

One particularly cold Saturday in January, I was supposed to take our dog out for a walk, but it was so cold that I didn't want to go outside. Instead, I just opened the door and let the dog out by himself. I kept an eye on him to make sure he would come back inside.

However, another neighborhood dog quickly ran past our house, and our dog sped after to catch him. I hurriedly went to grab my coat so I could follow my dog, and then I rushed outside. Unfortunately, I was already too late, and my dog was nowhere in sight. I walked a few blocks, but I was unable to find him.

Distressed, I returned home. My mother was standing at the door waiting, and she asked me what had happened. "I know I was supposed to walk our dog," I confessed, "but I thought he would be able to go outside and come back by himself. Now he's gone and I can't find him anywhere."

My mother was very angry with me; she said I should have been more responsible. She decided to help by making some signs. The signs read, "Lost: A big black dog. Please call us right away" and she printed our phone number on the bottom. "Okay, Darrell," she said, as she handed over the stack of signs, "now go post these fliers on all the street posts."

My sister and I grabbed the signs and we posted them along our street as well as along the surrounding streets. The whole time, I was incredibly sad and worried about our dog. All I could think about was how cold it was and how cold our dog must be. My sister wanted to go home, so I told her I'd walk her home, but then keep looking for the dog myself. I took her home and resumed my search.

I continued circling the neighborhood, looking for our dog, but I didn't see him anywhere. I called out his name, and I looked in all the alleys. I got more and more upset. I had made such a huge mistake. All I wanted was to stay warm, but now I was extremely cold—and so was my dog.

Finally, I gave up and sulked home. When I returned, my mother was waiting for me and smiling broadly. She told me, "Our dog came back home all by himself. So, you were right—he did come back—but you were wrong, too. You should have done your job this morning."

"You're right, mom. I was wrong, and, as a result, I have learned a very important lesson today. What seems easy initially may turn out to be difficult in the end. This was a very difficult morning for everyone."

Ever since that morning, I have remembered that important lesson I learned.

## Analyze and Infer Author's Point of View and Purpose - Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

*Choose the best answer for each question.*

1. Why do you think the writer wrote this story?

- a. It is a true story that happened to him.
- b. To teach children to be more responsible.
- c. To help people be more careful about dogs.
- d. To show parents how to raise children.

3. Why did the writer put the story in winter?

- a. to make it more serious
- b. because many dogs get lost then
- c. so people would feel sorry for the boy
- d. to tell what season it was

2. How do you think the writer felt about what happened?

- a. It should not happen; children should be more careful.
- b. It is how children are.
- c. It was a problem for the dog.
- d. It was a good way to learn.

4. Why did the writer have the story end with Darrell's sentence?

- a. to make sure the ideas were clear
- b. so people would know everything was fine
- c. to help people feel better
- d. to show how things turned out

5. *Write your own answer to this question. What do you think the writer hopes people would learn from this story?*

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### TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	a	a	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.  
That children should be responsible.