

Name _____ Date _____

Read the story “That Cat!” before answering Numbers 11 through 15.

That Cat!

by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

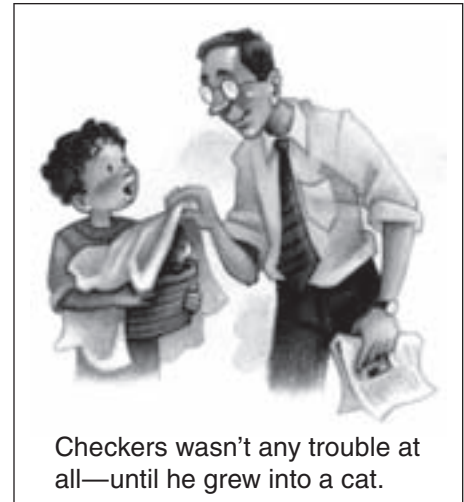
illustrated by David LaFleur

Dad poked his hand into my basket.
“What’s that?” he asked.

“Mew,” said the basket.

Dad yanked his hand away. “Oh no,”
he said. “Not a cat. No way.”

I pulled Checkers from the basket.
“It’s not a cat. It’s a kitten. Can I keep
him? Please?”



Checkers wasn't any trouble at all—until he grew into a cat.

Dad frowned for a minute, thinking. Then he rubbed Checkers
under the chin. “You’ll have to take good care of him.”

I hugged Checkers. “I will,” I promised. “He won’t be any
trouble at all.”

And Checkers wasn’t—until he grew into a cat.

He wanted to be the first one *in* the house—and the first one *out*
of the house. Sometimes, he tripped Dad.

“That cat!” Dad complained.

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Checkers climbed onto our roof. He had no trouble getting down. Usually he aimed for Dad.

“That cat!” Dad hollered.

Checkers flushed the toilet and watched the water circle away.

“That cat!” Dad groaned.

Checkers hid in strange places. He liked to surprise people.

One day he hid under the couch. Dad walked by with a glass of orange juice.

Checkers jumped out. He curled around Dad’s ankle and attacked Dad’s toes. Orange juice sloshed all over the floor.

Dad hollered and put Checkers outside. “Scram, cat,” he said. And he slammed the door.

Dad washed the scratches and peeled open a bandage. He wrapped it around his big toe. He opened four more for his ankle.

I watched from the window. Checkers looked insulted as he walked down the road.

“I’m sorry Checkers scratched you,” I said. “He was just playing. He didn’t mean to hurt you.”

“Don’t worry,” said Dad. “That cat will be back.”

After supper I called for Checkers. But Checkers didn’t come.

Nighttime came. I called and called. I banged his food dish with a spoon. But still no Checkers.

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I left the porch light on. But the next morning Checkers still wasn't there.

I carried a picture of Checkers to all the neighbors. I drew posters and hung them all over. But nobody found Checkers.

Days went by. Life wasn't the same without that cat.

I was angry with Dad. I didn't think he missed Checkers at all.

Then one night the phone rang. "We'll be right over," said Dad.

We drove to a nearby farm. The farmer opened the barn door. Out ran a black-and-white cat.

"Checkers!" I cried. I scooped him up. Checkers purred. We rubbed noses. "I missed you!" I said.

The farmer smiled. "Good thing I saw that ad in the paper."

I looked at Dad. "You put an ad in the paper?"

Dad's face turned red. He nodded.

He petted Checkers. Checkers batted at him with his paw.

Dad laughed. "That cat," he said. "It's good to have him back."



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Now answer Numbers 11 through 15. Base your answers on the story “That Cat!”

- 11 Why does Checkers run away?
- (A) Checkers wants to surprise Dad.
 - (B) Checkers wants to live on a farm.
 - (C) Dad spills orange juice on Checkers.
 - (D) Dad yells at Checkers and puts him outside.

- 12 Read the glossary entry below.

peel, *verb* **1.** to strip or take paint from a wall. **2.** to pull or separate objects. **3.** to take the rind off of an orange. **4.** to move a ball in the game of croquet.

Read this sentence from the story.

Dad washed the scratches and peeled open a bandage.

Which meaning BEST fits the way the word *peeled* is used in the sentence above?

- (F) meaning 1
- (G) meaning 2
- (H) meaning 3
- (I) meaning 4

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- 13** How does Dad help find Checkers?
- (A) He puts up posters.
 - (B) He calls the neighbors.
 - (C) He puts an ad in the paper.
 - (D) He leaves on the porch light.
- 14** How does Dad feel at the end of the story?
- (F) He is happy that they found Checkers.
 - (G) He is sad because they cannot find Checkers.
 - (H) He is upset and gives Checkers to the farmer.
 - (I) He is angry and wishes Checkers would run away again.
- 15** What can you tell about Dad from this story?
- (A) He is very clumsy.
 - (B) He likes dogs more than cats.
 - (C) He really wanted to find Checkers.
 - (D) He does not want Checkers anymore.