

# Reading Comprehension



Name.....

## Section 1

## What Speckle Loved Best

Speckle was a big white dog with black spots dotted all over his body. He loved to play and whirl and dance and spin. He loved to sniff the trees and flowers and animal scents when out walking with his Mummy and Daddy.



He loved to eat and eat and eat. He loved sausages and tuna, biscuits and ice cream, peas and chicken and pies but dog food was just okay. He loved to play in his big garden. He loved to wrestle with his blanket and he loved to watch people and cars go past. He loved to listen to the birds in springtime, chase the birds out of the garden, and smell the fresh cut grass that he would lie down on - it was like laying on a soft carpet. He loved to bark at the postman who brought letters and packages from far away to the little tiny town of Brimpton.

He loved to ride in the car to Grandad's house in the country, where he could run after the tractor or tease the horses. Or play with his sheepdog pal, Cody, who would come and visit him from up the road.

But most of all, Speckle loved his family. He loved his Daddy, who took him on lovely long walks. And he loved his Mummy, who loved him and cared for him and petted him.

Speckle especially loved his job. He took care of his family by guarding them from any danger, and he was very good at it. His family felt very safe under his keen eyes, nose, and ears! His deep voice always warned his Mummy or Daddy of people approaching their little red house.

But ever since that little boy came to live with Mummy and Daddy, Mummy was busy. Summer was too hot to walk and they stayed inside. No walks for Speckle. Winter was too cold to walk and they stayed inside. Even on sunny days Mummy and Little Boy were too busy to take him out for a walk.

Then Mummy would remember him and she would take Speckle and Little Boy around the neighbourhood, Little Boy now old enough to drag a big blue toy truck behind him. Mummy would joke that Speckle should pull it, but Speckle would never do that! Then came the day when Little Boy walked Speckle all by himself.

One beautiful sunny day, Mummy and Little Boy came back to the house after a shopping trip. They settled down on the sofa and began to watch that strange noisy box. Speckle was fed up. He had been hoping they would play a game of fetch with him.

Then Mummy's friend and her little boy came over and forgot to clasp the garden gate. Maybe if he just nudged it a little with his nose... He wouldn't wander far, just wander to the neighbour's house to smell what he could smell.

Speckle walked to the gate, his big black ears pointed backwards to hear any sounds from the house. He nudged the gate and pushed the gate and behold! It opened. The gate swung on its hinges and he stared at the opening. He knew he was not allowed out of the garden without Mummy and Daddy. But he wouldn't go far, he decided. Besides, he never went far from Mummy.

So, with one last glance at the house, he ran down the pathway, past one house and another house and another house and another house until he was at the big road. He looked back towards where he knew his house was and felt a little nervous knot tightening in his belly. He didn't like to be this far from Mummy. But Mummy was busy. He wanted to have fun. So as carefully as he could he looked right and left and saw no cars so he dashed across the street and came safely to the park!

He sniffed and smelled and sniffed and smelled the ground until he found what he was looking for. A burger wrapping with half a leftover burger hidden inside! He licked and licked and tore the paper until he had eaten every bite and tasted every delicious morsel. What a treat! Then he looked back towards where he knew was his home. This time, as he looked he felt a little knot of loneliness tighten in his belly. Finding that the burger wrapper wasn't as much fun as he thought it would be! It was more fun when Mummy and Little Boy were with him!

Speckle wanted to go home and see Mummy and Little Boy but he still wanted to have fun. Just then, he smelled a very interesting animal coming from a hill on the other side of the park. Almost like a horse! He ran to the other side of the park, squeezed through the metal gate and ambled up the hill.

There, grazing calmly, were two large reddish brown animals with big ears and one with long antlers on its head. The deer grazed there, Speckle remembered. He had smelled them before when Mummy took him for walks in the park. Slowly he walked up to the big deer with antlers, hoping it would play. But it didn't! The two big deer chased him down the hill and Speckle ran as fast as his legs could carry him.

He ran down the hill and out through the gate straight into a dog warden! Oh no! Not the council kennels! He remembered how once a dog warden had caught him and taken him to that awful place where dogs and cats were locked up in kennels. Not again! Speckle whimpered and cried as the dog warden led him to his van.

But before the dog warden could put him in the van, Speckle thought he heard voices calling. "Speckle! Speckle" they called! Then he saw Mummy and Little Boy running towards him.

Nothing could keep him from his Mummy and Little Boy! He jolted and jumped and dashed and finally was free! He bounded into his Mummy's arms and she and Little Boy hugged and kissed him. Quickly Mummy put on Speckle's lead.

“Sorry, sir,” Speckle’s Mummy said to the dog warden. “He’s never run this far. The gate wasn’t clasped shut and he opened it. I’ve been looking and looking for him.”

The dog warden drove his big horrible van away and Mummy and Little Boy hugged and kissed him. He gave puppy kisses back.

“Oh Speckle,” Mummy said. “I was so scared. I couldn’t find you anywhere! You don’t usually wander! I’m so sorry we didn’t go for a walk. I know you were bored. I was just about to take you and Sammy to the park when his friend came over to play! We have a surprise for you!”

Speckle was sorry too and he kissed and kissed (licked and licked) his Mummy to tell her. He would never run away again. His Mummy hadn’t forgotten him after all. Even when she was busy she would always remember to take him for a walk.

Just then, Little Boy’s friend came running up with his Mummy - and they were walking a brand new puppy! “This is Sassy,” Mummy said. “They’ve just got her and we wanted to take you both to the park.”

Oh how wonderful! Now Speckle had all of his favourite things - playing with his new friend Sassy, running and dancing and whirling in the park, and best of all, being with his Little Boy - his little brother, really. And Speckle had his Mummy and Daddy, who loved him and took care of him, even when he was really, really naughty. Speckle knew he and his Mummy would be the best of friends forever, just as they had been for all their years together. Speckle knew that he would always have a family who adored him and took care of him and he would always love and take care of them.

Because Speckle loved them best.

*The End*

## Reading Answers (section 1)

### Multiple Choice Section

In this section you will be asked to choose the correct answer from a choice of four.

Circle the answer that you think is correct.

**Answer these questions about *What Speckle Loved Best*.** The first one has been done for you.

1. This story is about a dog called

Bobby

Speckle

Pippa

Toby

2. Speckle's coat was

black with white spots

white with black spots

white with black patches

white with brown spots

3. A food that Speckle did NOT love was

sausages

tuna

biscuits

dog food

4. Speckle liked going to Grandad's house because he could

swim in the pond

sleep on Grandad's bed

tease the horses

chase the ducks

5. Who took Speckle on lovely long walks?

Daddy

Mummy

Grandad

Little Boy

6. Why had Mummy become so busy?

she had a new  
baby

she had a new  
job

she was always  
gardening

she had to ride  
the horses

7. When they came back from shopping, Mummy and Little Boy

played cards

watched TV

had a bath

fell asleep

8. When Mummy's friend came over, she forgot to

say hello to  
Speckle

clasp the garden  
gate

bring Speckle a  
treat

close the door

9. Speckle knew that he was not allowed to

play with the  
deer in the park

chase cats

go out of the  
garden without  
Mummy and  
Daddy

drink lemonade

10. When Speckle was at the park he found a

burger  
wrapping

bone

bag of crisps

lollipop

## **Written Answers Section**

In this section you will need to write one or more sentences to answer the questions.

11. What kind of animals did Speckle find in the park?

---

12. What did Speckle want the deer to do?

---

---

13. Why did Speckle run away from the deer?

---

---

14. Who caught Speckle?

---

---

15. Where was the dog warden going to take Speckle?

---

---

16. How did Speckle tell his Mummy that he was sorry?

---

17. What was the name of Little Boy's friend's new puppy?

---

---

18. Who did Speckle love best?

---

---

***You have finished section 1. Now move on to section 2.***



# Dog Facts

## Section 2

As the famous saying goes, dogs are man's best friend. Whether it's as reliable workers, family pets or loyal companions, dogs are wonderful animals that offer a number of qualities that are put to good use by humans. Enjoy these fun dog facts and learn more about these amazing animals.

- Dogs can smell things that humans cannot. The nose has sensory cells, they work to allow a person or animal to smell things. A dog has about 5 million more than you do!
- Dogs are **omnivores**. This means that they eat both meat and plants.
- Dogs are one of the most popular pets to own. About 9 million families in the UK own a puppy or a dog.
- Did you know that a dog uses his nose for smelling, but also uses it to cool himself down if he is hot? Dogs sweat through their noses. They also sweat through their paws.
- You have some muscles to move your ears, but dogs have 2 times more than you do to move their ears!
- "Sit" should be the very first command that an owner teaches to a dog.
- Dogs know what time it is by relying on their "internal clock". They know exactly when it is time to eat, when to expect their owner to come home, when to expect walks and more. They can become very restless if something does not happen when they expect it to.
- Have you ever seen a dog turn around 3 times before it goes to sleep? This is because long ago, wild dogs (which were their ancestors) did this to cause grasses to be patted down to the ground before they slept on them. Today's dog still have this instinct inside them.
- Puppies do not know how to walk when they are born – They must learn just like toddlers do. This happens between the ages of 2 and 5 weeks old.

DID YOU  
KNOW?

The average life span for a dog is around 10 to 14 years.

The oldest living dog lived until he was 29 years old, this was recorded in 1939. His name was Bluey and he lived in Australia.

## Reading Answers (section 2)

Answer these questions about *Dog Facts*.

1. Why can dogs smell things that humans cannot?

because a dog's nose has 1 million more sensory cells than a human's.

because a dog's nose has 5 million more sensory cells than a human's.

because a dog's nose has 55 million more sensory cells than a human's.

because a dog's nose has 10 million more sensory cells than a human's.

2. Dogs are

herbivores

carnivores

omnivores

vegetarians

3. What foods do omnivores eat?

---

4. How many families own dogs in the UK?

---

5. The average lifespan of a dog is

5 to 14 years

10 to 20 years

30 to 40 years

10 to 14 years

6. How do dogs cool themselves down?

---

---

7. How do dogs know exactly when it is time to eat?

they rely on  
their internal  
clock

they always  
wear a watch

their owners tell  
them

their tummies  
rumble

8. Why do dogs turn around 3 times before they go to sleep?

---

---

---

9. When do puppies learn to walk?

---

---

***Well done! You have finished all the sections. Now go back and check your answers.***