

Class 11 Reading

The story you are reading for your comprehension this week is about a toy who can think and feel. Are there any other stories you can think of that have a living toy? Winne the Pooh? Toy Story? Pinocchio? One Christmas Wish? Children's writers often choose to use toys as characters in their stories. Read the text below and then answer the comprehension questions that follow.

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

There was a person called Nana who ruled the nursery. Sometimes she took no notice of the playthings lying about, and sometimes, for no reason whatever, she went swooping about like a great wind and hustled them away in cupboards. She called this "tidying up," and the playthings all hated it, especially the tin ones. The Rabbit didn't mind it so much, for wherever he was thrown he came down soft.

One evening, when the Boy was going to bed, he couldn't find the china dog that always slept with him. Nana was in a hurry, and it was too much trouble to hunt for china dogs at bedtime, so she simply looked about her, and seeing that the toy cupboard door stood open, she made a swoop.

"Here," she said, "take your old Bunny! He'll do to sleep with you!" And she dragged the Rabbit out by one ear, and put him into the Boy's arms.

That night, and for many nights after, the Velveteen Rabbit slept in the Boy's bed. At first he found it rather uncomfortable, for the Boy hugged him very tight, and sometimes he rolled over on him, and sometimes he pushed him so far under the pillow that the Rabbit could scarcely breathe. And he missed, too, those long moonlight hours in the nursery, when all the house was silent, and his talks with the Skin Horse. But very soon he grew to like it, for the Boy used to talk to him, and made nice tunnels for him under the bedclothes that he said were like the burrows the real rabbits lived in. And they had splendid games together, in whispers, when Nana had gone away to her supper and left the night-light burning on the mantelpiece. And when the Boy dropped off to sleep, the Rabbit would snuggle down close under his little warm chin and dream, with the Boy's hands clasped close round him all night long.

And so time went on, and the little Rabbit was very happy—so happy that he never noticed how his beautiful velveteen fur was getting shabbier and shabbier, and his tail becoming unsewn, and all the pink rubbed off his nose where the Boy had kissed him.

Spring came, and they had long days in the garden, for wherever the Boy went the Rabbit went too. He had rides in the wheelbarrow, and picnics on the grass, and lovely fairy huts built for him under the raspberry canes behind the flower border. And once, when the Boy was called away suddenly to go out to tea, the Rabbit was left out on the lawn until long after dusk, and Nana had to come and look for him with the candle because the Boy couldn't go to sleep unless he was there. He was wet through with the dew and quite earthy from diving into the burrows the Boy had made for him in the flower bed, and Nana grumbled as she rubbed him off with a corner of her apron.

"You must have your old Bunny!" she said. "Fancy all that fuss for a toy!"

The Boy sat up in bed and stretched out his hands.

"Give me my Bunny!" he said. "You mustn't say that. He isn't a toy. He's REAL!"



Answer the questions below, thinking about the type of question that you are being asked and make sure you are going back to the text to help you answer them. Please write your answers in full sentences.

1. Look at the first paragraph. Why didn't the Rabbit mind being tidied up?
2. '*... sometimes, for no reason whatever, she went swooping about like a great wind ...*'
What does the description **like a great wind** tell you about the way Nana was moving?
3. Which toy did the Boy sleep with before Nana gave him the Rabbit?
4. Look at the paragraph which begins: "*Here,*" she said ...'
Find and copy a word that means **hailed**.
5. Why does the Velveteen Rabbit find it uncomfortable to sleep in the Boy's bed? Give **two** reasons.
6. '*... his beautiful velveteen fur was getting shabbier and shabbier ...*'
Which word most closely matches the meaning of **shabbier**?

shinier longer darker scruffier

7. Look at the paragraph which begins: '*Spring came ...*'

What did the Boy and the Rabbit do together in the garden? Name **two** activities.
8. What is the meaning of the word **clasped** in the sentence '*with the Boy's hands clasped close round him all night long*'?
9. Why do you think the boy liked sleeping with the velveteen rabbit? Use clues in the text to support your answer.
10. What is the main idea of the whole text?
11. Which of the following would you leave out of a summary of the type of person Nana is? Explain your answer.

- An angry person because she is always shouting at the boy.
- A caring person because she makes sure that the boy can sleep.
- A tidy person because she always put the toys away inside of the cupboard in the nursery.
- A busy person because she has lots to do around the house.

12. Put the following events in order. The first one has been done for you:

<input type="text"/>	Rabbit gets left out on the lawn.
<input type="text"/>	The Boy and the Rabbit have long days in the garden.
1	The Boy can't find the china dog.
<input type="text"/>	Nana finds Rabbit wet through with dew.
<input type="text"/>	Nana drags Rabbit out of the toy cupboard.

- 13. Why did the rabbit like sleeping with the boy? Find evidence from the text to use in your answer.
- 14. 'There was a person called Nana who ruled the nursery'. What is the meaning of the word 'ruled'?
- 15. What do you think happened next? How do you think Nana responded to the boy saying that the toy was real?

Extension:

Imagine that each of the characters in the story have a bag. Read the **extract above again** and think about what items each of the characters might be carrying in their bag. For example, Nana uses a candle to see outside at night so she might have a candle in her bag. If she has a candle, she might also need to carry matches to light the candle. You can be as imaginative as you like. For example, the Boy might have a tub of glitter in his bag to decorate the fairy huts. It can be anything that you like, but you must be able to explain why the character has that item in their bag. Have fun, I can't wait to see your ideas.

