

## The Grey Sheep



My mother raises sheep. There is a field near her house where five sheep live. Their names are Jane, Emma, Charlotte, Georgie and Virginia. They are shy, but very friendly to people who get to know them well. Sometimes, when their hair gets long, my mother cuts it off. She spins their hair into wool and knits the wool into scarves and sweaters.

My mother's favorite sheep is Emma. She is the friendliest. My mother gives her carrots. This makes Emma like my mother a lot. Emma is different from the other sheep. While the other sheep have white hair, Emma has black hair. My mother likes Emma because she is the friendliest and because her hair makes beautiful wool. The other sheep like her too. She is very popular!

One time, many years ago, Emma had a baby sheep. The father of the baby sheep, Henry, was a sheep with white hair. In most ways, Hillary looked just like her parents. She had four legs, each of which ended in hoofs. She had floppy ears and a little nose. When she was hungry, she made the same noise as her parents — “Baaaaaaah.”

But Hillary also looked a little different from her parents. This is because she did not have white hair, like her father, Henry. And she did not have black hair, like her mother, Emma. She had grey hair. Grey is a color that is between white and black. The baby sheep was very much like her parents, but not exactly.

My mother also likes to grow flowers. She has a big garden next to the field. In it, she has many different types of flowers. She has roses, poppies and dandelions. She also grows plants. She has tomato plants, squash plants, and a plant with lots of thorns that grows blackberries. She even has two trees. These trees make apples, but they don't taste very good.

A long time ago, my mother had only one apple tree. One day, this tree grew an apple. My mother took this apple and opened it until she could see the seeds inside. She took a seed and planted it. She watered the ground for several weeks. Then, a small green bud came out of the ground. Soon, the small bud turned into a little tree. My mother kept watering the tree and the tree kept growing. After a while, the second tree was just as tall as the first tree. Because the second tree had grown from a seed from the first tree, the first tree was its parent.

When my mother looks at her two trees, she sees that they look very much

alike. They are about the same height. They are both green, with lots of leaves. And they both grow apples. However, they are not exactly alike. The first tree had nine branches and the second tree has ten. The first tree leans a little to the left and the second tree leans a little to the right. So, just like my mother's sheep, the second tree was very much, but not exactly, like its parent.

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

1. What kind of animal are Emma, Henry, and Hillary?

- A horses
- B sheep
- C cats

2. What does the passage compare to an apple tree?

- A The passage compares a rose to an apple tree.
- B The passage compares a tomato to an apple tree.
- C The passage compares a sheep to an apple tree.

3. Living things have a lot in common with their parents.

What information in the story supports this idea?

- A Hillary looks and sounds like her parents.
- B Hillary has floppy ears and a little nose.
- C The mother of the character in this story has a big garden.

4. What is one way that Hillary and the second apple tree are different?

- A Hillary has one parent, while the apple tree has two.
- B Hillary has two parents, while the apple tree has one.
- C Hillary has three parents, while the apple tree has two.

5. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A Apple trees and blackberries are easier to grow than tomatoes and squash.
- B Many people like wearing sweaters and scarves made from wool.
- C Living things are very much like their parents but not the same.

6. Read these sentences: "My mother took this apple and opened it until she could see the seeds inside. She took a **seed** and planted it."

What does the word **seed** mean?

- A a part of a plant from which a new plant can grow
- B an animal with long hair that can be cut off and made into clothing
- C a big garden with many different kinds of flowers and trees

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

A second apple tree grows \_\_\_\_\_ a seed is planted in the ground.

- A after
- B before
- C but

8. How many apple trees are there at the end of the story?

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9. How is the second apple tree like its parent?

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10. How are Hillary and the second apple tree alike?

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## Teacher Guide &amp; Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 600

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

A second apple tree grows \_\_\_\_\_ a seed is planted in the ground.

- A after
- B before
- C but

8. How many apple trees are there at the end of the story?

**Suggested answer:** Two.

9. How is the second apple tree like its parent?

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary, as long as they come from the passage. For instance, students may respond that the second apple tree is about the same height as its parent.

10. How are Hillary and the second apple tree alike?

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary but should be supported by the passage. Ideally, students will recognize that Hillary and the second apple tree are both offspring that share many—but not all—characteristics with their parents.