

Name _____

Read the story. Read it again. Can you find the special words in the story? Highlight and count each special word.

The Not-So-Perfect Pets

Grandma warned Mother about the trouble with raising little boys on a large farm. "You'd better be ready for them to bring some pretty funny things into the house! No telling what those woods hold for curious little boys!"

She was right, of course! My brother and I dragged in all kinds of wild woodland critters for Mother to take care of and feed. There was never a need to go to the pet store to buy the perfect pet. No, sir! We had all the pets we could hold right there in the barn, in the woods, in the fields, and in the root cellar. Some of them made better pets than others, but we loved them all.

Our first wild pet was a small brown bunny that I found in the grass under the apple tree in our yard. I picked it up and brought it into the house to Mother. It was soft and we all loved to hold it. However, we didn't keep it for very long. It had a taste for my mother's wallpaper! That was not funny!

Our next wild pet was a young raccoon that I found in the chicken coop and named Coonie. He had followed his mother when she was looking for a tasty chicken for lunch, but then he couldn't get out. Coonie was fun to hold because he held on like a small kitten, and so I took him home to show everyone. Mother wouldn't let me keep him in the house and since we couldn't buy a cage, I built one for him. I was only nine years old, but I knew how to work with chicken wire and wood. I made him a nice big cage with plenty of room, but he figured out how to open the cage door and sometimes I found him sitting on top!

On Sunday mornings Mother often made waffles for breakfast and I brought Coonie inside after we had eaten. Mother handed him a big spoonful of jam that he licked clean and then he would hold it out to her as if to say, "More, please!" He was a funny little guy and was always one of our favorite not-so-perfect pets!

our _____ better _____ hold _____ buy _____ funny _____

Fill in the Blanks

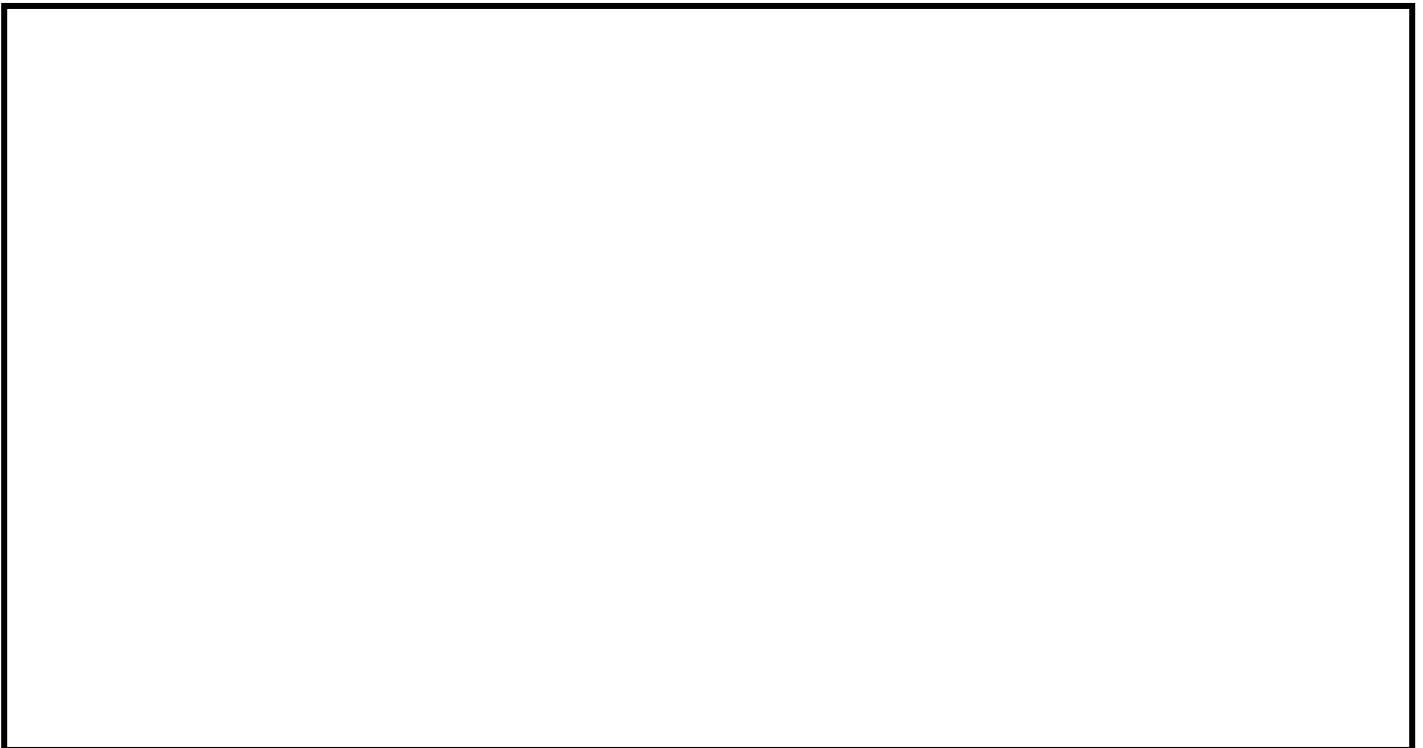
Read each sentence below. Circle the missing word and write it in the space.

1. My brother and I liked to _____ some funny pets .
hold hole

2. We didn't have to _____ our pets.
by buy

3. Some animals made _____ pets than others.
better bitter

Draw a picture of Coonie having a spoonful of jam in the kitchen.



Yes or No?

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Did the brothers have wild pets? | yes | no |
| 2. Was their first wild pet a brown mouse? | yes | no |
| 3. Did the raccoon like to hold on like a puppy? | yes | no |
| 4. Did Coonie like to eat Mother's jam? | yes | no |
| 5. Was Coonie a favorite pet? | yes | no |

It's a Match!

Draw a line to connect the naming part of the sentence with the action part of the sentence. Read them to yourself to make sure that they make sense.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Grandma | made better pets than others. |
| My brother and I | warned Mother about raising boys. |
| Some of them | in the chicken coop. |
| Our first wild pet | handed him a spoonful of jam. |
| I found Coonie | dragged in all kind of wild things. |
| Mother | was a small brown bunny. |

Synonym Sense

Look at the words from the story. Find words in the word bank that have the same meaning and write them in the correct space. Be sure to think about the way the word is used in the story.

large	young	tasty
funny	wild	critters

Word Bank

big	infant	untamed
yummy	living things	comical
amusing	undomesticated	creatures
great	laughable	delicious
feral	huge	baby
animals	luscious	sizeable