Village Pond Rescue

Year 5 reading comprehension (newspaper report). Read the text carefully. The questions are on the next page.

Name: _____ Date: _____

LITTLE HAMPTON GAZETTE – Thursday

A ten-year-old boy has been praised for his quick thinking after a swan became tangled in fishing line on the village pond in Little Hampton yesterday afternoon.

Leo Grant spotted the bird struggling near the reeds at around 4 pm while walking home from school. “It kept trying to flap, but one wing was stuck,” he said. “I knew I shouldn’t go into the water, so I ran to the café and asked them to call for help.”

An officer from a local wildlife rescue charity arrived within twenty minutes. Using a long-handled net, she guided the swan to the bank and carefully cut away almost two metres of line.

The swan was checked for injuries and released back onto the pond an hour later. “Leo did exactly the right thing,” the officer said. “He stayed safe and got help quickly. Fishing line is one of the biggest dangers to water birds, and every piece left behind can trap an animal.”

The parish council has now agreed to put a recycling bin for fishing line beside the pond. Leo’s head teacher said the whole school was “very proud” of him.

Questions: Village Pond Rescue

Tick one answer for each question. You can look back at the text as often as you like.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. **What happened to the swan?**
   - ☐ It had hurt its foot on a rock.
   - ☐ It was chased by a dog.
   - ☐ It was stuck in the ice.
   - ☐ It was tangled in fishing line.

2. **Why did Leo not go into the water himself?**
   - ☐ He could not swim.
   - ☐ He knew it would not be safe.
   - ☐ He was late for school.
   - ☐ The café owner told him not to.

3. **How did the officer get the swan to the bank?**
   - ☐ by throwing bread
   - ☐ with a long-handled net
   - ☐ with a rope
   - ☐ with a rowing boat

4. **How much fishing line was cut away?**
   - ☐ about twenty centimetres
   - ☐ almost ten metres
   - ☐ almost two metres
   - ☐ one kilometre

5. **Why does the report include the words of Leo and the officer?**
   - ☐ because they wrote the article
   - ☐ to fill up space
   - ☐ to give the facts from the people who were there
   - ☐ to make the report funny

6. **What will the parish council do?**
   - ☐ ban fishing in the village
   - ☐ build a fence round the pond
   - ☐ give Leo a medal
   - ☐ put a recycling bin for fishing line by the pond

7. **Which would be the best alternative headline?**
   - ☐ New Café Opens in Village
   - ☐ Schoolboy’s Quick Thinking Saves Swan
   - ☐ School Closed for the Day
   - ☐ Swans Are Dangerous Birds

Answer key: Village Pond Rescue

The correct answer for each question, with the evidence from the text.

1. **What happened to the swan?**

   It was tangled in fishing line.

   Why: The opening paragraph says a swan became tangled in fishing line.

2. **Why did Leo not go into the water himself?**

   He knew it would not be safe.

   Why: He says: I knew I shouldn't go into the water. The officer also praises him for staying safe.

3. **How did the officer get the swan to the bank?**

   with a long-handled net

   Why: Using a long-handled net, she guided the swan to the bank.

4. **How much fishing line was cut away?**

   almost two metres

   Why: She carefully cut away almost two metres of line.

5. **Why does the report include the words of Leo and the officer?**

   to give the facts from the people who were there

   Why: Newspaper reports use quotations from witnesses and experts to show what happened.

6. **What will the parish council do?**

   put a recycling bin for fishing line by the pond

   Why: The council agreed to put a recycling bin for fishing line beside the pond.

7. **Which would be the best alternative headline?**

   Schoolboy's Quick Thinking Saves Swan

   Why: The report is about Leo's actions leading to the swan's rescue.