whenever Carmen got close, it hissed and ran away.

Carmen wanted to help, but she knew she couldn't just grab it. She looked up information about stray cats at the library. She learned that frightened cats need time to trust people. So every afternoon, Carmen set a small dish of cat food near the dumpster and sat on the steps, very still, about twenty feet away. She read her book and didn't look at the cat.

On the first day, the cat waited until she left to eat. On the fourth day, it ate while she watched. Each day, Carmen moved her spot a little closer. After two weeks, the cat let her sit right beside the dish. One afternoon, it rubbed its head against her knee and purred.

Carmen and her mom took the cat to a veterinarian, who said it was healthy except for being thin. The landlord agreed that Carmen could keep it. She named him Marmalade. Now he sleeps at the foot of her bed every night, and he hasn't hissed at anyone in months.

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?

   A. a girl patiently earns the trust of a stray cat B. a girl buys a cat at a pet store
   C. a vet opens a new clinic D. a cat finds its way home

2. **Detail:** What did the cat do when Carmen got close at first?

   A. hissed and ran away B. followed her C. climbed a tree D. purred

3. **Detail:** What did Carmen learn at the library?

   A. Cats should eat chocolate. B. Stray cats are always sick. C. Cats like to be chased.
   D. Frightened cats need time to trust people.

4. **Sequence:** What happened on the fourth day?

   A. The cat went to the vet. B. The cat ran away for good. C. The cat rubbed her knee.
   D. The cat ate while Carmen watched.

5. **Character:** Which word best describes Carmen?

   A. careless B. lazy C. rude D. patient

6. **Inference:** Why did Carmen sit still and not look at the cat?

ANSWER KEY

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   so the cat would not feel scared and could slowly learn to trust her