

Year 6

Smart Bird 1 Inference 2d



English reading

Jason sat in the kitchen with his friend Peter, having an after-school snack. Perched on the shelf above the window, Jason's parrot, Hercules, watched the boys with his beady black eyes.

"Why did you get a pet parrot, anyway?" Peter asked, reaching for a banana. "Wouldn't you rather have a dog or a cat or, I don't know, a fish?"

As he spoke, Peter kept one eye on Hercules, observing the bird just as it observed him. Jason could tell Peter was a little afraid of the parrot, and he could see why. Hercules was pretty big, and he had a sharp beak and sharp claws to match. Even Jason had been nervous around Hercules at first, but now he knew that despite the bird's appearance, he was really very gentle.

"We got him from my aunt," Jason said. "She had to move and couldn't keep him anymore."

"Maybe you could sell him or something," Peter said, "and then get a dog."

"I'd never want to sell him!" Jason replied. "I mean, sure, I'd like to have a dog someday, but parrots are amazing. You know they can--"

"Talk," said Peter. He smirked. "Yeah, I know that, but I've never heard THIS one talk."

Jason took a treat from a box on the counter and said, "Say your name, Hercules, smart bird!"

Hercules squawked and flew from the window to Jason's hand, snatching the treat on his way back to his perch. Peter laughed and said, "That parrot is smart, all right. I see he's trained you to give him his favourite treat whenever he squawks."

Looking for another opportunity to make his bird seem smart, Jason picked up a baby carrot, put it in his mouth, and let it stick out between his teeth. Quick as a frog grabs a bug, Hercules dived off his perch, stole the carrot and circled back to his cage. After he had eaten it, Hercules tucked his head under his wing and closed his eyes, which made Peter laugh again and Jason frown.

"I can get him to talk," he said, embarrassed by Peter's reaction. "It's just that I haven't had him long enough, and he needs a little more time to get used to living here."

"Hey, let's do something fun instead of watching that bird," said Peter, getting up from the table. "How about we go to the skate park?"

"Okay, sure," Jason said, relieved he didn't have to listen to any more of Peter's comments about Hercules.

When he got home from skating, Jason walked straight to the parrot's cage and shouted, "Hercules, say your name, smart bird!"

Hercules paid no attention to him, as usual, and Jason slumped down in a chair, heaving a loud sigh.

Questions

- 1 Jason could tell Peter was a bit scared of the parrot. Give **one** piece of evidence that shows this.

- 2 Read from “*Looking for another opportunity to make his bird seem smart...*” to the end. Tick **two** statements that are true about Peter.

Tick **two**.

☐

He had heard Hercules talk before.

☐

He preferred parrots to dogs.

☐

He didn't believe Hercules could talk.

☐

He found Peter's attempts to get Hercules to talk funny.

☐

He was embarrassed by Hercules.

- 3 Think about the whole text.

How can you tell that Peter does not find Hercules that interesting?

Give **three** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- 4 Draw **three** lines to match each character to the most suitable description.

Jason

sarcastic

Hercules

determined

Peter

uncooperative

5 Think about the whole text.

What **impressions** do you get of Jason as he chats to Peter about Hercules and attempting to make him talk?

Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. _____

2. _____

Answer sheet

- 1 Jason could tell Peter was a bit scared of the parrot. Give **one** piece of evidence that shows this.

As he spoke, Peter kept one eye on Hercules, observing the bird just as it observed him.

- 2 Read from “Looking for another opportunity to make his bird seem smart...” to the end.

Tick **two** statements that are true about Peter.

Tick **two**.

☐

He had heard Hercules talk before.

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He preferred parrots to dogs.

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He didn't believe Hercules could talk.

☒

He found Peter's attempts to get Hercules to talk funny.

☐

He was embarrassed by Hercules.

- 3 Think about the whole text.

How can you tell that Peter does not find Hercules that interesting?

Give **three** ways.

Any 3 of the following/that imply the following, including quotes or paraphrases:

He asked Jason if he'd rather have a dog, a cat or a fish.

He suggested Peter could sell him.

He was sarcastic when he said Hercules was smart for tricking Jason into giving him treats rather than talking / he wasn't impressed that he just took the treat and didn't talk.

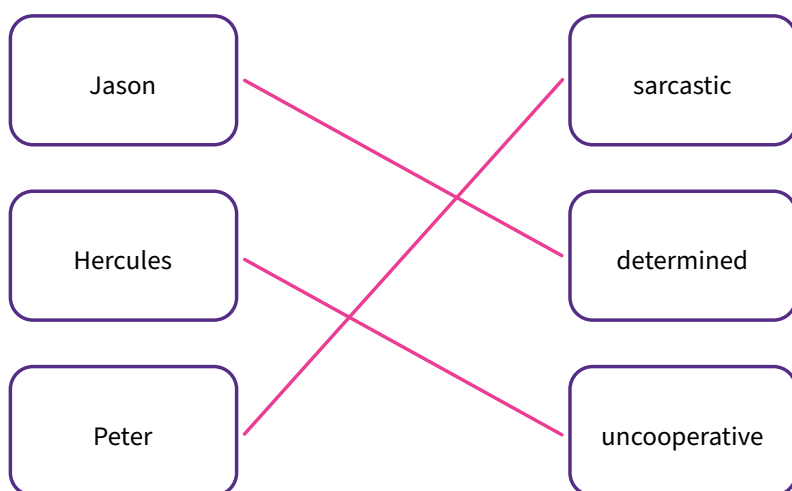
He suggested doing something fun like going to the skate park instead of watching the bird (which shows he didn't think watching the bird was fun or interesting).

“Maybe you could sell him or something,” Peter said.

“Hey, let's do something fun instead of watching that bird,” said Peter.

4

Draw **three** lines to match each character to the most suitable description.



5

Think about the whole text.

What **impressions** do you get of Jason as he chats to Peter about Hercules and attempting to make him talk?

Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Marks given for a character trait/observation about his character that indicates the impression of Jason with evidence to justify.

Frustrated/disappointed/fed up - Jason slumped down in a chair, heaving a loud sigh showing he was fed up that he couldn't get Hercules to talk.

Determined - he tried 3 times to get Hercules to talk. Twice when Jason was there and once when he got back from the skate park.

Determined - he tried to get Hercules to talk again when he got back from the skate park.
(Easily) embarrassed - he said he could get Hercules to talk and kept trying when Peter laughed at him.

Has a lot of pride - he didn't like being laughed at when Hercules wouldn't talk.

Annoyed - Jason frowned when Peter laughed and Hercules took the treat for the second time/didn't speak.

He loves parrots/Hercules - he says he's amazing and he would never sell him.