

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Harry and Annie

Harry and Annie lived a mile from town, but they went there to school every day. It was a pleasant walk down the lane and through the meadow by the pond. I hardly know whether they liked it better in summer or in winter. They used to pretend that they were travelers exploring a new country and would scatter leaves on the road so that they might find their way back again.

When the ice was thick and firm, they walked across the pond. But their mother did not like that they walked across the ice this unless someone was with them. "Don't go across the pond today, children," she said as she kissed them and bade them goodbye one morning; "it is beginning to thaw."

"All right, mother," said Harry, not very good-naturedly because he was very fond of running and sliding on the ice. When they came to the pond, the ice looked hard and safe. "There," he said to his sister. "I knew it hadn't thawed any. Mother is always afraid we will drown. Come along, we will have a good time sliding. The school bell will not ring for an hour at least."

"But you promised mother," said Annie.

"No, I didn't. I only said 'All right,' and it is all right."

"I didn't say anything, so I can do as I like," said Annie.



Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

So they stepped on the ice, and started to go across the pond. They had not gone far before the ice gave way, and they fell into the water. A man who was at work near the shore heard the screams of the children and plunged into the water to save them. Harry managed to get to the shore without any help, but poor Annie nearly drowned before the man could reach her. Harry went home almost frozen and told his mother how disobedient he had been. He remembered the lesson learned that day as long as he lived.



Questions:

1. What probably happened next?

2. What do Harry's actions tell you about him as a person?

3. What does the word **thaw** from the story mean?

4. Why do you think Harry and Annie scattered leaves across the road?

Answers:

1. What probably happened next?
The man saved Annie and brought her home.
2. What do Harry's actions tell you about him as a person?
Harry's actions tell us that he is disobedient.
3. What does the word **thaw** from the story mean?
The word **thaw** means to go from frozen to liquid – to melt.
4. Why do you think Harry and Annie scattered leaves across the road?
They were scattering leaves because they played they were explorers. These explorers used the leaves to find their way back.