THE WISH GIVER

BY

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READING RIGHT

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Synopsis

Four people receive a special card at the fair guaranteed to grant them one wish. But the wishes do not turn out the way each had hoped. Polly wants people to pay attention to her and smile when they see her. After making her wish she begins to croak like a frog whenever she starts to be angry and say unkind words. People are paying lots of attention and not only are they smiling at her they are laughing at her. She is unhappy with her wish.

The second person, Rowena Jervis, wishes the traveling sales person she has a crush on would put down roots, that is settle in her town. Poor Henry Piper does just that. He cannot move his foot and roots begin to grow out of his shoes and into the ground. With each passing day he looks more like a tree and less like a man. Rowene quickly discovers that the manners he puts on to sale his wares are only surface deep.

Adam is the third person in the story that gets his wish. Adam lives on a farm with his family. But the farm has one problem; it doesn't have any water on it. So Adam has to drive to the creek to get water for the family. He wish seems harmless enough as he wishes for water. The water, however, never stops and soon his family has to move off the flooded far.

One man has not made his wish thinking that it was nonsense. So the other three appeal to him to wish their wishes and troubles away. The unwanted wishes change each of the people so that they are better for their experiences.
1. Who is telling the story?
   A. A narrator
   B. Thaddeus Blinn
   C. Stewart Meade

2. Find a figure of speech on page twenty(c) five. Write it down and tell to which of the five senses it appeals.

3. What age do you think Stew Meat is? List at least one clue that helped you make that decision.

4. What does the idiom, "...gone fuzzy in the head," mean?

5. What time of the day was it when Polly made her wish?
   A. Early evening
   B. Late at night
   C. Early in the morning

6. Why do you think Polly wants to make friends with Agatha and Eunice?

7. Describe Lenora and Leland’s way of getting Polly to stop complaining.

8. Describe what would you do to stop someone from complaining?
1. You could say one characteristic of Polly is:
   A. Her hair is too curly
   B. She complains a lot
   C. She didn’t have any friends

2. How did the first part of Polly's wish come true?
   ("I'm wishing that people will pay attention to me, and smile when they see me.")

3. Find and write down one of the comparisons the author uses to appeal to the reader’s sense of sight.

4. What does "riled" mean?

5. Which of the following events happened last?
   A. Polly called Agatha dumb.
   B. Polly complained about the burnt toast.
   C. Polly got angry with the boys on the swings.

6. What do you think is causing Polly to croak like a frog?

7. Do you think Polly’s mother, Mrs. Kemp, likes Agatha and Eunice? Explain your answer.

8. Why does Polly feel like she doesn't want Agatha and Eunice for friends after all?
1. This section of the book is primarily about:
   A. Henry Piper
   B. Rowena Jervis
   C. Sam Waxman

2. Roots has two different meanings. When Rowena wished Henry would put down roots she meant:

   What really happened was:

3. Why doesn’t Henry want Rowena to get help for him?

4. What does “gawking” mean?

5. Do you think Sam Waxman likes Henry Piper? Explain your answer.

6. Describe the type of person you think Henry Piper is?

7. Why do you think Sam is being so helpful to Rowena?
1. How did Henry know so much about travel in foreign countries?
   A. He traveled a lot
   B. He belonged to a travel club
   C. He read travel brochures

2. Why hasn’t anyone come to look for the missing Henry Piper yet?

3. Adam’s farm doesn’t have something. What is it missing?
   A. Water
   B. Crops
   C. Flowers

4. What is a dowser?

5. Number the following in the correct order.
   ____ Adam wished for water.
   ____ Adam went to the crick to get water.
   ____ Uncle Poot came to look for water.
   ____ Adam starts to make a fence for his mother’s flowers.

6. Why doesn’t Adam like hauling the water from the crick to his house?

7. The other wishes created new problems instead of fixing old ones. Describe what you think will happen to Adam’s wish?
1. Why are Adam and his family moving from their farm?

2. Underline the characteristics that describe Mr. Fiske.
   - Hardworking
   - Clumsy
   - Unkind
   - Good sense of humor

3. Write down one of the slang words or idioms used, and the page you found it on. Then give the meaning as it is used in the story.
   - Example: "...gets her dander up," page 179, means to get angry.

4. The events in the story happen in:
   - A. Less than a week
   - B. More than a week but less than a month
   - C. More than a month but less than six months

5. Why didn’t Adam’s pa get mad at him when he told his father about the wish he had made?

6. Choose one of the three wishes and try to word it in such a way that it can’t be misunderstood.

7. If you wrote a moral for this story what would it be?
LESSON 1

1.  C
2.  Answers will vary.
3.  Stew Meat is an adult. Clues the author gives are: he mentions the name he was stuck with, he had balding hair, his knee gets sore when the weather is about to change, he puts his card in the cash register, and he talks about the three young folks.
4.  The idiom, "gone fuzzy in the head," means to not think clearly.
5.  A
6.  Answers will vary.
7.  Lenora and Leland had several ways to stop Polly's complaining. One way they stopped her was to put a snake sown her back, another is to push her in the water. They also throw mud at her and pretend she is not there.
8.  Answers will vary.

LESSON 2

1.  B
2.  Polly wished that people would pay more attention to her and smile when they saw her. This came true for her because when she made the frog sound everyone paid attention to her and people smiled when they saw her because of the strange noises she makes.
3.  Answers will vary. They could include: face like a Holstein cow, the way she might examine a fly that had lit on a dish of ice cream, or lips pursed distastefully as if she'd bit into a green persimmon.
4.  Riled means to get angry or upset.
5.  C
6.  Answers will vary.
7.  Mrs. Kemp does not seem to like Agatha or Eunice. The reasons for coming to that conclusion may differ.
8.  Answers will vary.
LESSON 3

1. B
2. In the first blank roots means to stay put. What really happened was that Henry put roots down into the ground like a tree.
3. Henry doesn’t want Rowena to get help because he thinks that people will laugh at him and not buy any items from his catalog.
4. Gawking means to stare.
5. Sam doesn’t like Henry Piper. Answers may vary as to how they deduced that.
6. Answers will vary. They should see that Henry was not very truthful. He does whatever he has to do to sell his company’s products. He also thinks he is better than the people he is selling to.
7. Answers will vary. The most likely one is that Sam likes Rowena.

LESSON 4

1. C
2. No one is looking for Henry yet because Sam called his home office to tell them that Henry was sick and couldn’t travel just then.
3. A
4. A dowser is a person who uses a divining rod or stick to find water.
5. The correct order is 3, 1, 2, and 4.
6. Adam doesn’t like hauling water from the crick to his house because people laugh at him as he goes through the town and it is very hard work.
7. Answers will vary.
1. Adam and his family are moving from their farm because the gushing water has flooded the whole place.

2. The characteristics that should be underlined are hard working, and good sense of humor.

3. Answers will vary.

4. A

5. Adam’s pa doesn’t get mad at Adam when he finds out about the wish Adam made because he had wished for water too, it just never came for him.

6. Answers will vary.

7. Answers will vary.