

3rd Grade**Ozzie Goes to Junior High**

- 1) "Where is my bear?" Tricia shouted.
- 2) Tricia searched under the bed and behind the couch. Her brown ball of fur was lost. To Tricia, that stuffed animal was like a best friend. She had owned it since her Aunt Mavis had given it to her on her third birthday. Now she could not find it.
- 3) "Have you seen my teddy bear?" she asked her older brother.
- 4) "Well...yes," he said and smiled at her. "I have it."
- 5) Tricia looked at her smiling brother and wondered what he was up to. Her brother did not like stuffed animals. He liked to play football and video games instead. What would he want with Ozzie, her teddy bear?
- 6) "He is at school," he explained.
- 7) Tricia's brother went to junior high school. Why would he want to take a toy bear to junior high school? Last year in the second grade, she had taken Ozzie to her school. However, it was a special day, and everyone had taken a stuffed toy to class. Ozzie had been very popular that day. Everyone wanted to hold him because he was so cute.
- 8) "Why did you take him to your school?" Tricia asked, eyes opened wide as she waited to hear what her brother had to say. She was afraid for Ozzie. What if those big boys at the junior high harmed him? They could use him to play football or kickball or something!
- 9) Tricia listened carefully to his answer. She learned that Ozzie was part of her brother's history report. His class was studying presidents of the United States, and his report was about President Theodore Roosevelt. He told Tricia that President Roosevelt's nickname was Teddy.

10) "What does that have to do with Ozzie?" Tricia asked.

11) Her brother had taken Ozzie because he was a teddy bear. He said, "About a hundred years ago, teddy bears were named for Teddy Roosevelt. When Roosevelt was president, he went hunting with some friends. They saw a little bear, but the president did not want to shoot it. He wanted it to live free in the forest. Later, all the newspapers reported what the president had done, and stores started to sell toy bears. Ever since then those toy bears have been called teddy bears".

12) The next day, Ozzie came home from junior high. He had helped her brother tell about President Roosevelt. The class liked the story of how the president wanted to save the forests and the animals in it. Her brother had also given everyone a United States stamp with a picture of a teddy bear. The stamp was made to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the teddy bear. The bear on the stamp looked just like Ozzie.

13) Tricia's brother gave her one of the stamps, and he told her he was sorry for taking Ozzie without asking. Tricia was not upset with him. She was proud that her teddy bear had helped him. Ozzie was even more important to her now.

- 1** Which of these things is Tricia most likely to do next?
- A** Play football and video games with her brother.
 - B** Let her brother play kickball with Ozzie.
 - C** Take Ozzie to school and tell the "teddy bear" story to her class.
 - D** Tell her mom what happened so that her brother gets in trouble.
- 2** Which of these sentences best describes the main idea found in paragraphs 5 through 8?
- F** Tricia's brother likes to play football.
 - G** Ozzie would be in danger at the junior high.
 - H** Boys in junior high do not like to play with toy bears.
 - J** Tricia does not understand why her brother has Ozzie.
- 3** This story was written mainly to —
- A** tell how President Theodore Roosevelt got his nickname
 - B** show how toy bears can help with history reports
 - C** explain why the teddy bear stamp was made
 - D** tell how a toy bear helped a girl's brother at school
- 4** Choose the best summary of "Ozzie Goes to Junior High."
- F** Tricia is upset with her brother when she discovers that he has taken her teddy bear, Ozzie, to school. She is worried that he and his friends have harmed Ozzie. Her brother is sorry that he took her bear and gives her a teddy bear stamp.
 - G** Tricia searches for her favorite teddy bear, Ozzie. She discovers that her brother has taken her special teddy bear to school as part of a history report. When her brother explains the one hundred year history of the teddy bear, Tricia is proud that Ozzie has helped her brother.
 - H** Over one hundred years ago, President Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot a baby bear. People were happy that the president wanted the bear to live free. Stores began selling toy bears named after the president. Today there is a stamp celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Teddy Bear.
 - J** Tricia had brought her teddy bear, Ozzie, to school to help tell the story of President Roosevelt. The class liked the story of how the president wanted to save a little bear. Tricia's older brother gave the class stamps that were made to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the teddy bear.

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FIGHTING THE GOBI

1) In Southwestern United States, North Africa, in Northwestern China, among other places, an enemy is stealthily occupying mile after mile, sometimes with the help of local residents. This enemy fires no guns, drives no tanks, flies no planes, but it inexorably conquers new territory. Some years it retreats a little. Most years it makes spectacular advances. What is its name? Desert.

2) Perhaps by studying what is happening in the Gobi Desert of China, we can find new ways to defeat this silent enemy.

3) In the Mongolian language, "Gobi" means "waterless place." The Gobi Desert, straddling the border of Mongolia and China and almost twice the size of Texas, often receives less than three inches of rain in a year. That's dry! But when wells are dug, the drillers find water not far below the surface. The whole Gobi seems to be floating on water.

4) The problem, though, is that the air is extremely arid. When water is pumped to the surface, it evaporates. Spring-fed lakes in the valleys between the monstrous sand dunes are salty because of the evaporation, too salty to be of use in irrigating crops or for human consumption.

5) What's worse, the desert is expanding. Oh, not every year. Some years the rainfall is a bit more plentiful and the desert holds steady or shrinks, but most years it is advancing. Scientists say it is gobbling up thousands of acres of farmland almost every year. These estimated 950 square miles per year are sorely needed to help feed China's burgeoning population (1.26 billion). Since the 1950s, it has spread 58% into land that formerly grew crops and livestock.

6) Wang Tao, a scientist with the Institute of Desert Research in the Gobi, claims that most desertification is caused by increasing the numbers of people in the area. As people move into the edges of the desert, farming intensifies as well as road and building construction. Water use escalates, both for irrigation of fields and for sanitation for towns. Then, with small fluctuations in the weather pattern and with depletion of natural soil nutrients, the desert moves in.

7) Sometimes the disruption is more abrupt. In Ejin Oi, a town near the Mongolian border, merchants are trying to attract tourists with special events such as cultural fairs. Many of these merchants are former farmers and herders who no longer can live on agricultural income because of drought. The drought in this area began in 1982 and is directly traceable to diversion of rivers upstream for irrigation. Before that, large numbers of sheep, goats and planted crops could thrive. Now, the river is dried up. Wells are expensive for farmers to dig, but some are investing their life savings to dig them, hoping for one last good crop to see them through.

8) Over the centuries, water rights have been the cause of many conflicts throughout the world. In America, as western farmers drain off water for old-fashioned irrigation

methods, people downstream do without. Political battles and protests over the use of water from many of our western rivers become more vociferous each year as our western cities grow and spread.

9) We need to take a close look at current efforts in the Gobi. China is fighting back. It has formed partnerships with the UN and with individual countries to study dune migration, the usual method of desertification, which is the way deserts encroach on agricultural land. They have discovered that the cores of the Gobi dunes are stable, but windblown surface sands can advance six feet a year. At that rate, farms along with their houses can be buried in a lifespan. The scientists have discovered that narrow bands of pines or poplars effectively stop the advance.

10) The best defense against the advancing dunes seems to be vegetation, a labor-intensive solution with all the planting, watering, and weeding, but one which the huge population of China can manage. In one area, a railroad was being inundated. Workers “planted” straw upright in large grids, slowing down the advance of the sand and allowing plants to take root. The railroad was effectively protected from drifting sand.

11) Inside the research greenhouses, different types of arid-soil vegetables are being developed. Outside, in a “reintroduction garden,” the station is testing trees, shrubs, and grasses for their ability to fight the desert. Plants resistant to wind, salty soils, and salty groundwater are the foot soldiers in the battle against China’s desertification.

12) The researchers have found that a wide variety of plants is best. If a fungus or blight attacks, then only a small percentage of the defense will be wiped out.

13) Israel has cooperated with China to develop a demonstration garden using drip irrigation. The common, old-fashioned way to irrigate was with open channels between rows of produce and floodgates to let the water surge in from a source such as a river or large irrigation ditch. More recently, American farmers have started using the spray method, shooting water through the air, across to the plants. In dry climate areas where irrigation is necessary, much of the irrigation water evaporates without nourishing the plants. Huge amounts of water are wasted in an area where water is precious.

14) The Israelis have introduced the drip method of irrigation in the test plot. With this method, a hose with perforations is laid out along the rows of seeds. When the water is turned on, it drips through the holes directly onto the seeds or plants. Virtually no water is wasted. In the test garden, the channel or spray methods of irrigation would require 7,200 gallons of water each day. The drip method uses only 800!

15) China is working hard to win the desertification war. We need to learn from them.

5 In paragraph 8, the word **vociferous** means —

- A** political
- B** civilized
- C** harmful and illegal
- D** loud and angry

6 What is this passage mainly about?

- F** the different irrigation techniques in the Gobi
- G** the economic affects of the growing Gobi desert
- H** the worldwide problem of desertification
- J** the Gobi desert's growth and efforts to battle it

7 According to the passage, the main advantage of drip irrigation is that —

- A** its water use is more efficient
- B** the plants receive more water
- C** the financial cost is much less
- D** it is much easier to implement

8 Which of the following is an inference one could make from paragraph 4?

- F** Spring-fed lakes are generally of little use for irrigation.
- G** Pumping water is an ineffective way to irrigate.
- H** Rapid evaporation can increase mineral content in water.
- J** In arid places lakes must be spring-fed.

9 Based on information in the passage, which of the following actions might be most practical toward stopping the growth of the Gobi?

- A** Have farmers on the desert's edge not farm their land.
- B** Bring water to the desert's edge from other locations.
- C** Force people to move away from the desert's edge.
- D** Plant great strips of hardy trees near the desert's edge.