

Harry's hamster

One day Harry was walking home from school with his friend, Ali.

They stopped to look in the window of the pet shop.

"Look, Ali!" said Harry. "Hamsters! Only one pound each!"

A small golden hamster sat up and looked at Harry through the shop window.

It twitched its whiskers and wiggled its nose.

It was the nicest hamster Harry had ever seen.

"I'm going to buy that hamster," he said. "On Saturday. When I get my pocket money."

Ali laughed.

"You've got a goldfish and a tortoise and a dog already," he said. "Your mum will go mad."

Harry shook his head.

"No, she won't," he said. "My mum likes hamsters."

On Saturday Harry's dad gave Harry his pocket money.

"Thanks, dad," said Harry. "I'm going to buy a hamster."

"Good grief!" said his dad. "You've got a goldfish and a tortoise and a big, daft dog already. What's your mum going to say?"

"It's all right, dad," smiled Harry. "Mum likes hamsters."

Harry and Ali and Dusty the dog ran down the street to the pet shop.

Harry looked in the window. The tiny hamster was still there. It wiggled its nose at Harry.

"Come on," said Harry, and in they went.

Sheila Lavelle from *Harry's Hamster* (Hamish Hamilton)



Answer in sentences.

- 1 What was the name of Harry's friend? (2 marks)
- 2 How much did the hamster cost? (2 marks)
- 3 What colour was the hamster? (2 marks)
- 4 How did the hamster move its whiskers and nose? (4 marks)
- 5 What was the name of Harry's dog? (2 marks)
- 6 What do you think Harry's mother will say when he comes home with a hamster? (3 marks)



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| GENRE | fiction (realistic; familiar setting) |
| READING STRATEGIES | skimming; scanning; detailed reading |
| QUESTION FORMS | questions requiring answers in complete sentences |
| UNDERSTANDING TESTED | questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 - literal; question 6 - deductive |
| CURRICULUM LINK | science; PSHE |

- 1 What was the name of Harry's friend?
Ali was the name of Harry's friend. (2 marks)
- 2 How much did the hamster cost?
The hamster cost one pound. (2 marks)
- 3 What colour was the hamster?
The hamster was golden in colour. (2 marks)
- 4 How did the hamster move its whiskers and nose?
The hamster twitched its whiskers and wiggled its nose. (2 + 2 marks)
- 5 What was the name of Harry's dog?
Dusty was the name of Harry's dog. (2 marks)
- 6 What do you think Harry's mother will say when he comes home with a hamster?
Any sensible answers are acceptable; strong answers will reflect the possibility that Harry's mother will not be so keen on the hamster as Harry thinks. (3 marks)

Extension activities

- 1 Pretend that you are Ali. Write about what happened when Harry first saw the hamster, from Ali's point of view.
- 2 What do you think Harry's mother said when he took the hamster home? Write the conversation that Harry and his mother had.
- 3 Write an advertisement for the hamsters that can be put in a newspaper.
- 4 Harry buys his hamster in a pet shop. Can you name these specialist shops?
 - (a) You can buy meat here. **A b** _____ ' _____ shop
 - (b) You can buy fruit and vegetables here. **A g** _____ ' _____ shop
 - (c) You can buy bread and cakes here. **A b** _____ ' _____ shop
 - (d) You can get medicines here. **A c** _____ ' _____ shop
 - (e) You can buy newspapers and magazines here. **A n** _____ ' _____ shop

SPECIFIC SKILLS writing an account from another character's point of view; prediction; devising an advertisement; vocabulary of shops