

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

“Bring Your Pet Day” Disaster

I had my backpack on my back and a leash in my hand. It was “Bring Your Pet to School” day! My dog Jax was happily trotting beside me as we walked to the bus stop. The other kids in my neighborhood had their pets, too. Josie had a fish bowl with her beta fish. John had a crate with his cat, Maxie, inside. Paula had a bird cage with her parakeet, Gerald, perched on a little swing. We were all excited to have our pets with us.

Once we got on the bus, though, things started to go downhill. The bus was so noisy! In addition to the normal chatter of the kids, the animals would not use their inside voices. And the smell was *terrible*! Jax's nose was trying to sniff all the new smells, and it was hard to get him to follow me into a seat. When we were seated, another dog rushed up to us with a leash trailing behind her. She and Jax started to sniff each other curiously, and started to play.

“Fluffy! Get back here!” I heard one of the third graders shout. The dog ran towards the voice. The bus driver's voice came over the speaker, “Please hold on to your pets! It is dangerous to have them running all over the bus!”

Finally, we were at school. As we were walking off the bus, I stepped in a small puddle. “Ugh, someone's pet made a mess...” I said to myself. I wiped my shoes in the grass once I was off the bus. Then, I looked at the schoolyard.

It looked like a zoo! There were animals everywhere! Dogs of all shapes and sizes. Colorful birds in cages. Rabbits, chinchillas, and hedgehogs in little carrying cases. And... some animals running free through the grass and on the sidewalks, with kids chasing them in every direction!



Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

They were making a mess. Their food and bedding was **strewn** over the grass. Some kids weren't cleaning up after their dogs went to the bathroom. Fur was floating through the air. *If it looks like this outside, I don't want to see what it looks like inside*, I thought.

Then, something crazy caught my eye. I saw a kangaroo hopping in the grass! And a peacock strutting up the stairs! I didn't know people could have them as pets...

I walked into the building to my classroom. The hallways smelled worse than the bus. There were still animals running wild and messes everywhere. My classroom was no better. Mrs. Doltyn looked frazzled as she instructed us to keep our pets in their cages, or keep the leashes tied to our desks during class. As she was talking, she slowly started to turn into a parrot...

And I woke up, snug in my bed. *Wow, no wonder our school doesn't have a "Bring Your Pet to School" day!* I thought. As much as I love Jax, I was really glad I wouldn't have to worry about him or his messes all day at school.



Questions:

1. Retell the story in your own words.

2. In the second paragraph, how did things start to “go downhill”?

3. Did you realize that this was a dream? What clues helped you, or could help you, figure it out before the end of the short story?

4. What does the word “*strewn*” mean? How do you know?

5. Why is the main character thankful that there really is not a “Bring Your Pet to School” day?

Answers:

1. Retell the story in your own words.

Answers will vary.

2. In the second paragraph, how did things start to “go downhill”?

Things started to go downhill on the bus where the animals made a log of noise and the smell was terrible.

3. Did you realize that this was a dream? What clues helped you, or could help you, figure it out before the end of the short story?

Answers will vary, but acceptable answers would include the kangaroo on the grass, the peacock in the stairwell and the teacher turning into a parrot.

4. What does the word “strewn” mean? How do you know?

Strewn means untidily scattered. The kids and their pets were making a mess with their food and bedding untidily scattered over the grass.

5. Why is the main character thankful that there really is not a “Bring Your Pet to School” day?

The main character was thankful there is no real Bring your Pet to School day as he/she would not have to worry about his/her dog, and clean up the dog's mess, all day at school.