

CE2 Entrance Test - 2024-2025

You have 10 minutes to read the following story and then you will answer questions about the text.

Please take the time to read this short story carefully.

No Roses for Harry

Harry was a white dog with black spots. On his birthday, he got a present from Grandma. It was a woolly sweater with roses on it. Harry didn't like it the moment he saw it. He didn't like the roses.

He tried it on, he felt cosy and snug. But he still didn't like the roses. He thought it was the silliest sweater he had ever seen.

The next day when Harry went into town with the children, he wore his new sweater; When people saw it they laughed. When dogs saw it, they barked. Harry made up his mind then and there to lose Grandma's present.

When they went into a big store to shop, the children took off his sweater and let him carry it. This was just what Harry wanted. First he tried to lose it in the pet department - but a man found it and gave it back. Then he tried to lose it in the grocery department - but a lady found it and gave it back. He tried to lose it in the flower department - but a little boy found it and gave it back. The children didn't let Harry carry it anymore. They made him wear it. As they started home, Harry was beginning to think he'd never lose it.

When he got home, his friends were waiting to play with him. But Harry didn't feel like playing so they left him alone. As he sat wondering what to do, Harry noticed a loose stitch in his sweater. He pulled at the wool - just a little at first - then a bit more - and a little bit more. Harry didn't know it but a bird was watching.

In a minute, Harry had pulled out quite a long piece of the wool. The end of it lay on the grass behind him. Suddenly the bird flew down. Quick as a flash she took the end of the wool in her beak and flew away with it! It all happened before Harry could even blink. The sweater began to disappear right before Harry's eyes.

Gene Zion

Questions related to No Roses for Harry:

Please use sentences to answer the questions:

- 1) What did Harry look like?
- 2) Who gave Harry a woollen sweater?
- 3) Why didn't Harry like the roses?
- 4) What was good about the sweater?
- 5) Why was it so difficult to lose the sweater in the shop?
- 6) Why did the children make Harry wear the sweater when he came out of the shop?
- 7) Why didn't Harry feel like playing with his friends?
- 8) What would happen when the bird flew away with the end of the wool?
- 9) Do you think Harry meant for the bird to take the end of the wool and why?
- 10) What sort of sweater would suit Harry best?

Story Writing Section

Please choose **one** of the following:

- 1) Write a story about a different animal who has been given a present which they do not like, in the style of 'No Roses for Harry.'
- 2) What would be the perfect present for you? Tell me all about your present, why it would be special to you and what you would do with it. Let your imagination go wild ... this does not need to be a toy!
- 3) What would be a good 'gift' to the world ... How could we make the world a better place?

To consider:

Write as much as you can about your chosen story, adding lots of detail and interest.

Consider how to make your story interesting, have you included adjectives, adverbs and powerful verbs?

Re-read to check for errors.

Does your writing follow a clear sequence?

Have you added any paragraphs?

Marking (to be completed by Sam):

For oral evaluations to use as a questioning aid about the text.

- 1) Harry was a white dog with black spots.
- 2) Grandma gave Harry the sweater.
- 3) Own answer using evidence from the text.
- 4) It was nice and warm.
- 5) People kept finding the sweater and giving it back to Harry.
- 6) They didn't want Harry to lose the sweater.
- 7) Answers may vary ... Harry didn't like playing with his friends because he was wearing the sweater that he didn't like and he must have been tired after trying so hard to lose it on the shopping trip.
- 8) Own answer ... the sweater would unravel, the bird uses the wool to make a nest.
- 9) No, Harry did not mean for the bird to take the wool - evidence from the text.
- 10) Own answer ... a dog coat, a sweater with a dog theme etc.