

## Mr. Whiskers' Whiskers



“Stop poking the cat,” Consuela’s mother told her. Every time Consuela poked the cat, Mr. Whiskers, the cat would bat at her with its paw. It was great fun. “You are going to get scratched.”

Consuela stopped poking. Mr. Whiskers stopped batting. They looked at each other. Mr. Whiskers was mostly black, but had white fur on his belly and paws. He was named Mr. Whiskers because his whiskers were long. Consuela reached out and touched one of them. Mr. Whiskers blinked. She touched another one. Mr. Whiskers blinked again. Then he yawned.

“Why does Mr. Whiskers blink when I touch his whisker?” Consuela asked her mother.

“Cats have very sensitive whiskers. They help them feel what’s around them.”

“Why does Mr. Whiskers bat at me when I poke him?”

“He’s practicing hunting. Cats use their paws to catch birds and mice and fish to eat. Sometimes they get excited and forget it’s only practice. That’s when they can scratch you. Cats are very good at hunting.”

“I’ve never seen Mr. Whiskers hunt anything. If I don’t play with him, all he does is sleep.”

Mr. Whiskers was now stretched out on the rug asleep. Consuela thought Mr. Whiskers was too lazy to hunt anything. Every time she played with him, he usually got tired and went to sleep pretty quickly. He was an old cat.

“That’s because Mr. Whiskers has an easier way of getting food.” Consuela’s mother got up and went into the kitchen. She opened the bag of cat food and poured it into his dish.

Mr. Whiskers heard the rustle. He woke right up. His ears perked up and pointed forward. Then he ran to the kitchen. Mr. Whiskers’ favorite thing to do was eat. He liked it even more than sleeping.

“How can Mr. Whiskers always tell when it’s dinner?” Consuela asked.

“The same way you can tell it’s dinner. He uses his ears and his nose. You smell food just like Mr. Whiskers smells food. You hear me call ‘dinner’ the same way Mr. Whiskers hears me pour cat food in his bowl. All animals have to eat if they want to stay alive. Just like you. So it’s pretty important they figure out how to get food one way or another. It’s so important that even though there’s nothing for Mr. Whiskers to hunt, he still practices.”

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

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

1. What is Mr. Whiskers?

- A** a bird
- B** a cat
- C** a dog

2. Consuela poking Mr. Whiskers is a cause. What is its effect?

- A** Mr. Whiskers goes to sleep on the rug.
- B** Mr. Whiskers wakes up and runs to the kitchen.
- C** Mr. Whiskers bats at Consuela with his paw.

3. Read this sentence: "Mr. Whiskers' favorite thing to do was eat."

What information from the story supports this statement?

- A** When Mr. Whiskers hears the sound of cat food being poured in the kitchen, he wakes up and runs to the kitchen.
- B** Consuela says that if she does not play with Mr. Whiskers, all he does is sleep. She also says that she has never seen him hunt.
- C** When Consuela pokes Mr. Whiskers, he bats at her with his paw. Consuela's mother tells her to stop poking Mr. Whiskers.

4. What is one thing that Mr. Whiskers and Consuela have in common?

- A** They both have long whiskers.
- B** They are both very good at hunting.
- C** They both have to eat to stay alive.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- A Food is important to cats.
- B Cats are not safe to have as pets.
- C A girl has a cat that blinks when she touches its whiskers.

6. Read this sentence from the story: "Every time Consuela poked the cat, Mr. Whiskers, **the cat would bat at her with its paw.**"

What does the author mean by writing that "**the cat would bat at her with its paw**"?

- A The cat would lie down on the rug and go to sleep.
- B The cat would swing its paw at Consuela.
- C The cat would jump on Consuela and scratch her.

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

Mr. Whiskers bats at Consuela when he is poked \_\_\_\_\_ he is practicing hunting.

- A after
- B before
- C because

8. Who pokes Mr. Whiskers?

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9. Why does Mr. Whiskers bat his paw at Consuela when she pokes him?

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10. How does batting his paw at Consuela help Mr. Whiskers practice hunting? Support your answer with information from the story.

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**Teacher Guide & Answers****Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 490**1.** What is Mr. Whiskers?

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What information from the story supports this statement?

- A When Mr. Whiskers hears the sound of cat food being poured in the kitchen, he wakes up and runs to the kitchen.**
- B** Consuela says that if she does not play with Mr. Whiskers, all he does is sleep. She also says that she has never seen him hunt.
- C** When Consuela pokes Mr. Whiskers, he bats at her with his paw. Consuela's mother tells her to stop poking Mr. Whiskers.

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8. Who pokes Mr. Whiskers?

**Suggested answer:** Consuela pokes Mr. Whiskers.

9. Why does Mr. Whiskers bat his paw at Consuela when she pokes him?

**Suggested answer:** Mr. Whiskers bats his paw at Consuela when she pokes him because he is practicing hunting.

10. How does batting his paw at Consuela help Mr. Whiskers practice hunting? Support your answer with information from the story.

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by evidence from the story. For example, students may respond that because cats use their paws to catch animals when hunting, batting a paw at Consuela gives Mr. Whiskers practice using his paws. This practice could help him hunt, if he ever needed to.