

“First Prize”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

My name is Tess and I ride horses.

I ride them in the circus.
I ride them in parades.
I ride them in shows.

I am riding in a horse show today.

My horse runs.
My horse jumps.
My horse dances.

I hold on!

My horse is the best.
I named her Twin.
I feel like the horse and I are the same when I ride her.

My mother is not at the horse show.
She has to work.

My father is there. He claps. He yells. He smiles.

The show ends. A man announces the winners.
"First Prize goes to Tess and Twin!" he says.

He gives me a blue ribbon.

I am very excited. My dad gives me a hug.

"You won!" he says.

My dad and I go home.
My dad tells my mom about my ribbon.

She cries.
She gives me a big hug.

"Your hard work is showing," she says.



Questions:

1) Where does Tess ride her horse?

- I. in shows
- II. at school
- III. on a farm

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

2) What does Tess need to do while her horse runs and jumps?

- A. dance
- B. hold on
- C. sing
- D. stand up

3) Why did Tess probably name her horse Twin?

- A. because Tess has a twin
- B. because there are two horses
- C. because another horse looks very similar to Twin
- D. because Tess feels the same as Twin when she rides her

4) Where is Tess's mother during the show?

- A. She is at work.
- B. She is at the show.
- C. She is at home.
- D. She is with Tess' father.

5) Why does Tess's father yell?

- A. He is angry.
- B. He needs help.
- C. He is surprised.
- D. He is excited.

6) What prize does Tess win in the horse show?

- A. The Gold Star
- B. Winner's Prize
- C. new riding boots
- D. First Prize

7) What color ribbon does Tess get?

- A. green
- B. blue
- C. purple
- D. red

8) How does Tess's mom feel about the ribbon?

- I. worried
 - II. happy
 - III. proud
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I, II, and III
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Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

In paragraph 2, Tess tells us that she rides her horse “in shows.” This supports **option (I)**. While horse shows may commonly be held at school, the story does not give specific information about where the “shows” are held. This eliminates **option (II)**. Horse shows could also be held on a farm, but the story does not give specific information about where the “shows” are held. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

2) **B**

In paragraph 4, Tess is at the horse show. Tess’s horse “runs, jumps, and dances.” In order to do this, the horse moves quickly and in many different directions. To stay on the horse, Tess needs to “hold on!” Otherwise, Tess will fall off the horse. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it is the horse who dances, not Tess. The story does not contain information to support choices **(C)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **D**

At the end of paragraph 6, Tess tells us that “I feel like the horse and I are the same when I ride her.” Tess means that she feels like she is part of Twin, or connected to her in a very close way. Answer choice **(D)** best reflects this idea. The story does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)** and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **A**

In paragraph 7, Tess tells us that her mother is not at the horse show. This is because she “has to work.” Answer choice **(A)** provides this reason. The story does not contain information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **D**

In paragraph 8, Tess’s father is at the horse show. He “claps,” “yells,” and “smiles.” Here, Tess’s father yells because he is excited **(D)** and wants to be heard by Tess, who is far away. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Sometimes people yell because they are angry, but he is not angry **(A)**. The reader knows this because he is smiling. He would not smile if he was angry. Thus, **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not contain information to support choices **(B)** and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **D**

In paragraph 9, a man announces the winners of the show, stating, “First Prize goes to Tess and Twin [Tess’s horse].” According to the story, the name of her prize is “First Prize.” Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Although Tess does win a *prize*, the Gold Star **(A)** and the winner's prize **(B)** are incorrect because the name of her prize is "First Prize." Tess does not win new riding boots **(C)**, so **(C)** is incorrect.

7) **B**

In paragraph 10, Tess tells us that the announcer gives her the "blue" ribbon. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)** and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

8) **C**

At the end of the story, Tess's father shows Tess's mother the ribbon that Tess won in the horse show. The story does not provide information to support the idea that Tess's mother is worried. This eliminates **option (I)**. Tess's mother cries and gives Tess "a big hug." She cries because she is happy; she is crying *tears of joy*. This supports **option (II)**. In addition, Tess's mother tells Tess that her "hard work is showing." The "hard work" she is referring to must be the time she spends practicing to become a better horse rider. When someone is happy or satisfied as a result of the work someone else has done, that person is *proud*. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.