

“Bullied”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

Bryan doesn't like going to school anymore.

He is tired of being **bullied**.

Some of the bigger boys at school are mean to him.

They push him to the ground.

They hide his books.

They call him names.

They are bullies.

When things get really bad, Bryan tells his mom he is sick.

“You should stay home and rest,” Mom says. “You'll feel better tomorrow.”

Then Bryan gets to stay home.

He reads books. He watches television. He eats what he wants. He is not scared.

“You should tell someone you are getting **bullied** at school,” says Bryan's best friend, Link.

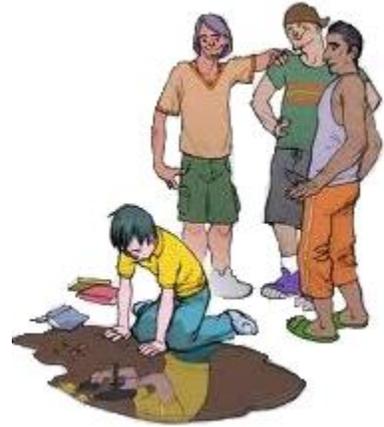
But Bryan is scared. He doesn't want to tell an adult.

“That will make things worse, Link,” says Bryan. “You don't go to my school. You have no idea how mean these guys can be.”

“You can't keep missing school,” says Link. “Your grades will fall. You will be in trouble at home. And besides, you don't want to be in the seventh grade forever, do you?”

Bryan thinks Link is probably right. He will tell his mom about the bullies when she gets home from work tonight.

He will see what happens.



Questions:

1) Why doesn't Bryan like going to school anymore?

- A. The work is hard.
- B. The kids are mean.
- C. His best friend does not go there.
- D. He wants to read books at home.

2) How might Bryan feel when the kids at school are mean to him?

- I. angry
 - II. scared
 - III. strong
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

3) Who are the bullies in this story?

- A. Bryan and Link
- B. the gang members at Bryan's school
- C. the teachers
- D. the bigger boys at Bryan's school

4) What grade is Bryan in?

- A. fourth grade
- B. sixth grade
- C. seventh grade
- D. tenth grade

5) What do the mean kids do to Bryan?

- I. call him names
 - II. steal his money
 - III. hide his backpack
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

6) Why hasn't Bryan's mom helped him?

- A. She is busy at work.
- B. She does not care.
- C. She does not know.
- D. She does not want to.

7) Why doesn't Bryan tell his mom he is being bullied?

- A. She might hurt the mean kids.
- B. He is scared of what the bullies will do if he tells an adult.
- C. She might talk to the teachers at the school.
- D. She will make Bryan go to school.

8) What does Bryan do when he stays home from school?

- A. does his homework
 - B. plays video games
 - C. gets scared
 - D. reads books
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Questions (continued):

9) Who tells Bryan that he should tell someone about being bullied?

- A. Link
- B. Bryan's mom
- C. the school counselor
- D. the school principal

10) What is likely to happen if Bryan keeps missing school?

- A. He will get into a fight.
- B. His grades will fall.
- C. Link will stop being his friend.
- D. The bullies will come to his house.

11) When does Bryan plan to tell his mom about the bullies?

- A. today
- B. tonight
- C. tomorrow
- D. tomorrow night

12) Which of the following adjectives accurately describe Link?

- I. shy
 - II. caring
 - III. helpful
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III

13) What does it mean to be **bullied**?

- A. to not have friends at school
- B. to have a lot of work
- C. to have people say and do mean things to you
- D. to not like school

Have you ever been bullied? Do you know someone who has? Explain.

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

At the beginning of the story it says, "Bryan doesn't like going to school anymore." After that, we learn that the reason Bryan doesn't like going to school is that he is being bullied and that "some of the bigger boys at school are mean to him." Bryan does not like going to school because some of the kids are mean. This makes **(B)** correct.

The story does not tell us whether Bryan's schoolwork is hard, so **(A)** is incorrect. Bryan tells his best friend, Link, "You don't go to my school. You have no idea how mean these guys can be." We know that Bryan's best friend does not go to his school, but this is not the reason why Bryan does not want to go to school. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. In the story, we learn that when Bryan stays home, he reads books, but that is not the reason why he stays home. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

2) **B**

At the beginning of the story, we learn that some bigger boys at school bully Bryan. In the middle of the story, Link tells Bryan to tell someone about the bullying, "but Bryan is scared." He doesn't want to tell an adult because Bryan thinks that telling an adult "will make things worse." We can understand from this that Bryan is scared of the bullies. This supports **option (I)**. The bullies do many mean things to Bryan: "They push him to the ground. They hide his books. They call him names." When people are pushed around and made fun of, it is natural for them to feel angry. Since the bullies were mean to Bryan, Bryan probably feels angry. This supports **option (II)**. We know that Bryan stays home from school because he doesn't want to be bullied. We also know that Bryan does not want to tell an adult because he is afraid that the bullying will get worse. Feeling *strong* is feeling forceful and brave. Someone who feels forceful and brave would not hide from what he is scared of. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

3) **D**

Near the beginning of the story it says, "Some of the bigger boys at school are mean to him." Therefore **(D)** is correct.

At the beginning of the story, we learn that Bryan is the name of the boy who is being bullied. In the middle of the story, we learn that Link is Bryan's "best friend." Therefore, Bryan and Link are not the bullies. This means **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not talk about any gang members, so **(B)** is incorrect. The story does not mention teachers at all, so **(C)** is incorrect.

4) **C**

At the end of the story, Link tells Bryan that if Bryan keeps missing school, Bryan's "grades will fall." Link then asks Bryan, "You don't want to be in the seventh grade forever, do you?" We can understand from this that if Bryan's grades fall, he won't be able to move up to the next grade and will have to

stay in the grade he is in now. This means that Bryan is in the seventh grade now. This means **(C)** is correct.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **A**

At the beginning of the story, the author lists the things that the older boys do to bully Bryan. One of the things they do is “call him names.” This supports **option (I)**. The story does not say that the bullies steal Bryan’s money. This eliminates **option (II)**. The story does say that the bullies hide Bryan’s “books.” However, the story does not say that the bullies hide Bryan’s *backpack*. Hiding a backpack, which holds books, is not the same as hiding the books themselves. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

6) **C**

Bryan “tells his mom he is sick” so that he can stay home and not be bullied. Bryan’s friend Link tells him “you should tell someone you are being bullied at school.” From these statements, we can understand that Bryan has not told his mother about the bullying. At the end of the story, we learn that Bryan “will tell his mom about the bullies when she gets home from work.” Since Bryan is planning to tell his mother about the bullying, we can infer that he has not already told her and so she does not know that Bryan is being bullied. This makes **(C)** correct.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

7) **B**

In the middle of the story, Link tells Bryan that he should tell someone about the bullying. Right after that we learn that “Bryan is scared. He doesn’t want to tell an adult.” Bryan thinks that telling an adult “will make things worse.” We can understand from this that Bryan doesn’t want to tell his mother, who is an adult, about the bullying because he is scared that telling an adult will make the bullying will get worse. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

There is no information in the story to make us think that Bryan’s mother will hurt the mean kids. This makes **(A)** incorrect. Although Bryan’s mother might talk to the teachers at school, there is nothing in the story that leads us to believe that Bryan doesn’t tell his mother about the bullying because he is afraid that she will talk to the teachers. This means **(C)** is incorrect. Bryan tells his mother that he is sick so that he can stay home and avoid the bullies. There is no information in the story to make us think that Bryan’s mother will definitely make him go to school if he tells her about the bullying. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

8) **D**

In the middle of the story, we learn that when Bryan stays home, Bryan “reads books.” This means **(D)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)** and **(B)**. Therefore they are incorrect. The story

says that when Bryan stays home, Bryan “is *not* scared.” This makes **(C)** incorrect.

9) **A**

In the middle of the story, Bryan’s best friend, Link, says, “You should tell someone you are getting bullied at school.” This means **(A)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

10) **B**

At the end of the story, Bryan’s friend Link says that Bryan “can’t keep missing school,” because Bryan’s “grades will fall.” Therefore **(B)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

11) **B**

At the end of the story Bryan decides to “tell his mom about the bullies when she gets home from work tonight,” so **(B)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

12) **C**

An adjective is a word that is used to describe a thing. Being *shy* is being nervous and quiet around other people. Link does not appear nervous or quiet around other people. This eliminates **option (I)**. In the middle of the story, Link tells Bryan to tell someone about the bullying. Link also tells Bryan that Bryan “can’t keep missing school,” or else Bryan’s “grades will fall” and Bryan “will be in trouble at home.” The story says that Link is Bryan’s “best friend.” Friends try and help each other out because they care about each other. We can understand from this information that Link is giving Bryan advice because he cares about what happens to Bryan. He is *caring*. This supports **option (II)**. Since Link is trying to help Bryan, he is being *helpful*. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

13) **C**

bully (*verb*): to use strength or influence to harm or intimidate a person

At the beginning of the story, we learn that Bryan is “being bullied.” The story says that “bigger boys at school are mean” to Bryan. The story then lists a few things that the bigger boys do, like pushing Bryan “to the ground,” hiding Bryan’s books and calling him names. Using this information, we can understand that bullying is doing and saying mean things to other kids. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Just because someone is bullied does not mean that they do not have a lot of friends at school. This means **(A)** is incorrect. There is no information in the story to make us think that being bullied means having a lot of work, so **(B)** is incorrect. Someone who is bullied might not like going school *because* they get bullied while they are there. But other kids may not like school for different

reasons. This is different from being bullied, which is when some kids say and do mean things to you. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.