

"Are you going to fight him?" asked Jason. "He's telling everyone that you two are going to fight after school."

Matt didn't say anything. Ever since Craig had moved to their school, he had taunted and teased Matt. Matt didn't know what he had ever done to provoke Craig, but he wished he could change it.

Both boys were on the same Little League team, and they were on the same all-star team. They both competed for the position of pitcher, and the position was given to Matt. Matt wondered if that was just too much for Craig, because since then, Craig had tried to fight him.

At 11 years old, Matt had never encountered anyone who wanted to fight him. He occasionally got into a scuffle with his brothers, but that was to be expected. Fighting a total stranger? What did that mean?

Matt closed his locker and headed off to class. His stomach was churning with anxiety. From out of nowhere, Matt felt a punch to his stomach. He lurched and let out a gasp. He looked up in time to see Craig pushing him against the lockers.

"Craig," he whispered.

"Yeah, what?" asked Craig. "I heard you've been telling people that you play better baseball than me. Is that true?"

"No," groaned Matt, "But I have been telling people that I better start practicing pitching, so I can stay as pitcher."

"Really?" asked Craig.

"Oh, yeah," said Matt. "With a punch like that, you're sure to take my spot."

STORY QUESTIONS



1 What is the meaning of *lurched* as used in the passage?

- a. fell
- b. aligned
- c. staggered
- d. upset

2 What can you learn about Matt from reading this passage?

- a. He lives in a city.
- b. He loves to play all sports.
- c. He is quick-witted.
- d. He is unfriendly.

3 Which of the following statements is accurate?

- a. Craig punched Matt in the nose.
- b. Matt was able to pin Craig and get him to stop fighting.
- c. Craig was upset with Matt because he got to be the pitcher.
- d. none of the above



Hannah and Henry were born two minutes apart. Since that time, they had seldom been separated. Today was no different. The two had been given the assignment of rounding up the herd of cattle.

The twins lived with their parents on a large ranch in Texas. Generations of their family had run cattle across the many miles for many years. Their grandfather had fought in the Mexican-American War. They were proud of their land and freedom.

“C’mon, Hannah,” yelled Henry. “Let’s go. The cows are starting to head for the wash.”

“I’m trying,” barked Hannah. The day was hot and sticky.

Just then, a cow with a big head of sharp horns raced to a stop in front of Hannah. Dust billowed into the air. The cow stood panting as if daring Hannah to move. Hannah let out a whimper. “Henry?”

“Come on!” yelled Henry. He turned to look back at his sister. He was surprised to find the whole herd lined up in front of Hannah. “Wow,” said Henry, whispering this time. “Walk as slowly as you can out of the way. They’re just trying to pass.”

Hannah slowly stepped out of the way. After a few minutes, the cattle began shuffling their way towards the corral. Henry shut the gate as the last cow made her way in. Laughing, he slapped Hannah’s back, “Way to go! You rounded up the herd single-handedly!”

Hannah replied coyly, “Don’t thank me. Those cattle herded your sister this time!”

STORY QUESTIONS



1

What is the main idea of paragraph two?

- a. It provides the problem in the story.
- b. It provides the solution to the story.
- c. It is the climax of the story.
- d. It provides the background and the setting of the story.

2

What is the meaning of the word *billowed* as used in the passage?

- a. rushed
- b. buckled
- c. swirled
- d. descended

3

Which of the following is not true in the story?

- a. Hannah was able to outsmart the cattle this year.
- b. Henry was thrilled with the fact the cattle went into the corral.
- c. Hannah's grandfather had not fought in the Mexican-American War.
- d. Hannah and Henry were herding cattle together.

