

The Fourteenth Goldfish

By Jennifer L. Holm

Questions

1. Why won't Ellie's mother let her get a dog?
A. She already has one
B. The house is too small
C. A dog is too expensive
D. The yard is too small
Answer: D (p. 4 HB)
2. Who was the 13 year-old that Ellie's mom brought home? Explain.
Answer: The 13 year old Mom brought home was Melvin her father (Ellie's grandfather), a scientist who has discovered a cure for old age. (p. 17 HB)
3. True or False? T. Melvinus is a type of Dinosaur.
Answer: False. It is a species of Jellyfish (p.24 HB)
4. Jonas Salk is a scientist who:
A. Discovered Radium
B. Proved that the earth was not the center of everything
C. Developed the Polio Vaccine
D. Ran the Manhattan Project which developed the atom bomb
Answer: C. (p. 46 HB)
5. Why does Melvin want to get into building 24?
Answer: Melvin needs to get into building 24 because he wants to retrieve the T. Melvinus. (p. 93 HB)
6. What was Mevin's REAL reason for hiring Raj as his lab assistant?
Answer: Melvin really hired Raj so that he could ask Raj's brother to take them places in his car. (p. 93 HB)
7. Who is Billy, and why do you think he is he important to Melvin?
Answer: Billy is the diver from Australia who found the T. Melvinus, (p.110 HB) and (answers will vary here) Melvin needs him to find more specimens for his work.

8. Compare what Ellie's Halloween Costume says about who she is with what Melvin's costume says about him.

Answer: (Answers will vary, but should be close to the following): Ellie's costume shows her new passion (science) and possibilities for the future, while Melvin's costume shows what he actually is/was with no possibilities for the future. (p125-126 HB)

9. Why do you think Melvin says he doesn't believe in Birthdays?

Answer: Answers will vary, but should be close to the following points (a) He is confused about his age/place in the world since he found his cure for aging, because (b) He is mentally 76 (p. 159) but physically 14 years old.

10. Why do you think Brianna talks to Ellie again?

- A. Volleyball season is over and she didn't make the team
- B. She has a crush on Melvin and wants to meet him
- C. She wants to be friends with Ellie again
- D. Both A and B

Answer: D. (p.157 & 159 HB)