

# READING **Grade 7**

**2015 Released Test Questions**



## Losing Pepper

Pepper is a one-year-old Labrador retriever. Daniel loves to play with Pepper when he comes home from school every day. Then he remembers that Pepper will be leaving soon for training as a guide dog.

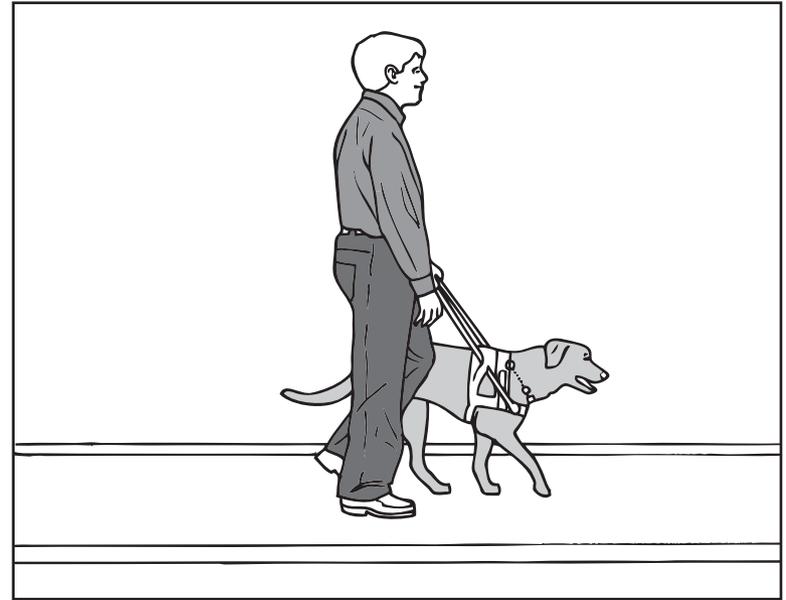


2a

Daniel thinks that Pepper will make a good guide dog for someone who is visually impaired. Guide dogs help keep their owners safe. They help people cross streets, move around obstacles, and locate objects that the owners cannot see.



2b





Daniel had always wanted a puppy. When he and his parents heard about a group called Guide Dogs for the Blind, they decided to get a puppy. They got Pepper when she was just eight weeks old. They instantly fell in love with her. Daniel began teaching Pepper to obey simple commands. After she could sit, stay, and heel, Daniel moved on to teach Pepper commands like "Drop it!" If Pepper dropped what was in her mouth, she got a treat.



Pepper had to experience things like taking long car rides and walking on crowded city streets. When she was very young, Pepper would jump when she heard loud sounds. She would go to other animals when she was on walks. Now when Daniel takes her for walks, she does not get distracted.

Pepper is ready for her guide dog training. But Daniel isn't ready to give Pepper up. He almost wishes his mother had never suggested they raise a puppy. But then he never would have met Pepper.

Daniel works hard to help prepare Pepper to be a guide dog.

Daniel doesn't think Pepper is ready to attend guide dog training.

Daniel believes Pepper would be happier staying with his family.

One afternoon Daniel's mother asked him to go with her to run errands. She turned the car down a road Daniel did not recognize.

"Where are we going?" Daniel asked.

"I'm helping with the Guide Dogs for the Blind fund-raising dinner this weekend," his mother said. "I need to talk to John, the musician." She stopped the car in front of a brick house.

When John opened the door, Daniel saw John's guide dog standing by his side.

"This is Babe," John told them as he petted her. "I couldn't live without her."

"What does she do for you?" Daniel asked.

John smiled. "She helps me get to and from my job, for one thing."

"You have a job?" Daniel blurted out.

"Yes. I play the piano at a restaurant three nights a week. Good thing Babe seems to like music. Sometimes I think she likes it better than the customers!" John said, laughing.

John asked if he could play for them. Babe lay down near the piano, and the room filled with music.

Daniel realized that his mother had brought him to John's house for a reason. He could see how much John loved Babe, and it seemed that Babe felt the same. If this was Pepper's future as a guide dog, the pain of losing Pepper would be worth it.



to help with the fund-raising dinner

to compare Pepper's training with Babe's duties

to help Daniel be happy about Pepper leaving for  
guide dog training