

Name _____

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.**Changing a Bully**

Roger, who is not very nice, lives in North Dakota. In fact, Roger is just plain mean to other kids. All the children in his third-grade class are afraid of him because he is a bully.

One Saturday morning, two friends, Brian and Manuel, went to the park to play catch. Suddenly Brian said, “Oh, no, here comes Roger.” The two boys pretended they did not see Roger, but it didn’t work. Roger approached Brian, snatched the ball away, and tossed it into the pond.

Manuel asked Roger, “Why are you so mean?”

For a few seconds, Roger acted as though he would not answer. Then he said sadly, “No one ever wants to play with me.”

“Would you like to play catch with us?” asked Brian.

A big smile appeared on Roger’s face. He reached into the pond and pulled out the ball. The three boys played all morning. Then Roger thanked the boys, waved good-bye, and walked away, whistling.

Brian scratched his head and looked at Manuel. “I guess a little kindness goes a long way,” said Manuel.

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 Why are the other children afraid of Roger?

- Roger is very quiet.
- Roger is new in town.
- Roger is mean to them.

2 Roger *most likely* throws the ball in the pond

- to keep it away from Brian and Manuel.
- to show Brian and Manuel that it will sink.
- to toss it farther than Brian or Manuel can.

3 What causes Roger to get the ball out of the pond?

- Roger wants to run away from there.
- Roger wants to take it home with him.
- Roger wants to play some catch.

4 For what reason does Brian ask Roger to play catch?

5 What do Brian and Manuel do when they first see Roger in the park?

Common Core State Standards

Questions 1–5: 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.