

**Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow.**

## **Mystery of the Swooping Seagull**

1 It was late afternoon when the train pulled into Sebastian Cove Station. There were many people standing on the platform, but Jeff could see his grandfather standing near the back of the crowd. When Jeff had made his way over, Gramp took Jeff's suitcase and asked, "Smooth journey?"

2 "Yes, Gramp," Jeff said, happy to see his grandfather. Each summer Jeff spent a month with him at the seashore.

3 When they reached Gramp's old, blue pickup truck, Gramp heaved the suitcase into the back. They started their way down the bumpy old roads to Gramp's cottage, talking over the noise of the rattling truck. As they parked in front of the cottage, Gramp smiled and nodded his head toward the beach. "Go on," he said with a smile, "and I'll get supper on."

4 Sand shifted and settled beneath Jeff's feet as he walked along the beach. Jeff loved how calm the water was at sunset. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath of salty air. Suddenly the peace was broken when close by he heard *whoosh, whoosh, whoosh*. His eyes opened wide, and he saw a big seagull flying around his head, darting at him. "Aaawk," it cried, swooping down again and again.

5 Covering his head with his arms, Jeff dashed back to Gramp's cottage. Gramp had prepared a delicious supper of clam chowder and warm buttered bread. Afterward they sat by the fire and Jeff told him about the seagull.

6 "It surely had a reason to act that way," Gramp said. "I wonder what it is."

7 The next morning, sunlight shone warm and bright as Jeff bravely returned to the beach in search of interesting stones, shells, or pieces of driftwood. Once again, though, he soon found himself under siege. "Go away!" Jeff shouted, clapping loudly to persuade the unfriendly seagull to leave. Instead it swooped even closer. When Jeff felt the swish of wings on his hair, he scrambled under some nearby bushes.



- 8 There he heard a softer bird sound “*Eeeep!*” Gently pushing branches aside, he saw a young seagull with spotted plumage rather than the gray-and-white of an adult. Its feet were tangled in plastic rings, the type that holds six-packs of soda cans.
- 9 “No wonder your mom’s upset,” Jeff said. Carefully he untwisted the rings. At first squawking and wiggling, the bird soon calmed, accepting help.
- 10 Finally free, the bird fluttered onto the sand crying, “*Eeep!*”
- 11 “*Aawk,*” its mother replied, swooping down. Together they flew up into the blue sky.
- 12 Jeff ran to tell Gramp the news. “Now you can collect your rocks in peace,” Gramp said.
- 13 Grabbing a sack, Jeff said, “I think I’ll collect some trash first.”
- 14 Gramp looked at Jeff with new eyes. “Mind if I join you?”

**1 In paragraph 3, the word heaved means —**

- A** grabbed
- B** demanded
- C** lifted
- D** noticed

**2 What does Jeff do just before the seagull swoops down at him the first time?**

- F** He closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.
- G** He looks under some bushes for shells.
- H** He takes a picture of the beautiful sunset.
- J** He walks barefoot along the sandy beach.

**3 What is Gramp doing when Jeff first sees the seagull?**

- A** Parking the truck
- B** Picking up trash
- C** Cooking supper
- D** Rescuing birds

**4 In paragraph 7, siege is most like —**

- F** interruption
- G** discovery
- H** search
- J** attack

**5 Words like “Aawk” and “Eeep” are examples of —**

- A** simile
- B** analogy
- C** hyperbole
- D** onomatopoeia

**6 Why does the seagull swoop down at Jeff?**

- F** She has a nest of eggs to guard.
- G** She thinks he will take her food.
- H** She has been hurt by people before.
- J** She wants to protect her young.

**7 Gramp discovers that the *best* way to spend time with Jeff is to —**

- A** clean the beach
- B** play games
- C** watch the sunset
- D** collect rocks

**8 Jeff can *best* be described as —**

- F** childish
- G** thoughtful
- H** selfish
- J** playful

**9** If the author added a sentence at the end of paragraph 4, which of these would fit *best*?

- A** The seagull's threatening behavior was unusual and bewildering.
- B** Another time Jeff was chased down an alley by a little dog.
- C** There was nothing more lovely than seagulls at the beach, flying over the water.
- D** Sunset was Jeff's favorite time of day at the beach in Sebastian Cove.

**10** Which question is answered in paragraph 8?

- F** How does the baby seagull get tangled in plastic rings?
- G** What does Jeff find in the bushes?
- H** How does the mother seagull untangle the plastic rings?
- J** What does the baby seagull feel toward Jeff?

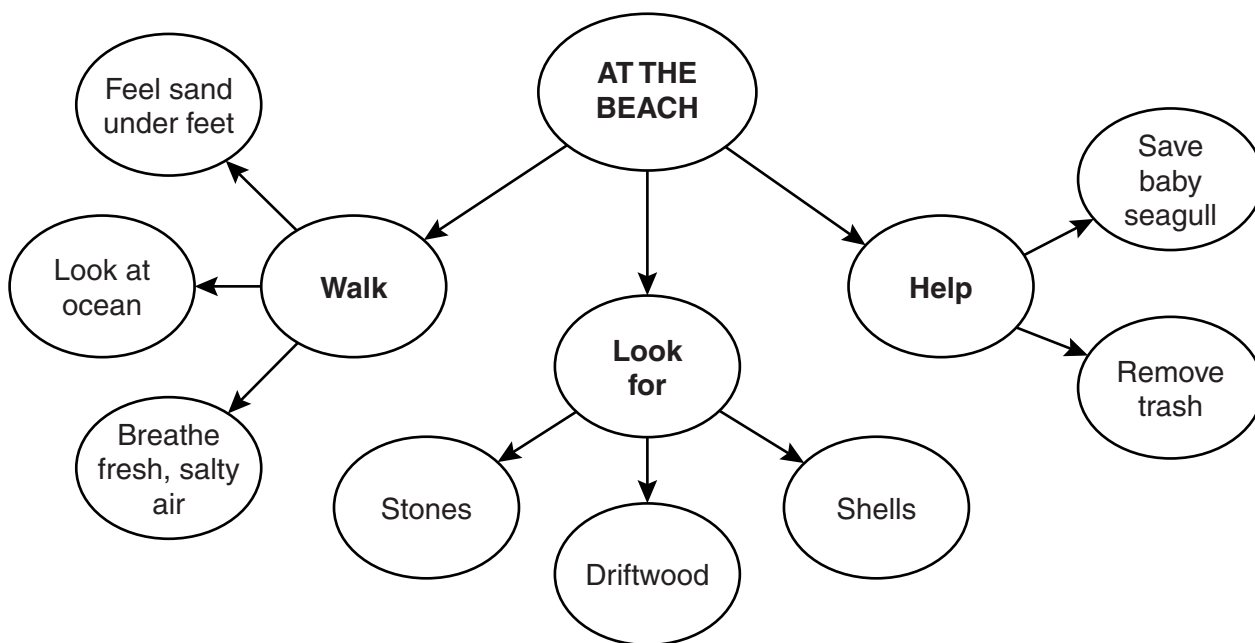
**11** What happens in paragraphs 10 and 11?

- A** The mother seagull picks up the young seagull and carries it away.
- B** The ungrateful mother seagull swoops down at Jeff once again.
- C** The freed, young seagull and its mother fly away.
- D** The young seagull is freed and walks over to its mother.

**12 The author attempts to entertain, inform, and persuade the reader by telling —**

- F** a sad story about visiting the beach and spending time with family members
- G** a thoughtful story while showing how being careless with trash can be harmful
- H** a boy’s exciting story about the beach as well as facts about studying the ocean
- J** a funny story and asking important questions that require research to answer

**13 Look at the web about the story.**



**What does the web show?**

- A** Plans Jeff makes before arriving at the beach
- B** Fun games that anyone can play at the beach
- C** Things that Jeff does at the beach in the story
- D** Things that Jeff finds while collecting trash at the beach