

Reading Comprehension Exercise 3

Middle Primary Advance English

The Clumsy Cat's Victory

In a small, hillside village, a farmer struggled with a terrible rat problem. The rodents chewed through his grain, nibbled the chickens' feed, and scampered through the barn like they owned it. The farmer tried everything—traps, poison, and even a borrowed dog—but nothing worked. The rats were fearless.



One chilly evening, a clumsy little cat appeared at the farm gate. It slipped in the mud, tumbled into a basket, and scared itself with the flapping of chickens. "That silly creature can't even walk straight," laughed the farmer's wife. "How could it ever scare a rat?" Still, the farmer took pity on the trembling cat and let it stay in the barn.

That night, every creak and squeak made the poor thing jump. Terrified, the cat knocked over barrels, clattered pails, and toppled a sack of grain. The racket startled the rats so much that they ran for their lives, never to return.

The next morning, the farmer beamed. "You chased them all away! You're my hero!" he declared. The cat blinked, stretched lazily, and gave a modest purr. It seemed almost pleased—but perhaps a little too quiet about how it had done it.



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Questions:

1 What problem did the farmer face at the beginning of the story?

2 What methods did the farmer try to get rid of the rats before the cat arrived?

3 How did the farmer and his wife react when they first saw the cat?

4 Why do you think the rats ran away after the cat's noisy night in the barn?

5 What happened in the barn during the night after the cat arrived?

6 What does this story tell us about appearances or making quick judgments?



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Questions:

7 If you were the farmer, what lesson would you take from this experience?

8 How might the story have ended differently if the farmer had turned the cat away?

9 The farmer easily got rid of the rats using traps and poison. (True / False)

10 The cat arrived at the farm gate one warm summer morning. (True / False)

11 The cat accidentally scared the rats away with all its noise. (True / False)

12 In the end, the farmer was happy the cat came to the barn. (True / False)

13 The cat bravely chased the rats out of the barn on purpose. (True / False)

14 The farmer's wife thought the cat was too clumsy to be useful. (True / False)

15 The cat purred modestly when praised by the farmer. (True / False)

16 The cat remained calm and quiet throughout its first night in the barn. (True / False)



Reading Comprehension Exercise 3 - Solutions

Middle Primary Advance English

Questions:

- 1 What problem did the farmer face at the beginning of the story?

The farmer had a terrible problem with rats that were eating his grain, chicken feed, and running around the barn.

- 2 What methods did the farmer try to get rid of the rats before the cat arrived?

He used traps, poison, and even borrowed a dog, but none of them worked.

- 3 How did the farmer and his wife react when they first saw the cat?

The farmer's wife laughed at the cat and thought it was too clumsy to help, but the farmer felt sorry for it and let it stay.

- 4 Why do you think the rats ran away after the cat's noisy night in the barn?

The rats were frightened by the loud, unfamiliar sounds and thought a dangerous animal was attacking, so they fled.

- 5 What happened in the barn during the night after the cat arrived?

The cat got scared, knocked over things, caused a lot of noise, and accidentally frightened the rats away.

- 6 What does this story tell us about appearances or making quick judgments?

It shows that appearances can be misleading. Even though the cat seemed useless, it solved the rat problem in its own way.



Reading Comprehension Exercise 3 - Solutions

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Questions:

7 If you were the farmer, what lesson would you take from this experience?

To be patient, kind, and open-minded—sometimes help comes from unexpected places or people.

8 How might the story have ended differently if the farmer had turned the cat away?

The rats would probably have continued to cause trouble, and the farmer would never have discovered that even a timid-looking cat could make a difference.

9 The farmer easily got rid of the rats using traps and poison. (True / False)

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