

Name _____

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.**Baby Ben**

Mother brought the baby home. His name was Ben, and Brenda just stood there and looked at him. Three-year-old Brenda had thought they would play together. Instead, she had to be very quiet when Ben was sleeping. Before he came home, she had planned to hold him and dress him in baby clothes. Now, she thought, “He is too little and he makes very loud noises when he cries.”

Two years later Ben was no longer a baby, and he never stopped talking. Ben’s favorite word was “why.” “Why is the sky blue?” “Why do we have to eat dinner?” “Why do we have to go to bed?”

As soon as Ben was five years old, he was ready for school, just like Brenda. Ben thought he was special because he could count to six. Brenda thought he was special too. She promised to take him to school with her, as long as Ben promised not to hold her hand. As they walked to school that morning, their mother thought to herself, “I cannot believe that both of my children are in school now. The next thing I know, Brenda will be in college and Ben will be graduating from high school.”

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 What was Brenda’s problem at the beginning of the story?

- She wanted to play with Ben, but he was too little.
- The baby clothes she had did not fit Ben.
- She wanted to take Ben to school, but he could not go.

2 What happened in the middle of this story?

- Ben and Brenda went to school.
- Brenda and Ben played together.
- Ben asked questions.

3 Why did both children think that Ben was special?

- He asked good questions.
- He was going to school.
- He could count.

4 In the first part of the story, what did Brenda learn about a new baby?

5 What does the story teach about mothers and their children?

Common Core State Standards

Questions 1, 2, 4: Literature 5. Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action. **Question 3: Literature 1.** Ask and answer such questions as *who, what, where, when, why,* and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. **Literature 3.** Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges. **Question 5: Literature 2.** Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.