



Name: _____

Cooper and the Iditarod

In the frost-covered town of Nome, where the wind whispers through the pine trees, lived a husky named Cooper. Cooper wasn't the fastest dog in the kennel, and he certainly wasn't the strongest. While the other sled dogs spent their afternoons practicing high-speed sprints, Cooper was usually busy checking on the younger pups or making sure the older dogs had enough straw in their beds.

The morning of the Iditarod arrived with a blast of chilly air. This race is a long, difficult journey across the frozen Alaskan wilderness. Cooper was hitched in the middle of a team of twelve dogs.

"I will pull the hardest!" barked Dash, the lead dog. "I am the hero of this race!"

"No, I will pull the hardest!" growled Bolt, the dog right behind him. "I want the gold medal for myself!"

Because Dash and Bolt were busy arguing, they pulled in different directions. The sled wobbled, the ropes got tangled, and soon the team was stuck in a deep snowdrift. They were in last place before the race had even truly begun.

Cooper barked loudly to get everyone's attention. "Stop fighting! If we each pull our own way, we go nowhere. But if we pull together, we can cross any mountain!"

The team went quiet. Cooper began to hum a steady rhythm: Left, right, pull together. Left, right, pull together. One by one, the other dogs began to match Cooper's pace. Dash stopped trying to be the only hero, and Bolt stopped trying to outshine the others. They realized that when they moved as one, the heavy sled felt as light as a feather. They zipped over frozen rivers and zoomed past the teams that were struggling alone.

They didn't win because one dog was the fastest. They won because twelve dogs worked as one heartbeat. When they crossed the finish line in Nome, the townspeople didn't just cheer for Dash or Bolt—they cheered for the whole team.



1. At the beginning of the race, why was the sled wobbly and tangled?
 - A) The snow was too deep to walk through.
 - B) The dogs were arguing and pulling in different directions.
 - C) The musher forgot to tie the ropes correctly.
 - D) It was too dark for the dogs to see the trail.



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2. What was Cooper's main role in helping the team?

- A) He was the fastest dog and ran ahead of everyone.
- B) He scared the other dogs into running faster.
- C) He taught the team to pull together with a steady rhythm.
- D) He found a shortcut through the frozen mountains.

3. What is the "Moral of the Story"?

- A) Always try to be the hero of the race.
- B) It is better to work alone so you don't have to share the trophy.
- C) If you practice every day, you will never get stuck in the snow.
- D) You can achieve more when you work together as a team.

4. The story says the wind "whispers through the pine trees." This is an example of personification (giving human traits to non-human things). What is the wind actually doing?

- A) Telling the dogs a secret.
- B) Blowing gently and making a quiet sound.
- C) Shouting at the townspeople.
- D) Hiding behind the trees.

5. "They won because twelve dogs worked as one heartbeat." What does this metaphor mean?

- A) The dogs all had to go to the doctor.
- B) Their hearts were making a very loud noise.
- C) They were all perfectly in sync and moving together.
- D) Only one dog was doing all the work.