

Name _____

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.**Jack's Friend**

Vance was a giant who lived alone in a gigantic castle. The townspeople who lived nearby feared and disliked anyone who was different. They especially disliked large people who could pick them up in one hand. So when Vance went to town, people stared at him. The stares hurt his feelings. He was a tender-hearted giant with sensitive feelings.

One day when Vance was out for a stroll, he nearly stumbled over a small gentleman who could only hear the giant's booming footsteps.

"You must be quite large!" said the gentleman as he turned toward the sound.

"My name is Jack McGillicutty. What's yours?"

Vance was so shocked that all he could say was, "Aren't you afraid of me?"

But Jack wasn't afraid. He even asked Vance to help him find the post office, which Vance was happy to do.

"Thank you, and I hope we meet again soon," said Jack. Vance mentioned that he planned to go out walking again the next day, so they agreed to meet.

The next day, Vance leaned against a mountain while Jack sat on a bench at his feet. As they talked about music, some people came by and pointed at them. Vance stomped his feet, scaring all the finger-pointers away.

"What happened, my friend?" said Jack.

Vance was glad Jack could not see the tiny tear on his cheek.

"Oh, nothing," was all he could say.

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 The townspeople disliked Vance because

- He lived alone in a gigantic castle.
- He had become Jack's best friend.
- He was clumsy and often stumbled.
- He was different and very large.

2 Why was Jack the only person unafraid of Vance?

- Jack had some rocks for protection.
- Jack could not see he was a giant.
- Jack knew about him from the others.
- Jack did not know Vance liked music.

3 What effect did Vance have when he stomped his feet?

- Jack laughed and began dancing.
- The townspeople started weeping.
- Jack wanted to find the post office.
- The townspeople were scared away.

4 For what reason was Vance crying at the end of the story?

5 What can you say about both Jack and Vance?

Common Core State Standards

Questions 1–3: Literature 1. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
Questions 4, 5: Literature 3. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.