

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It!

Critical-Thinking Questions: Answer the questions below after reading "How Bad Could It Be?"

1. Why is it challenging for Ben to resist doing what Kevin wants him to do? What character traits does he show when he decides to change?

2. What do you predict Ben's relationship with Kevin will be like in the future?

3. Why do you think Mr. Caleb agrees to let Ben walk Truman to the nurse? Do you think Mr. Caleb knows what happened?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ben's Bad Decision

Directions: Answer the questions in the chart below to help you figure out how Ben changes during the course of the story "How Bad Could It Be?" Use specific examples from the story in your answers.

At the Beginning
How does Ben feel about Kevin? What evidence does the author give?
In the Middle
What leads Ben to pull away Truman's seat? What does Ben think will happen?
At the End
What does Ben realize after pulling the prank on Truman?

Write Now! Use your answers above to respond to the writing prompt on page 21: Imagine you are Ben, and you have thought about Truman's statement, "I just want to know why you did it." Write a letter to Truman explaining your answer and telling him how you will be different in the future.

"How Bad Could It Be?" Quiz

Directions: Read the story "How Bad Could It Be?" in the September 2015 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. The reason why no one sits with Truman on the bus is probably that _____.

- (A) Truman is mean to other kids.
- (B) Truman is quiet and keeps to himself.
- (C) Truman is allergic to peanuts.
- (D) Truman doesn't ride the bus.

2. Why does Kevin ask Truman if he wants a Snickers bar?

- (A) Kevin is teasing Truman because Truman has a peanut allergy.
- (B) Kevin is teasing Truman because Truman isn't allowed to eat candy.
- (C) Kevin has a Snickers bar and doesn't want it.
- (D) Kevin is trying to look like a nice person in front of Ben.

3. What does the word *muffled* mean in the sentence "His voice was muffled, but he kept his face hidden"?

- (A) very loud because of pain
- (B) very loud because of anger
- (C) hard to hear because of louder sounds in the area
- (D) hard to hear because of being covered up

4. Which clue from the story helps you understand the meaning of *muffled*?

- (A) "Truman nodded, holding his hand over his nose and chin."
- (B) "It probably hurt pretty bad too."
- (C) "Mr. Caleb handed Ben some folded paper towels and sent them out into the hall."
- (D) "He must be furious and hurt and maybe sad, but he hadn't told on him."

5. Why does Ben want to walk Truman to the nurse's office?

- (A) Ben loves going to the nurse's office.
- (B) Ben dislikes art class.
- (C) Ben wants to make up for hurting Truman.
- (D) Ben wants to ask Truman not to tell on him.

6. How does Kevin change by the end of the story?

- (A) He decides to stop picking on people.
- (B) He stops speaking to Ben.
- (C) He becomes afraid of Truman.
- (D) He doesn't change.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the story.

7. Truman doesn't tell on Ben. Instead, he tells Mr. Caleb that he slipped. What reasons might he have for saying this?

8. At the end of the story, Ben decides that things will be different. How will Ben behave differently in the future?

September 2015

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Teacher e-mail (optional): _____

"How Bad Could It Be?" Quiz

Directions: Read the story "How Bad Could It Be?" in the September 2015 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. You can infer that no one sits with Truman on the bus because _____.

- (A) Truman is mean to other kids.
- (B) Truman is quiet and keeps to himself.
- (C) Truman is allergic to peanuts.
- (D) Truman brags about being a talented artist.

2. Why does Kevin ask Truman if he wants a Snickers bar?

- (A) Kevin is teasing Truman because Truman has a peanut allergy.
- (B) Kevin is teasing Truman because Truman isn't allowed to eat candy.
- (C) Kevin has a Snickers bar and doesn't want it.
- (D) Kevin wants to seem generous in front of Ben.

3. Ben _____ Mr. Caleb.

- (A) respects and admires
- (B) is deeply afraid of
- (C) dislikes
- (D) is related to

4. Which line from the story supports the answer to question 3?

- (A) "Art wasn't Ben's best subject . . ."
- (B) "It was the way he listened like he was really interested, the way he helped kids with their work . . ."
- (C) "Mr. Caleb would most likely return in less than a minute . . ."
- (D) "Mr. Caleb dropped all the orange papers on the floor and rushed over."

5. Why does Ben most likely want to walk Truman to the nurse's office?

- (A) Ben loves going to the nurse's office.
- (B) Ben dislikes classical music.
- (C) Ben wants to make up for hurting Truman.
- (D) He wants to ask Truman not to tell on him.

6. Which line from the story supports the answer to question 5?

- (A) "Girls always wanted to walk to the nurse's office."
- (B) "But if there were second chances, Ben wanted one."
- (C) "They walked quietly for a while."
- (D) "Ben wasn't in trouble."

7. The story says that Ben "could have sworn he heard the classical music swell up dramatically" as he and Truman left the classroom. Why?

- (A) Sound travels well in the hallway.
- (B) Some of Ben's classmates are singing.
- (C) It's an important moment for Ben.
- (D) Mr. Caleb has turned up the volume.

8. Which prediction about Kevin is most likely to happen?

- (A) He will stop picking on people.
- (B) He will apologize to Ben.
- (C) He will become afraid of Truman.
- (D) He won't change.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the story.

9. Truman doesn't tell on Ben. Instead, he tells Mr. Caleb that he slipped. What reasons might he have for saying this?

10. Reread the story's last paragraph. What does it tell you about Truman's personality?

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Connecting Story and Video

Directions: Read "How Bad Could It Be?" in the September 2015 issue of *Storyworks*, and watch the video "Storyworks Author Visit: 2 Minutes With Nora Raleigh Baskin." Then complete the chart below, thinking about what you learn from each source.

	"How Bad Could It Be?"	"2 Minutes With Nora Raleigh Baskin"
Character	What is one thing you learn from the way the characters in the story treat each other?	What is one thing you learn about the characters from watching the video?
Big Idea	What is one important lesson you learn from reading the story?	What is one important idea you learn from watching the video?

Ben and Truman Contest

My name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

School phone: _____

(Remember to include your school's city, state, and ZIP code!)
See page 21 of the September 2015 *Storyworks* for more information about this contest.

My Response

Imagine you are Ben, and you have thought about Truman's statement, "I just want to know why you did it." Write a letter to Truman explaining your answer and telling him how you will be different in the future.

Entries will be judged on . . .

⇒ a clearly stated main idea

⇒ good organization

⇒ proper use of supporting details

⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Please continue on another piece of paper if you need more room.