

Picture Day



- 1 Cameron gave a jaw-breaking yawn before crawling out from beneath the covers. It was picture day, and he didn't want to be late. He rubbed his eyes and stretched his arms before letting his hands drop to scratch his head. *Weird*, he thought. His fingers wouldn't move through his hair.
- 2 Cameron froze. *Oh no*, he thought. *Didn't I spit out my gum before bed last night?* Cameron sat up and looked in the mirror. No such luck. He dampened his comb with water and tried to yank it through the sticky mess, but his comb just got stuck to his head too. Cameron shrugged, yawned, and crammed a cap over his hair as he trudged downstairs to breakfast.
- 3 Cameron slid into his chair at the breakfast table. He sincerely hoped no one would notice his strange appearance. His dad grunted a "good morning" but didn't lift his head from the morning news. His mother was busily preparing breakfast and gave a cheery "good morning" without turning around. Cameron smeared strawberry jam on his toast and began noisily chewing on it.
- 4 At that exact moment, his younger sister Melanie (or "Motor-Mouth Melanie," as Cameron called her) burst into the kitchen. According to Cameron, she couldn't keep her mouth closed if she tried. Melanie reached up from behind Cameron to steal his cap, but when she gripped it the cap didn't budge an inch.
- 5 "Eeeee!" screeched Melanie.
- 6 At Melanie's terrified scream, both Mom and Dad stopped what they were doing. Dad put down his phone and peered over his glasses at Cameron. Mom paused in the middle of scrambling eggs and turned slowly.
- Melanie stared at Cameron with huge eyes, and then a smile slowly spread across her face.
- 7 Cameron's mom immediately realized what had happened. She set her mouth in a grim line and tried to wrestle the cap from Cameron's head. Melanie began giggling uncontrollably. Finally, his dad stepped in and gave a powerful jerk, freeing Cameron's head from the cap. Cameron tried to touch his head, now sore from all the pulling, but Mom swatted his hand away.
- 8 "Cameron, don't touch it! You'll just make it worse," she scolded.
- 9 "Nothing can look worse than Cameron's head right now," Melanie said with a smirk.
- 10 Mom grabbed a jar of creamy peanut butter from the cupboard, and with a knife, began spreading it generously all over Cameron's hair. Then, Cameron put his head in the kitchen sink to wash the thick layer of peanut butter from his head. The watery peanut butter swirled down the drain, but the gum was still attached to Cameron's hair.
- 11 "You should leave the peanut butter on for the school picture," Melanie recommended.
- 12 "Cameron! How could you do this on school picture day?" his mom asked, exasperated.
- 13 Cameron, now grouchy from being peanut-buttered, muttered something none of them could hear. His dad, watching from the table, hid a smile.
- 14 Next, Cameron's mom unscrewed the cap from a bottle of cooking oil. She poured a good amount of oil onto Cameron's hair and began rubbing it into the stubbornly sticky

8.9A (Author's Purpose—Message) H

1. Which common saying provides the best summary of the message presented in “Picture Day Pointers”?
 - A Practice makes perfect.
 - B Foresight is better than hindsight.
 - C We all smile in the same language.
 - D One picture is worth a thousand words.
-

8.5F (Comprehension—Inferences) L

2. Why does the gum in Cameron's hair pose a problem in the story?
 - A Cameron's hair is going to look bad for picture day at school.
 - B Cameron's father has warned him about chewing gum in bed.
 - C Cameron's sister is frightened by his appearance in the morning.
 - D Cameron's mother is busy and does not know how to remove the gum.
-

8.7B (Literary—Influence of Character) M

3. Read paragraph 21 of the story.

Cameron slung his backpack over his shoulder and checked the mirror. Eh, he thought, and hustled off to picture day, leaving his mom just shaking her head in amazement.

Cameron's mom most likely shakes her head in amazement because—

- A she is embarrassed by Cameron's appearance
- B her attempts at removing the gum were unsuccessful
- C this is not the first time that Cameron has had gum in his hair
- D Cameron does not seem to be concerned about his appearance