

Teddy and Kibbles

These questions will help you practise:

- ★ explaining the meaning of words in context
- ★ summarising main ideas
- ★ retrieving information and identifying key details
- ★ explaining inferences in non-fiction.



Running around laughing in his garden with an energetic golden Labrador puppy, it's hard to imagine that Teddy Wilkinson has a problem with his hearing. Yet it's down to the remarkable friendship with his dog, Kibbles, that Teddy is able to feel so confident and energetic.

Teddy was born with a hearing impairment in both his ears, which meant that he was unable to respond to the voices of his parents or any other noises around him.

"We knew something was wrong after a few weeks when we were calling his name and talking to him. He wasn't turning his head to look at us, or to any other sounds that were around. He didn't make the usual gurgling sounds that other babies were making," said his mother, Cathy.

After undergoing many tests and an operation to correct the impairment, it became obvious that Teddy's hearing was not going to improve significantly, though he did respond to some loud sounds and could make some noises.

"He loved dogs from an early age," said his dad, Thomas. "Although we didn't own a dog, my family have always kept dogs and Teddy responded to them all. The family dogs loved Teddy's company and we saw how he responded to their curiosity. Unfortunately, I'm allergic to dog hair!"

For four years, Teddy liked to be alone. He had very little confidence and wasn't interested in

other children. He didn't enjoy family outings or games and preferred his own company.

"It was heart-breaking to see," said Thomas. "Teddy was a completely different child around the dogs. It was like he was a different boy."

The family decided to take immediate action. After lengthy discussion and many trips to an allergy specialist for Teddy's dad, the family bought Teddy a dog of his own.

"Kibbles was only a few months old when we bought him," said Cathy. The dog was very lively with sharp teeth and nails, but that didn't worry Teddy, who was only four years old at the time.

Within days, Teddy was laughing, pointing and shouting in his own way. Despite difficulties with speech and hearing, communication with his family and the children in his class improved. Teddy even took Kibbles to school to visit his classmates.

Teddy and Kibbles are inseparable, Kibbles acting as Teddy's own 'hearing dog'. Now six years old, Teddy has taught Kibbles to do many of the usual tricks dogs can do, such as fetch a ball, sit and stay. He has even taught Kibbles to tell him to come in when his tea is ready.

"It's the start of his life," said Cathy, "and a friendship that will last forever. Thanks to Kibbles, Teddy feels confident and positive. He's like any other mischievous little boy!" As for Teddy's dad, thanks to modern medicine, there's no more sneezes and itching in the house!

- 1 Look at the sentence beginning: *Yet it's down to the remarkable friendship with his dog, Kibbles...*

What does the word *remarkable* tell you about their friendship?

(1 mark)

- 2 The main idea the text gives about Teddy is that his bond with Kibbles...

Tick **one**.

gave him friends at school.

stopped his dad from sneezing.

helped him gain confidence.

helped him teach Kibbles tricks.

(1 mark)

- 3 Look at the paragraph beginning: *He loved dogs from an early age....*

Find and **copy** the word which explains that the dogs were interested in Teddy.

(1 mark)

- 4 Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is a **fact** or an **opinion**.

	Fact	Opinion
Teddy was born with damage to his ears.		
Teddy played on his own.		
The puppy's sharp teeth didn't worry Teddy.		
Kibbles can bring a ball back to Teddy.		
Teddy is a mischievous boy.		

(1 mark)

- 5 Give **one** thing that is different about Teddy now compared to how he was before he had Kibbles.

(2 marks)

- 6 How did playing with Kibbles help Teddy to become more confident?

(2 marks)

 / 8

Total for
this text