

Story 4



Nathan has a book report due tomorrow. He intended to read the book earlier, but he just blew it off. There was always something more interesting to do. He could watch a fun show on TV. He could hang with his friends or maybe catch a movie with them. He could walk his dog or maybe teach him a new trick. Why should he read a boring book when there was so much else he'd rather do?

The unpleasant truth, though, is that Nathan has difficulty reading. He can't decode all of the words, and he reads very slowly. Sometimes by the time he has finished reading a lengthy sentence, he has forgotten what the sentence was about anyway. Nathan listens well and remembers what he hears, but reading is altogether another story for him.

Nathan is beginning to think he's unintelligent. His friends all read faster than he does. Everyone else in his family reads like bookworms. Nathan wishes he could read better, but he doesn't know what to do differently. Maybe he should bite the bullet and talk to his teacher.

Main Idea and Details

1. What is the main idea of this story?
 - a. Nathan is not like the rest of his family.
 - b. Nathan has trouble understanding what he hears.
 - c. Nathan reads poorly and wants to do better.
2. What assignment is due tomorrow?
 - a. a math report
 - b. a book report
 - c. a journal entry
3. Why does Nathan think he's unintelligent?
 - a. He can't read as well as others, including his family.
 - b. He doesn't like to read.
 - c. He doesn't understand what people say.

Vocabulary and Semantics

4. What does it mean to **blow something off**?
 - a. to blow it away
 - b. to ignore it
 - c. to worry about it
5. What does it mean to **bite the bullet**?
 - a. to eat something hard
 - b. to do something hard to face
 - c. to do something you really want to do
6. What is a **bookworm**?
 - a. a person who enjoys reading
 - b. a person who only reads when he has to
 - c. a person who doesn't know how to read

Problem Solving

7. Why is reading important in school?
 - a. so you can discuss what you read
 - b. so you can learn from what you read
 - c. both *a* and *b*

8. Why doesn't Nathan just ask his teacher or a parent for help?
 - a. He doesn't remember to ask.
 - b. He is afraid he will be punished.
 - c. He is ashamed that he has a reading problem.

9. Which one wouldn't help a student learn to read better?
 - a. reading every day
 - b. taking a break from reading
 - c. being tutored

Asking Questions

Ask a question about help for students who can't read well.

Writing and Discussion Prompt

Agree or disagree with this statement and explain your reasons.

Every student should know how to read well by the end of fourth grade.