

# The Noisiest Cat

by W.M. Akers

Melissa had a cat that loved her too much. The cat was named Roger. He was an older cat, about 10 years old, Melissa guessed. She knew because her parents told her they got Roger not long after Melissa was born. When she was little, Roger was little, too. They would run and play and fall down together. Now that she was bigger, Roger was big, too. Very big. Possibly, she thought proudly, he was the fattest cat in town. But more importantly, he was the sweetest.

When Melissa watched TV, Roger sat on her lap. When she did her homework, he sat on her paper. When she ate, he ate, too. Everywhere Melissa went, Roger followed.

"That cat loves you so much," Melissa's mother would say. "He doesn't know what to do without you!"

Most of the time, this was great. Other girls had dolls. Other girls had stuffed animals. Other girls had guinea pigs and hamsters and hermit crabs-pets that were usually in cages or tanks. But Melissa didn't need any of that. She had a big fat kitty that followed her everywhere.

Yes, it was all pretty great-until Melissa tried to go to sleep.

At night, Roger would sit outside her door perched like a hen on an egg. All night long, Roger would wait for Melissa to wake up. At first, he would wait quietly. But after a few hours, he would start to get impatient. Every night, at around one in the morning, Roger would start to yowl.

If you do not have a cat, you do not know what an awful noise a yowl can be. Cats make lots of nice noises-like purring and meowing and sneezing-but a yowl is not nice at all. It starts deep inside their throat and moves up slowly, getting louder all the time. "Heeeeeeee-yowl!" Roger would say, over and over again. It sounded like he was being stepped on. It sounded like he was in pain. And it woke Melissa up every time. Her eyes would pop open. Her stomach would twist up. She would lie there for hours, listening to Roger's awful cry. No human is strong enough to sleep through a yowling cat.

"Mom!" Melissa would say the next day. "Roger was yowling again last night. He kept me up for hours!"

"Oh sweetie," Mom would say. "He just can't stand to be without you. He loves you too much. Why don't you just open your door and let him in?"

Melissa tried this once. When Roger started yowling, she stomped across her room and opened the door. He bounded in. She lay back down, and tried to go to sleep. She couldn't. It isn't easy to sleep when a cat is walking on your head. She moved Roger, but he came back. She hid her head under her blanket, but he just poked her over and over again with his paw. When he

started to yowl again, Melissa got fed up. She jerked the blanket off her head and stood up.

"Oh no you don't!" she said. "No yowling in here!" She put Roger out into the hall where he started his song again.

"Mom!" she said the next day. "Roger kept me up all night! First he walked on my head and then he kept yowling!"

"Oh dear," said Mom. "I guess he just loves you too much. I have an idea. Take this spray bottle to bed with you. When he starts making noise, just give him a little squirt. Cats hate water. He'll run right away."

That night, Roger started yowling on time, at 1 a.m. sharp. Melissa was waiting for him. She gave him three quick squirts with the bottle, and he ran away. "Mmm," she said. "Now I can get some sleep."

But five minutes later, the cat was back-yowling away! Over and over she squirted him, and over and over he came back.

"What a piece of junk!" she said, and threw the bottle into the trash. Outside, Roger yowled some more.

"Fine!" she shouted. "You win!"

She opened the door, and Roger bounded inside. Soon he was sound asleep, cuddled on top of her head. Melissa didn't care. She would rather have a cat for a hat, she decided, than a cat that wouldn't be quiet.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is Roger?

- A. a cat
- B. Melissa's brother
- C. a dog
- D. a hamster

2. What main problem does Melissa face in the story?

- A. Her cat is the fattest cat in town.
- B. Melissa's cat does not like to play with her.
- C. Her cat yowls at night and wakes her up.
- D. Melissa wishes she had a guinea pig instead of a cat.

3. Roger does not like it when Melissa is asleep. What information from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A. When Melissa watches TV, Roger sits on her lap.
- B. Every night, Roger waits outside Melissa's bedroom door and yowls.
- C. A yowl is an awful noise that cats make deep in their throats.
- D. Roger falls asleep on Melissa's head at the end of the story.

4. How does Melissa feel about Roger?

- A. She loves that Roger follows her everywhere and loves when he yowls at night.
- B. She loves that Roger follows her everywhere and does not care when he yowls at night.
- C. She is annoyed when Roger follows her everywhere and when he yowls at night.
- D. She loves that Roger follows her everywhere, but is annoyed when he yowls at night.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A. Cats do not make very good pets because they are too noisy.
- B. If your cat is naughty, you should squirt it with a spray bottle.
- C. Cats can be great pets, but sometimes they do annoying things.
- D. Cats never sleep, so they don't want their owners to sleep either.

6. Read the following sentences: "Oh no you don't!" she said. "No yowling in here!" She put

Roger out into the hall where he started his **song** again."

What does the author mean by "**song**"?

- A. Roger's singing
- B. Roger's yowling
- C. Roger's meowing
- D. Roger's purring

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Roger ran away \_\_\_\_\_ Melissa squirted him with the spray bottle.

- A. but
- B. such as
- C. so
- D. after

8. What does Melissa's mother *first* suggest Melissa do to stop Roger from yowling?

9. What is the *second* thing that Melissa's mother suggests to stop Roger from yowling?

Does it solve the problem?

10. Explain whether Melissa solves the problem with Roger at the end of the story. Support your answer using details from the passage.