

A Hot, Hot Day

By Jaclyn Einis

It was a hot, hot day. Pug the Pig was talking to Dot the Dog under the shade of the big elm tree. Pug talked in oinks and Dot talked in barks, but they could understand each other just fine. In fact, they talked every day. They were best friends.

The other animals on the farm thought they were silly. “Cats should play with cats, chickens should play with chickens, cows should play with cows, horses should play with horses, dogs should play with dogs, and pigs should play with pigs,” they would say. When the other animals saw Pug and Dot together, they would shake their heads and laugh. Pug and Dot did not care. They each had a very best friend, so they were happy.

Pug and Dot each thought the other had a funny tail. Pug would snort in delight when Dot wagged her big, fluffy tail. Dot would jump up and down when Pug wiggled his curly tail. Today, it was so hot out that Pug and Dot were too tired to wiggle and wag their tails.

“It’s so hot out, you could fry an egg on my back,” Pug said.

“It’s so hot out, I’m sweating out of my paws,” Dot said, panting between words.

Pug giggled. “Imagine if we sweat like Farmer Fred.”

“I wasn’t joking,” Dot said. “I really am sweating from my paws.”

“Wowee!” Pug said, staring with wide eyes at Dot’s wet paws. “That must be uncomfortable, having damp paws.”

“Actually, it helps in this heat. That’s why people sweat all over. It cools you down,” Dot explained.

“Well, gee. I wish I could sweat like people,” Pug said with a frown.

“Pigs don’t sweat much, but there is another way you could cool down,” said Dot. “Are you thinking what I’m thinking?”

Pug smiled and wiggled his tail with excitement.

“Mud bath!” they yelled at the same time.

Pug trotted and Dot dashed across the field to the pool of mud by the lake. Pug rested in the cool mud, sighing with relief. Dot leapt into the fresh, clear lake water. She swam back and forth, making sure to stay near the mud so she and Pug could talk as they bathed. They were best friends, after all.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What kinds of animals are Pug and Dot?

- A a cat and a chicken
- B a horse and a cow
- C a pig and a dog
- D a dog and a cat

2. The two main characters in this story are Pug and Dot. How can both of these characters be described?

- A friendly, cheerful, and excited
- B lonely, shy, and quiet
- C nervous, careful, and jumpy
- D loud, self-centered, and confident

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"The other animals on the farm thought they were silly. 'Cats should play with cats, chickens should play with chickens, cows should play with cows, horses should play with horses, dogs should play with dogs, and pigs should play with pigs,' they would say. When the other animals saw Pug and Dot together, they would shake their heads and laugh."

Based on this evidence, why did the other animals think Pug and Dot were silly?

- A because Pug and Dot always played funny jokes on the other animals
- B because they all wanted to play with Pug and Dot, but Pug and Dot did not play with them
- C because Pug and Dot were not the same kind of animal, but they still played with each other
- D because Pug and Dot were the same kind of animal, but they did not play with each other

4. Pug and Dot enjoy their differences. What evidence best supports this conclusion?

- A "Pug would snort in delight when Dot wagged her big, fluffy tail. Dot would jump up and down when Pug wiggled his curly tail."
- B "'Wowiee!' Pug said, staring with wide eyes at Dot's wet paws. 'That must be uncomfortable, having damp paws.'"
- C "When the other animals saw Pug and Dot together, they would shake their heads and laugh. Pug and Dot did not care."
- D "Pug trotted and Dot dashed across the field to the pool of mud by the lake. Pug rested in the cool mud, sighing with relief."

5. What is a theme of this story?

- A The best friends are ones who are similar.
- B You don't need to be very alike to be great friends.
- C The closer you are to someone, the less well you know him or her.
- D There is no room for selfishness in friendship.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"The other animals on the farm thought they were silly. 'Cats should play with cats, chickens should play with chickens, cows should play with cows, horses should play with horses, dogs should play with dogs, and pigs should play with pigs,' they would say. When the other animals saw Pug and Dot together, they would shake their heads and laugh. Pug and Dot did not care. They each had a very best friend, so they were happy."

Why might the author have included the details about what the other animals on the farm thought and said?

- A to suggest that Pug and Dot were only friends because they couldn't be friends with other animals
- B to make the reader wonder what the other animals' daily lives were like
- C to suggest that Pug and Dot's friendship was pretty normal for the farm
- D to show that Pug and Dot thought differently about friendship than the other animals

7. Pug talked in oinks and Dot talked in barks, but they could understand each other just fine.

How could you rewrite this sentence without changing its meaning?

- A Pug talked in oinks and Dot talked in barks, so they could understand each other just fine.
- B Pug talked in oinks and Dot talked in barks, even though they could understand each other just fine.
- C Even though Pug talked in oinks and Dot talked in barks, they could understand each other just fine.
- D After Pug talked in oinks and Dot talked in barks, they could understand each other just fine.

8. At the end of the story, Pug takes a mud bath while Dot swims in the nearby lake, staying near the mud. Why does Dot make sure to stay near the mud?

9. Contrast Pug and Dot. Support your answer with at least three details from the text.

10. Based on the text, what is important in a friendship? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
