

Picasso Perkins

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My name is Perkins and I am an old cat and a wise cat. I am, in addition, familiar with all the sayings of Our Ancient Furry Ancestors. They say, for instance, "Breakfast is the right meal for interesting news."

Today at breakfast, Lexie said: "Guess what? There's a painting competition in the Bugle. It's called Paint Your Pet, and there are cash prizes! Also, the winning picture gets printed in the paper."

"Lovely, dear," said Melissa. "Please eat your cereal."

Lexie continued, through a spoonful of food, "Entries have to be in on Monday. I wish I'd known about this before ... we haven't got enough time. I want to do a portrait of Perkins. Jess'll be here in a second and I'll tell her about it, and we'll do it together. It's sure to win. Perkins is so beautiful, aren't you, Perkins?"

I looked up and blinked at her to show my gratitude. Little did I know what I was letting myself in for. Lexie likes to get her own way. She is not a calm and docile child. She goes upstairs two at a time; she never walks when she can run; and she climbs trees as well as many cats. The Jess she was expecting is her best friend and she lives next door to us.



1.

Who narrates this story?

- 1) ☐ a girl
- 2) ☐ the girl's mother
- 3) ☐ a cat
- 4) ☐ Jess, from next door

2.

What is the title of the painting competition?

- 1) ☐ Bugle
- 2) ☐ Paint Your Pet
- 3) ☐ Your pet's portrait
- 4) ☐ Cash prize

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"Lovely, dear, said Melissa. "Please eat your cereal."

What does this tell you about Melissa's attitude towards the painting competition?

- 1) ☐ She thinks it's interesting.
- 2) ☐ She wants to enter too.
- 3) ☐ She will talk about it after breakfast.
- 4) ☐ She's not really interested.

4.

Who do you think Melissa is?

- 1) ☐ Lexie's mum
- 2) ☐ Lexie's sister
- 3) ☐ Lexie's friend
- 4) ☐ Lexie's cat

5.

Give **two** reasons for your answer to question 4.

- 1) ☐ She meows at her.
- 2) ☐ She calls Lexie "dear".
- 3) ☐ She lives next door.
- 4) ☐ She tells her to eat her cereal.

6.

What problem does Lexie have with the painting competition? Choose the best answer.

- 1) ☐ She doesn't like the theme of the competition.
- 2) ☐ She doesn't think Jess will want to help her.
- 3) ☐ She doesn't think her painting will win.
- 4) ☐ She doesn't have enough time.

7

Find and copy the word that shows Perkins is pleased when Lexie says he's beautiful.

8

What is the difference between the language Perkins uses and the language Lexie uses? Choose the best answer.

- 1) ☐ Perkins uses more formal language than Lexie.
- 2) ☐ Lexie uses more formal language than Perkins.
- 3) ☐ Perkins uses standard English and Lexie uses non-standard English.
- 4) ☐ Lexie uses standard English and Perkins uses non-standard English.

9

Choose the sentence that summarises the important information we know about Lexie.

- 1) ☐ Lexie is not very confident but is good at climbing trees.
- 2) ☐ Lexie has lots of energy and likes to get her own way.
- 3) ☐ Lexie is calm and docile and she has a best friend called Jess.
- 4) ☐ Lexie goes upstairs two at a time and is very good at art.

10

Do you think Lexie's idea to paint Perkins will go according to plan? Explain your answer.

