

Name _____

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.**Alfonso's Pet**

Alfonso wanted a budgie from Australia. He learned about budgies when his class was studying animals that lived in other countries. Alfonso thought budgies were beautiful birds. Also, because they were small parrots, he hoped he could teach his budgie to talk.

When Alfonso asked his mom if he could get a budgie, she told him that they cost too much money. Alfonso reminded his mom that he had saved his allowance. The next time Alfonso asked his mom for a budgie, she reminded him that taking care of a pet was hard work and had to be done every day. Alfonso promised his mom that he would take care of the bird every day after school. Alfonso's mom told him that a budgie needed a special cage, but Alfonso told his mom that he already had a cage that a friend had given him. Alfonso's mom reminded him that budgies needed special food, but Alfonso showed his mom seeds he had already bought, and even told his mom that he would call his budgie Petey.

Alfonso's mom finally agreed. When Alfonso got Petey home, he put the bird into its cage, fed it, and said "Hello" over and over again, hoping Petey would learn to say it too. Every day Alfonso fed Petey, cleaned his cage, and said, "Hello." Petey ate the food, played with his toys, but never said a word. Alfonso's mom did not have to remind him to take care of Petey. Alfonso played with Petey every day and taught him to do tricks, and Petey helped Alfonso do his homework by sitting on Alfonso's desk. Soon Alfonso forgot that Petey did not talk. He liked Petey just as he was, quiet and beautiful.

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 Why didn't Alfonso's mom want him to get a budgie?

- She did not like budgies.
- She did not like birds.
- She thought Alfonso did not have time for a pet.
- She thought Alfonso would not take care of it.

2 Why do you think Petey sat on Alfonso's desk when Alfonso did his homework?

- Alfonso's desk was near Petey's cage.
- Petey liked being near Alfonso.
- Petey wanted Alfonso to do his homework.
- Alfonso fed Petey at his desk.

3 What did Alfonso learn in this story?

- He could be happy even if things didn't go the way he hoped.
- Having a pet was not as much fun as he thought it would be.
- It was easy to teach budgies to talk.
- Birds do not make good pets.

4 Why did Alfonso stop trying to teach Petey to talk?

5 Why do you think Alfonso got a cage and seeds before he got Petey?

Common Core State Standards

Questions 1, 2, 4, 5: Literature 1. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. **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. **Question 3: Literature 2.** Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.