

Directions

Read this article about ladybugs. Then answer questions 1 through 5.

Little Flying Helpers



What do you usually do when a flying insect lands on your arm? Most likely you shoo it away. But what if that bug were a ladybug? Then chances are you would let it stay. What is it about ladybugs that we like?

Farmers once thought ladybugs were a good luck sign. A ladybug in the field meant that the crops would be successful and the weather would be good. The farmers may have been exaggerating about what a very small bug can do, but in fact ladybugs do help out with the crops. They eat harmful insects.

Actually, it is not the adult ladybug that eats the other insects. It's the ladybug larvae. Ladybugs lay their eggs on leaves that are infected with aphids or other insects. When the larvae hatch, they are very hungry and will eat mites, aphids, mealybugs, green flies, and other crop-destroyers.

A single ladybug larva can eat over 1,000 aphids in one day. In the 1800s, ladybugs were brought all the way from Australia to California and released among orange trees that were dying from being eaten by insects. The little red and black "eating machines" completely saved all the trees.

Ladybugs go about their daily business without worrying much about anything. Very few birds or insects will eat a ladybug because it gives off a fluid that is dangerous to eat. Ladybugs also protect themselves by playing dead. They fall off leaves and remain very still until their attacker goes away.

So next time you see a ladybug, think about what it may be up to. Maybe it is off to save an orange tree. Maybe its next move will be to roll off a leaf and play dead or stand up to a bird about 100 times its size. Maybe it's letting you know that the weather will be good tomorrow. Who knows? Ladybugs are special that way.



1 According to the article, why were ladybugs brought from Australia to California in the 1800s?

- A** to add more ladybugs to the area
- B** to predict the weather for farmers
- C** to save orange trees by eating insects
- D** to release a special fluid on the trees

2 According to the article, what is one way ladybugs defend themselves?

- F** They curl up and hide.
- G** They remain very still.
- H** They sting their attackers.
- J** They fly faster than their attackers.

3 Read this sentence from the article.

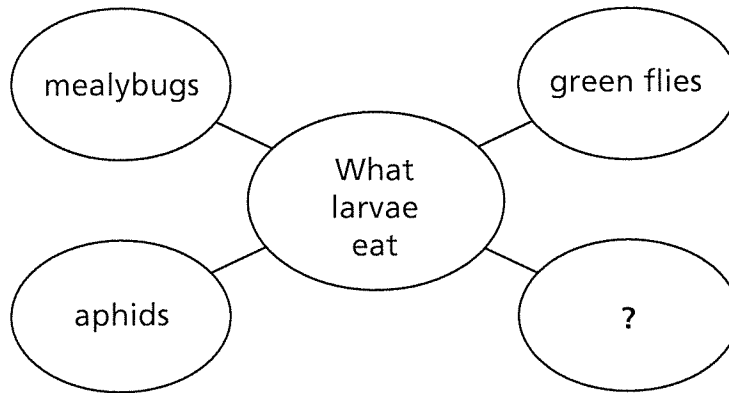
Maybe its next move will be to roll off a leaf and play dead or stand up to a bird about 100 times its size.

The phrase “stand up to” means about the same as

- A** admire
- B** support
- C** challenge
- D** observe

Go On

4 Here is a web about ladybug larvae.



Which word **best** completes the web?

- F oranges
- G birds
- H leaves
- J mites

5 Which sentence shows what the author **most likely** thinks about ladybugs?

- A Ladybugs are interesting insects.
- B Ladybugs are annoying insects.
- C Ladybugs do harm to nature.
- D Ladybugs eat more than they should.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

PERIOD: _____

Excerpt from *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

- (1) I spent a lot of time that summer at the Herman W. Block Memorial Library. The Herman W. Block Memorial Library sounds like it would be a big fancy place, but it's not. It's just a little old house full of books, and Miss Franny Block is in charge of them all. She is a very small, very old woman with short gray hair, and she was the first friend I made in Naomi.
- (2) It all started with Winn-Dixie not liking it when I went into the library, because he couldn't go inside, too. But I showed him how he could stand up on his hind legs and look in the window and see me in there, selecting my books; and he was okay, as long as he could see me. But the thing was, the first time Miss Franny Block saw Winn-Dixie standing up on his hind legs like that, looking in the window, she didn't think he was a dog. She thought he was a bear.
- (3) This is what happened: I was picking out my books and kind of humming to myself, and all of a sudden, there was a loud and scary scream. I went running up to the front of the library, and there was Miss Franny Block, sitting on the floor behind her desk.
- (4) Miss Franny sat there trembling and shaking.
- (5) "Come on," I said. "Let me help you up. It's okay." I stuck out my hand and Miss Franny took hold of it, and I pulled her up off the floor. She didn't weigh hardly anything at all. Once she was standing on her feet, she started acting all embarrassed, saying how I must think she was a silly old lady, mistaking a dog for a bear, but that she had a bad experience with a bear coming into the Herman W. Block Memorial Library a long time ago, and she never had quite gotten over it.

- (6) "When did it happen?" I asked her.
- (7) "Well," said Miss Franny, "it is a very long story."
- (8) "That's okay," I told her. "I am like my mama in that I like to be told stories. But before you start telling it, can Winn-Dixie come in and listen, too? He gets lonely without me."
- (9) "Well, I don't know," said Miss Franny. "Dogs are not allowed in the Herman W. Block Memorial Library."
- (10) "He'll be good," I told her. "He's a dog who goes to church." And before she could say yes or no, I went outside and got Winn-Dixie, and he came in and lay down with a "huummmppff" and a sigh, right at Miss Franny's feet.
- (11) She looked down at him and said, "He most certainly is a large dog."
- (12) "Yes ma'am," I told her. "He has a large heart, too."
- (13) "Well," Miss Franny said. She bent over and gave Winn-Dixie a pat on the head, and Winn-Dixie wagged his tail back and forth and snuffled his nose on her little old-lady feet. "Let me get a chair and sit down so I can tell this story properly."
- (14) "Back when Florida was wild, when it consisted of nothing but palmetto trees and mosquitoes so big they could fly away with you," Miss Franny Block started in, "and I was just a little girl no bigger than you, my father, Herman W. Block, told me that I could have anything I wanted for my birthday. Anything at all."

- (15) Miss Franny looked around the library. She leaned in close to me. "I don't want to appear prideful," she said, "but my daddy was a very rich man. A very rich man." She nodded and then leaned back and said, "And I was a little girl who loved to read. So I told him, I said, 'Daddy, I would most certainly love to have a library for my birthday, a small little library would be wonderful.'"
- (16) "You asked for a whole library?"
- (17) "A small one," Miss Franny nodded. "I wanted a little house full of nothing but books and I wanted to share them, too. And I got my wish. My father built me this house, the very one we are sitting in now. And at a very young age, I became a librarian. Yes ma'am."
- (18) "What about the bear?" I said.
- (19) "Did I mention that Florida was wild in those days?" Miss Franny Block said.
- (20) "Uh-huh, you did."
- (21) "It was wild. There were wild men and wild women and wild animals."
- (22) "Like bears!"
- (23) "Yes ma'am. That's right. Now, I have to tell you. I was a little-miss-know-it-all. I was a miss-smarty-pants with my library full of books. Oh, yes ma'am, I thought I knew the answers to everything. Well, one hot Thursday, I was sitting in my library with all the doors and windows open and my nose stuck in a book, when a shadow crossed the desk. And without looking up, yes ma'am, without even looking up, I said, 'Is there a book I can help you find?'

- (24) "Well, there was no answer. And I thought it might have been a wild man or a wild woman, scared of all these books and afraid to speak up. But then I became aware of a very peculiar smell, a very strong smell. I raised my eyes slowly. And standing right in front of me was a bear. Yes ma'am. A very large bear."
- (25) "How big?" I asked.
- (26) "Oh, well," said Miss Franny, "perhaps three times the size of your dog."
- (27) "Then what happened?" I asked her.
- (28) "Well," said Miss Franny, "I looked at him and he looked at me. He put his big nose up in the air and sniffed and sniffed as if he was trying to decide if a little-miss-know-it-all librarian was what he was in the mood to eat. And I sat there. And then I thought, 'Well, if this bear intends to eat me, I am not going to let it happen without a fight. No ma'am.' So very slowly and carefully, I raised up the book I was reading."
- (29) "What book was that?" I asked.
- (30) "Why, it was War and Peace, a very large book. I raised it up slowly and then I aimed it carefully and I threw it right at that bear and screamed, 'Be gone!' And do you know what?"
- (31) "No ma'am," I said.
- (32) "He went. But this is what I will never forget. He took the book with him."
- (33) "Nu-uh," I said.
- (34) "Yes ma'am," said Miss Franny. "He snatched it up and ran."
- (35) "Did he come back?" I asked.

- (36) “No, I never saw him again. Well, the men in town used to tease me about it. They used to say, ‘Miss Franny, we saw that bear of yours out in the woods today. He was reading that book and he said it sure was good and would it be all right if he kept it for just another week.’ Yes ma’am. They did tease me about it.” She said. “I imagine I’m the only one left from those days. I imagine I’m the only one that even recalls that bear. All my friends, everyone I knew when I was young, they are all dead and gone.”
- (37) She sighed again. She looked sad and old and wrinkled. It was the same way I felt sometimes, being friendless in a new town and not having a mama to comfort me. I sighed, too.
- (38) Winn-Dixie raised his head off his paws and looked back and forth between me and Miss Franny. He sat up then and showed Miss Franny his teeth.
- (39) “Well now, look at that,” she said. “That dog is smiling at me.”
- (40) “It’s a talent of his,” I told her.
- (41) “It’s a fine talent,” Miss Franny said. “A very fine talent.” And she smiled back at Winn-Dixie.
- (42) “We could be friends,” I said to Miss Franny. “I mean you and me and Winn-Dixie, we could all be friends.”
- (43) Miss Franny smiled even bigger. “Why, that would be grand,” she said, “just grand.”
- (44) And right at that minute, right when the three of us had decided to be friends, who should come marching into the Herman W. Block Memorial Library but old pinch-faced Amanda Wilkinson. She walked right up to Miss Franny’s desk and said, “I finished Johnny Tremain and I enjoyed it very much. I would like something even more difficult to read now, because I am an advanced reader.”

(45) "Yes dear, I know," said Miss Franny. She got up out of her chair.

(46) Amanda pretended like I wasn't there. She stared right past me. "Are dogs allowed in the library?" she asked Miss Franny as they walked away.

(47) "Certain ones," said Miss Franny, "a select few." And then she turned around and winked at me. I smiled back. I had just made my first friend in Naomi, and nobody was going to mess that up for me, not even old pinch-faced Amanda Wilkinson.

Published courtesy of Candlewick Press

Questions for Students

1. The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A: In paragraphs 14–36, Miss Franny tells about when she was a young girl. How do these paragraphs help the reader understand the rest of the passage?

- A. They show why Miss Franny’s father was a wealthy person.
- B. They show why Miss Franny allowed Winn-Dixie to go into the library.
- C. They show why Miss Franny is afraid of Winn-Dixie at first.
- D. They show why Miss Franny likes the narrator more than she likes Amanda.

Part B: Which sentence provides the best evidence for the answer to Part A?

- A. “But the thing was, the first time Miss Franny Block saw Winn-Dixie standing up on his hind legs like that, looking in the window, she didn’t think he was a dog.”
- B. “She nodded and then leaned back and said, ‘And I was a little girl who loved to read.’”
- C. “My father built me this house, the very one we are sitting in now.”
- D. “‘Are dogs allowed in the library?’ she asked Miss Franny as they walked away.”

2. The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A: In paragraph 36, what is the meaning of the word *recalls*?

- A. remembers
- B. believes in
- C. misses
- D. is afraid of

Part B: Which sentence from the text best helps the reader determine the meaning of *recalls*?

- A. “...and I threw it right at that bear and screamed, ‘Be gone!’”
- B. “No, I never saw him again.”
- C. “Well, the men in town used to tease me about it.”
- D. “I imagine I’m the only one left from those days.”

3. The following question has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A: Which statement best describes the narrator's feelings after Miss Franny ends the story about the bear?

- A. The narrator decides that she loves dogs.
- B. The narrator remembers how lonely she is.
- C. The narrator is glad that she can trust adults.
- D. The narrator thinks about how much she dislikes rules.

Part B: Which sentence from the story best shows this feeling?

- A. "But I showed him how he could stand up on his hind legs and look in the window and see me in there, selecting my books; and he was okay, as long as he could see me."
- B. "And before she could say yes or no, I went outside and got Winn-Dixie, and he came in and lay down with a *'huummmppff'* and a sigh, right at Miss Franny's feet."
- C. "'Then what happened?' I asked her."
- D. "It was the same way I felt sometimes, being friendless in a new town and not having a mama to comfort me."

4. What are two details from the passage that show that Miss Franny is becoming friends with Winn-Dixie?

- A. "he was okay, as long as he could see me."
- B. "She thought he was a bear."
- C. "he came in and lay down with a *'huummmppff.'*"
- D. "'He'll be good,'" I told her."
- E. "That dog is smiling at me."
- F. "'Certain ones,' said Miss Franny."

5. Which sentence best demonstrates the central lesson of this passage?

- A. "I am like my mama in that I like to be told stories."
- B. "He's a dog who goes to church."
- C. "Let me get a chair and sit down so I can tell this story properly."
- D. "Oh, yes ma'am, I thought I knew the answers to everything."
- E. "I mean you and me and Winn-Dixie, we could all be friends."

Simulation Reflection

Questions	Little Flying Helpers	Because of Winn-Dixie
What do you notice or observe about the passage and the questions?		
What does a student need to know and be able to do to read the passage and answer the questions		
How do the questions in the passage align to the Common Core State Standards?		