

Day 1

My Favorite Alley Cat

by ReadWorks

Day 2



Rosie knows not to feed stray cats. She isn't supposed to, even if they are cute. She can't give them tuna. She can't give them milk. She can't even give them a little cat food. Her mother says, "No!" So when a cat walks by Rosie's front porch, she waves hello. That is all. When a cat walks under her window at night, Rosie says, "Good night, Mr. Kitty." That is all. When a cat walks up to her on the playground at school, she shows it her math homework. That is all.

There is one exception. His name is Frankie. It's okay to feed Frankie, because he isn't a stray cat. Nobody knows it, but Frankie is Rosie's cat.

They met on the Fourth of July. Rosie was at the park with her family watching the fireworks. She was bored. Each firework was pretty much the same. One was green, and one was red. So what? They were all just loud noises. As the whole town looked at the sky, Rosie looked at the ground. Frankie was waiting for her.

Frankie was a skinny tabby cat. He had a tail that went *swoosh-swoosh-swoosh*. Like everyone else in town, he was watching the fireworks. He liked the orange ones the best. Rosie whistled, and the stray cat came to say hello.

"Hello," said Rosie. "What is your name?"

The cat didn't say anything. Rosie would have to name him herself. She thought about the Fourth of July. She thought about the founding fathers of the United States. Her favorite was Benjamin Franklin.

"I'll call you Frankie," she said.

Rosie held out the end of a hotdog bun. Frankie ate it right up. Then she held out a potato chip. Frankie ate that too. Finally, she gave the cat half of her hotdog. Frankie meowed to say "thanks." That was when Rosie knew they would always be pals.

That summer, she fed Frankie every day. He came each day at three o'clock. She would feed him whatever she could find. She just had to make sure her mother wouldn't notice anything missing. She fed him cheese straws, tater tots, and corners of grilled cheese sandwiches. He was not picky and ate everything she gave him. Once, on a very hot day, she fed him the end of her Popsicle. As always, he *meowed* to say thank you. She did not know where he went after lunch. But she knew he would always come back the next day.

Their routine changed when the weather got cold. The first cold month, Frankie only came five times a week. Next month, he only came every third day. Then it was time for Rosie's winter break. By then, she hadn't seen her cat in two weeks. Still, she got a special treat ready for him on Christmas. It was sardines, right from the can. But Frankie did not come.

Rosie was scared. It's dangerous being a stray cat. What if something happened to Frankie? Each day of her vacation, she stared out the window at three o'clock. Frankie did not show up. Rosie became sad. By New Year's, she was so sad that she couldn't hide it any more.

"What's wrong?" asked her mother. "You look pretty sad for a girl on winter break."

Rosie couldn't help it. She told her mother everything. She told her about what happened at the fireworks. She told her about Frankie's meowing. She even told her about the Popsicle! She was afraid her mother would be angry. Instead, her mother smiled.

"I think that your friend Frankie is a snowbird," her mother said.

"A snowbird?" asked Rosie. "No way, Mom. Frankie is a cat."

"A snowbird is a person or animal that goes south for the winter. They go to get away from the cold. I think Frankie will come home when it warms up."

"Yeah?"

"And when he does, I think you should ask him to move in with us."

Rosie waited until the first warm day to get her hopes up. When spring came, she asked her mother to fix her a hotdog. She ate most of it. Then she took the rest of it outside on a plate. She shut her eyes and hoped. At three o'clock she heard a meow. The hotdog was gone, but Frankie was there. His tail swooshed against her arm.

"Hello," she said. "Tell me about your trip."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Who is Frankie?

- A. Rosie's mother
- B. a friend Rosie meets on winter break
- C. a cat Rosie feeds

2. Who are the main characters in this story?

- A. Frankie and Rosie
- B. Rosie's mom and Frankie
- C. Frankie's mom and Rosie

3. What happens last in the story?

- A. Frankie returns on the first warm day of spring.
- B. Frankie goes away during the winter.
- C. Rosie sees Frankie on the Fourth of July.

4. Frankie likes the food that Rosie gives him.

What information from the story proves this is true?

- A. Frankie meows and comes back for more.
- B. Frankie watches the fireworks with Rosie and likes the orange fireworks best.
- C. Frankie goes away for more than two weeks and makes Rosie worry.

5. What is this story about?

- A. the friendship between a girl and a cat
- B. the dangers of feeding stray cats
- C. a fight between a girl and her mother

answer
Day 1 - even only

Day 2 - Reread and
answer odd
questions

6. Read the following sentences: "It's okay to feed Frankie because he isn't a **stray**. Nobody knows it, but Frankie is Rosie's cat."

What does the word **stray** mean above?

- A. an animal that will hurt anyone who touches it
- B. an animal that does not belong to anyone
- C. a person who does not own any pets

7. Select the word that best completes the sentence.

Rosie is worried, _____ she tells her mother about Frankie.

- A. but
- B. because
- C. so

8. During the summer, Frankie visited Rosie every day. When the weather changed, how did Frankie behave differently?

9. What does Rosie's mom say a snowbird is?

10. Is Frankie a snowbird? Explain why or why not, using details from the story. Write your answer in complete sentences. *USE RACE*

*Restate the question
Answer the question
Cite + explain
Extend. In conclusion*