

Read the following passage and answer questions #1-9.

### The Case of the Missing Mystery

Jenna loves mysteries. She loves gathering clues and putting them all together to discover the hidden answer. That is why she joined the Mystery of the Month Club. With this club, she gets a new mystery in the mail every month.

Jenna's friends think she is crazy. Although they wouldn't mind reading a mystery once in a while, they certainly wouldn't want to read one everyone month. She doesn't know anyone else who has joined the Mystery of the Month Club. But she is glad she did, because this month's mystery is *The Case of the Missing Cat*. Jenna loves cats and can't wait to start reading the novel during sustained silent reading (SSR) time in school.

After all the math workbooks were put away, everyone in Jenna's class got their SSR books and sat in their usual places. Jenna, Sarah and Candi sat in the three chairs against the back wall. Timmy and Robert sat on the floor in front of them on the reading rug. Everyone else was scattered around the room. Miss Grangeford sat in her teacher's chair reading a *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine.

"Can I read your book today?" asked Sarah.

"Not today," replied Jenna. "But I will let you read it when I'm finished."

"I thought you said I could read it next?!" whispered Candi in a not-so-quiet voice.

"Quiet back there!" yelled Miss Grangeford.

"I'm not sitting next to you anymore," said Candi as she got up and moved next to Timmy.

"Get out of here!" yelled Robert.

"Shhhhhhhhh!" said Miss Grangeford.

Candi ignored Robert and began reading her book.

By then Jenna was lost in her mystery. She read page after page with her eyes glued to the book. It really was a good mystery! Try as she may, she couldn't put all of the pieces together yet. Usually, she could figure out the mystery before the end of the book. But she only had ten pages to go, and she had no idea who stole the cat. Was it the milkman who delivered milk on the doorstep every morning at 8:00 a.m.? Or was it the mailman who delivered the mail by 12:00 p.m.? Jenna has to figure out the last time someone saw Benji the cat. This information would help her figure out the mystery. She wishes she had her blue notebook. That is where she writes down all of the clues to the stories she reads.

Beep! Beep! Beep!

"Okay, children, you know what that means. Line up silently for the fire drill."

Jenna and Sarah put their books on their chairs and began lining up for the drill.

By the time the class got back from the fire drill, it was time for lunch. Friday is pizza day, so everyone quickly got their money and lined back up again. Jenna wanted to get there early while pepperoni slices were still available.

When they got back from lunch, Jenna made a bee-line for the reading chairs in the back of the room. Sarah's book was sitting on her chair where she left it, but Jenna's was gone!

"Who took my book?" screamed Jenna in a panic.

"It wasn't me!" answer Sarah. "I was going to wait until you were through with it."

Jenna looked at Candi. Candi looked at the ground and said, "You always blame me for things I didn't do. I didn't take your book."

"Who cares about that book," said Tommy. "Everyone knows the milkman stole the cat."

"Who cares about the stupid cat," said Robert. "I hate mystery books."

"I know who stole the book!" yelled Jenna. "Hand it over now!"

The thief was caught and had to return the book and write a letter of apology to Jenna.

Who stole the book?

1. What are the benefits of the Book of the Month Club? \*

- A. demanding and difficult
- B. warm and friendly
- C. cold and unfeeling
- D. eventful and amusing

2. What does the highlighted word "sustained" mean in the passage above? \*

- A. sleepy
- B. long
- C. continued
- D. discussion

3. According to the passage, which TWO words best describe Robert. \*

- A. helpful
- B. cheerful
- C. rude
- D. timid
- E. unkind

4. What is the meaning behind the highlighted phrase above, "try as she may"? \*

- A. Jenna might try, but then again, she might not.
- B. Jenna was trying very hard, but wasn't succeeding.
- C. Jenna didn't care whether she tried or not.
- D. Jenna did not want to try anymore.

5. In the highlighted sentence above, what does the word "panic" mean? \*

- A. in a fright
- B. to scream
- C. in a bad mood
- D. to wonder

6. Why did Jenna hurry to line up AFTER the fire drill?

- A. She wanted to find her book.
- B. She wanted to sit next to Sarah at lunch.
- C. She wanted pepperoni pizza.
- D. She wanted to talk to Candi about the book.

7. What mystery is Jenna trying to figure out?

- A. What time did the mailman come?
- B. What time did the milkman come?
- C. Who stole the mystery notebook?
- D. Who stole the cat?

8. Which sentence from the passage reveals the suspect?

- A. "It wasn't me!" answer Sarah. "I was going to wait until you were through with it."
- B. Candi looked at the ground and said, "You always blame me for things I didn't do. I didn't take your book."
- C. "Who cares about that book," said Tommy. "Everyone knows the milkman stole the cat."
- D. "Who cares about the stupid cat," said Robert. "I hate mystery books."

9. What is the theme of the story?

- A. Be careful what you wish for.
- B. Crime doesn't pay.
- C. A girl loses a book.
- D. Friends are important.