

Reading Comprehension:

Lost and Found

Read the story, and then answer the questions that follow.

The scorching sun felt like a million laser beams on Ashley's back as she rustled through the dune grass looking for leftover cups, plastic bags, and other assorted remnants of the weekend's tourists. *Ugh!* she thought, as she pulled a greasy old burger wrapper out of the sand, *How on earth did I ever let Tasha convince me to join her volunteer group to clean up the beach? This has got to be the least entertaining way to spend my Saturday morning.* She glanced at Tasha, who was fishing a pair of dirty shoelaces from the tall grass.

"Is beach cleanup always this tedious? There's so much trash. And, for the record, I can't tolerate this heat and humidity," Ashley griped.

Tasha shrugged her shoulders as she threw the brownish shoelaces into the garbage bag. "Sure, it's not the most exciting thing we've ever done together, and the weather is not exactly pleasant," Tasha admitted, "but if we don't do it, who will?"

There were some shrubs with needle-like leaves. Ashley gritted her teeth as she carefully picked a napkin out of the thorny branches. But then, as she reached her hand under the brambles a second time, she felt something squishy and hairy brush against her hand. *Ick!* What kind of gross trash could be down there? She let out an exasperated sigh as she crouched down to investigate. There, under the bush, was a fluffy, cream-colored dog. The dog bounded forward and licked her face.

"Hey, Tasha," she yelled, "You need to come see this!"

Tasha's eyes widened as she took in the dog, covered in burrs, licking her friend's face. "He's so friendly! Someone must be missing him. Maybe he lives in one of those apartments?" she suggested, gesturing toward the building near the parking lot.



The girls left their trash bags and gloves by the dunes and set off toward the building, with the dog playfully trotting alongside. As they walked, an older couple passed by.

"Kevin," said the woman, "that looks like the dog from the sign!" The woman told the girls about a lost dog sign she had seen on a lamppost in the parking lot. They excitedly ran to the lamppost she described, and, sure enough, it was a picture of their new friend.

"Your name is Wally," Ashley whispered, as she affectionately rubbed his ears. Tasha pulled out her phone and called the number on the sign.

"Oh, that's wonderful! We've been searching everywhere," the man exclaimed with relief. "I will be right there to get him."

As she hung up the phone, Tasha turned to Ashley, "I guess this day didn't turn out to be so boring after all," she teased.

Ashley laughed, "Who would've thought that a beach cleanup could be this exciting? After Wally is picked up, let's get back to the dunes. We have work to do!"

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Answer the following questions about “Lost and Found.”

1. What does the simile in the first sentence of the passage suggest about the sun’s rays?
A. They feel sharp and uncomfortable.
B. They feel like they come from a long distance away.
C. They feel strange and unfamiliar.
D. They feel warm and cozy.

2. Read the sentence from the passage.
“Is beach clean-up always this tedious?”

What does the word tedious mean in this sentence?

- A. harmful
- B. boring
- C. unfortunate
- D. serious

3. Which context clues help identify the meaning of tedious?

4. How does Ashley and Tasha’s interaction with the older couple further the plot?

5. **Part A:** Which of the following statements expresses a theme of this passage?

- A. Laughter is the best medicine.
- B. It is important to balance work and play.
- C. True friends will always support each other.
- D. Even the most ordinary tasks can be memorable.

Part B: Explain how the author developed the theme throughout the passage.

6. An objective summary exclusively focuses on the facts of the story, leaving out opinions and judgments. Write an objective summary of “Lost and Found.”

