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Read the story “New Kitten” before answering Numbers 13 through 17.

## New Kitten

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I have a new kitten. He lives at my grandparents’ house, but I visit him every weekend.

When Grandma told me I could have a kitten, we went shopping for things it would need. We bought a litter box and litter, a soft brush, and some dry kitten food. I picked out a fluffy mouse and a small ball, too. Grandma and Grandpa took me to their neighbors’ farm to pick a kitten from their mother cat’s litter.

There were four kittens left. They were all so cute that we couldn’t decide which one to choose, so we stood very still and waited to see which kitten would come to us. A tiger-striped one climbed on my shoe and meowed. We brought him home, and I named him Jethro.



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When I picked Jethro up, he purred really loudly. At first, I thought it was his stomach growling! He didn't want to snuggle too long. He wanted to play. He let me carry him around in a basket. Then he played with his ball and batted at his toy mouse. Soon he got tired and fell asleep.

Grandma told me that I would take care of Jethro on weekends. Grandma said she would keep the litter box clean, but the rest was up to me. It was my job to keep Jethro's dishes clean and filled with fresh water and food. She said another job was to gently brush him to keep his coat from getting snarled. I promised to take good care of my kitten.



One day Grandma and I took Jethro to the veterinarian. That's a special doctor for animals, just like my pediatrician is a special doctor for children. In the car, Jethro rode in a small carrier that looked like a cage. Even though Grandma had put his little mouse inside, Jethro didn't like being closed in. He yowled all the way! When we got to the veterinarian's office, Grandma filled out a paper that told the workers Jethro's name and age and who owned him. She put my name on that line.

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**Reading and  
Analyzing Text**



The veterinarian listened to Jethro's heart with her stethoscope. She looked at his eyes and in his ears. Uh-oh! She said my kitten had ear mites and gave us some medicine to take home. And then, just like at my pediatrician's, Jethro needed a shot. It was to keep him from getting any bad cat diseases. Jethro meowed, so I guess he didn't like that very much.

Now Jethro is home, and Grandpa puts the medicine in his ears every day.

Grandma cleans the litter box, and I wash Jethro's dishes and make sure they're full of food and water. I don't mind all the work I have to do for him, because I love my kitten.



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Now answer Numbers 13 through 17. Base your answers on the story “New Kitten.”

- 13 Why does the narrator pick Jethro to take home from the farm?
- (A) Jethro is the biggest of all the kittens.
  - (B) Jethro is the first kitten to come forward.
  - (C) Jethro is the best-behaved of all the kittens.
  - (D) Jethro is the only kitten that has tiger-stripes.
- 14 What happens when it is discovered that Jethro has ear mites?
- (F) Jethro gets medicine.
  - (G) Jethro’s heart is checked.
  - (H) Jethro’s eyes are checked.
  - (I) Jethro is put in his carrier.

- 15 Read the dictionary entry below.

**shot** \shŏt\ *noun* **1.** an injection of medicine. **2.** a chance or a try; a guess. **3.** an attempt to reach a target.

Read this sentence from the story.

**And then, just like at my pediatrician’s, Jethro needed a shot.**

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

- (A) meaning 1
- (B) meaning 2
- (C) meaning 3
- (D) meaning 4

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- 16 How does the picture on page 10 help the reader understand how the narrator feels about Jethro?
- F It shows why he wants Jethro.
  - G It shows how caring he is toward Jethro.
  - H It shows how worried he is about Jethro.
  - I It shows how amazing he thinks Jethro is.
- 17 Which word BEST describes Grandma in the story?
- A careful
  - B playful
  - C funny
  - D loving