

**DEAR
MR. HENSHAW**

BY:
BEVERLY CLEARY

Dr. Betty Powers Francis
READING RIGHT

© 2005, 1989

DEAR MR. HENSHAW

Synopsis

Someone is repeatedly stealing Leigh's lunch, his dog is missing, and His parents just separated. How can he deal with all of is problems at once?

For an assignment he must write an author. After choosing Mr. Henshaw as his author, Leigh finds out that the writing seems to help put his problems in perspective.

Next he turns his attention to making an alarm for his lunch box. He manages to scare the thief away but he doesn't catch him. He is glad that he doesn't know who did it, and the incident has made him a few friends at his new school.

He still misses his dog and his dad, but then the good news arrives that his dad is coming for a visit. When his dad arrives he also brings the missing dog. Life seems to be improving for Leigh. He writes to Mr. Henshaw less, but keeps his journal up to date instead. This is a story of how one person copes with the complexities of growing up, divorce, and the changes that happen along the way.

DEAR MR. HENSHAW

Lesson 1

May 12 - Nov. 27

1. What grade is Leigh Botts in as he starts to write most of the entries?
 - A. Second
 - B. Fourth
 - C. Sixth

2. Leigh and his mother live where?
 - A. Taft, California
 - B. Bakersfield, California
 - C. Pacific Grove, California

3. What does Leigh's father do for a living?
 - A. Drive a truck
 - B. Write
 - C. Sell cars

4. What is a "rig"?
 - A. Farm tractor
 - B. Truck
 - C. Mobile home

5. Why do you think Leigh didn't want to answer the questions Mr. Henshaw sent him at first?

6. Is Leigh a popular boy at his school? Write down a sentence from the book that supports your answer.

DEAR MR. HENSHAW

Lesson 2

Dec. 1 - Jan. 10

1. Mr. Henshaw told Leigh that the way to get to be an author was:
 - A. To read
 - B. To spell
 - C. To write

2. How does Leigh take after his father?
 - A. The color of his hair
 - B. His nice straight teeth
 - C. His sense of humor

3. What is the correct order in which these foods were stolen from Leigh's lunch?
 - A. Deviled eggs, stuffed mushrooms, cheesecake
 - B. Stuffed mushrooms, deviled eggs, cheesecake
 - C. Deviled eggs, cheesecake, stuffed mushrooms

4. What does the word "quiche" mean?
 - A. A custard pie, made with cheese and bacon
 - B. A type of semi-truck.
 - C. A wild animal

5. What bothers Leigh the most?
 - A. Little kids with runny noses
 - B. His father not phoning
 - C. Walking to school slow

6. Why was Leigh asking his mother to think about getting married again?
 - A. He wants some brothers and sisters.
 - B. He wants to ride in a truck.
 - C. He missed his father and he wants someone to show him how to make a burglar alarm.

DEAR MR. HENSHAW

Lesson 3

Jan. 12 - Feb. 9

1. What did Leigh write about for the Young Writers Contest in his first story?
 - A. Horses
 - B. A monster from outer space
 - C. A ten foot wax man

2. What is Leigh's father's name on the CB radio?
 - A. Big Rig
 - B. Wild Bill
 - C. Bandit

3. What happened to Bandit?
 - A. He was run over by a truck.
 - B. He froze to death in a snowstorm.
 - C. He was lost on Highway 80.

4. Which event happened first in the story?
 - A. Mr. Findley caught Leigh taking someone else's lunch bag.
 - B. Leigh's father lost Bandit.
 - C. Leigh and his mother drove down by the ocean and ate chicken.

5. What does the word "mimeograph" mean?
 - A. Print
 - B. Imitate someone talking
 - C. To send by airmail

6. How does Leigh feel when his father doesn't call?
 - A. Sad
 - B. Lonely
 - C. Terrible
 - D. All of the above

7. Why do you think Leigh was upset when his father sent him the twenty-dollar bill?
- A. He didn't need the money; he was already rich.
 - B. He thought his father should have sent more money.
 - C. He felt his father was insensitive to his feelings and wasn't really sorry about losing Bandit.

DEAR MR. HENSHAW

Lesson 4

Feb. 15 - March 17

1. Which of the following is NOT a reason why Leigh is getting behind in his diary?
 - A. He is working on his story for the Young Writer's Contest.
 - B. He has been writing to Mr. Henshaw.
 - C. He was busy buying a new lunch box.
2. What does Leigh's father call him?
 - A. Kid
 - B. Son
 - C. Boy
3. What does Leigh buy with the twenty dollars that his father sent?
 - A. A new lunchbox
 - B. Things to make a burglar alarm with
 - C. A new dog
4. In making his burglar alarm, what is the last step?
 - A. Taping the battery to the corner of the lunchbox
 - B. Twisting the wire loop over the button on the switch
 - C. Fastening the wire from the battery to the switch, then to the doorbell
5. What is "prose"?
 - A. Poetic verses in writing.
 - B. Anticipating or believing in something.
 - C. Ordinary, matter-of-fact language in writing
6. How does Leigh feel about his burglar alarm invention?
 - A. Better than everyone else
 - B. Like a hero
 - C. Embarrassed
7. Why is Leigh glad that he didn't catch the "lunchbox thief"?

DEAR MR. HENSHAW

Lesson 5

March 20 - End

1. What is the name of the author that visits Leigh's school?
 - A. Miss Beely
 - B. Angela Badger
 - C. Mr. Henshaw
2. What place did Leigh take in the Young Writer's Contest?
 - A. First
 - B. Third
 - C. Honorable mention
3. What did Leigh's father bring him?
 - A. Bandit
 - B. Old sneakers he found on the Highway
 - C. Broccoli
4. The word autograph means:
 - A. To make copies, to duplicate
 - B. To sign an original handwriting signature
 - C. Dictating to someone and having them write for you
5. How did Leigh feel when Mrs. Badger called him an author?
 - A. Proud
 - B. Embarrassed
 - C. Shy
6. Have you ever wanted to achieve something and it didn't turn out the way you wanted it to? Tell a little about it and how you felt.
7. Leigh was lonely at the beginning of the book explain how you think he feels at the end of the story.

DEAR MR. HENSHAW

Answer Key

Lesson 1

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. Answers will vary. Leigh may not have liked writing to Mr. Henshaw at first because he didn't like answering people's questions and he didn't want to do anymore work. It is unlikely that it was because he didn't like to write because he is always writing to Mr. Henshaw.
6. Answers will vary. Leigh does not seem to have any friends at his new school. There are several sentences from the book to support this view.

Lesson 2

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. B
6. C

Lesson 3

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. D
7. D

Lesson 4

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. D
6. B
7. Leigh is glad that he didn't catch the lunchbox thief because he just wanted to have his lunch each day. He didn't want to get anyone in trouble.

Lesson 5

1. B

2. C

3. A

4. B

5. A

6. Answers will vary.

7. Leigh has a friend, so he is not feeling as lonely as he was at the beginning. He is also getting used to not having his father around, and he knows his father still cares even though he isn't there all the time.