

Read the selection. Then choose the best answer to each question.

## The Alien in the Laundry Room

- 1 "Where is Jamal?" Brooke wondered after school. She and the other kids from the Oak Street Apartments always walked home together. But today Jamal was nowhere in sight. "Maybe he's been kidnapped by aliens!" said Jalissa.
- 2 When they got home, Jalissa flung the door open, almost knocking Ms. Tilly down. Ms. Tilly was the manager of the apartments. "Jamal has been taken by aliens," Jalissa cried frightfully.
- 3 "Watch where you're going," scolded Ms. Tilly. "Jamal is downstairs doing laundry." The kids trooped down to the basement. In one corner of the unlit basement, two eyes glowed red. The kids could make out a shadowy creature almost as big as a washing machine. "Is that an alien?" cried Brooke.
- 4 "No, it's a dog," Jamal said as he turned on the light. "I found him all skinny and trembling on the sidewalk. He has no tags, but the vet gave him all of his shots, and says he's trained!"
- 5 "Ms. Tilly will NOT let you keep him," said Luke.
- 6 But Jamal was optimistic. "I already mentioned it to her, and she said as long as the dog is clean and obedient, she wouldn't object. So I'm hopeful that if we clean him up she'll let me keep him." He asked his friends to help him wash the dog and they obliged.
- 7 Just as they finished bathing him in the laundry room wash basin, the clean, fluffy dog shook his giant body and broke free. They chased the dog into the main lobby where it scampered into Ms. Tilly! When she saw the great wet beast, she screamed. Hearing this, the dog rolled over and put up one paw.
- 8 "Is this the dog you inquired about earlier, Jamal?" Ms. Tilly asked. Jamal nodded. "Little dogs are yappy and remind me of rats. I prefer big dogs," she exclaimed. "I guess you can keep him, if you must."
- 9 The kids were overjoyed. Later, they all took Jamal's new pet for a walk. "See," remarked Jamal. "Even the scariest creature may have a secret soft side. And I don't mean the dog," said Jamal. "I mean Ms. Tilly!"

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 In this story, who finds the dog?

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2 When and where does this story take place?

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3 Why is Jalissa afraid when she first encounters Ms. Tilly?

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4 How do the characters know one another?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 In paragraph 6, the word optimistic means —
- A good at following directions
  - B sad, depressed
  - C hopeful, having a positive outlook
  - D having good eyesight
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- 6 The kids probably think Ms. Tilly will not let Jamal keep the dog because —
- A the Oak Street Apartments don't allow pets
  - B the dog is an alien
  - C Ms. Tilly is strict and unfriendly
  - D Ms. Tilly hates big dogs
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- 7 We learn at the very end of the story that —
- A Ms. Tilly thinks little dogs are like rats
  - B no dogs are allowed at the Oak Street Apartments
  - C Ms. Tilly is warm, loving, and kind to animals
  - D even Ms. Tilly has a soft side
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- 8 The author most likely chose the title "The Alien in the Laundry Room" because —
- A it makes the reader want to do laundry
  - B it makes the reader curious and want to read more
  - C it tells the reader that the selection is about an alien
  - D it tells the reader how aliens do laundry