

Barn Sour

by ReadWorks



Jenny sat on her horse, Jake. They were near their house on the farm. Jenny looked at the paths ahead. One way went toward the pond. One way went back to the farm.

Jenny wanted to go to the pond. There, she could watch the ducks or read a book.

But Jake didn't want to watch the ducks. Jake couldn't read books. Jake just wanted to go home. He walked toward the farm.

"No, Jake!" Jenny said, and pulled back on the rope around Jake's neck. Jake's big brown head came up. He stopped and looked at her. He was not happy.

Jenny's dad, Bill, was walking down the path to the farm. He saw Jake stop.

"Aww, poor Jake," he said. "He's just barn sour!"

"What does barn sour mean?" Jenny asked.

"It means he wants to go back to the barn. He is hungry and tired. Jake is a sweet horse, but he'll be sour now until he gets home." Bill smiled.

"So barn sour is bad?" Jenny said. "Jake is bad?"

"No, Jake is not bad." Bill said. "We all get tired and hungry sometimes. Maybe you should take him home now." Bill walked to the barn.

Jenny frowned. "But I want to go to the pond," she said.

She got down from Jake and pulled his rope.

Jake's head came down toward Jenny. But his feet did not move.

Jenny pulled again, using both hands. She pulled hard. Her small round face turned red. Her hair flopped up and down on her back.

Jake took two steps down the path to the pond. But then he stopped again. Now he looked mad.

Jenny was mad now, too. She pulled one more time, even harder. Her boots kicked up a cloud of dust from the path.

"Come on, Jake!"

This time, Jake didn't go to her. He pulled, too!

Jake was a big, strong horse. Jenny was a small girl. Jenny could not stop Jake. And she didn't just step. She flew!

The rope fell. Jenny fell. It hurt. She looked at Jake.

Jake looked at Jenny. Then, he put his head down and started eating the grass near the path.

Jenny knew she was not going to win. And now, she was tired too. She could hear Bill ringing the dinner bell at her house.

Jenny sighed. She got back onto Jake.

"Come on, Jake," she said. "Let's go home. I'm sorry. I think I am barn sour too."

Jake seemed to nod. They walked together toward home.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Who is Jake?

- A. Jenny's horse
- B. Jenny's dad
- C. Jenny's dog

2. An important part of the story is when Jake stops on the path. Why does Jenny pull on Jake's rope after he stops?

- A. Jenny wants him to go to the barn.
- B. Jenny wants him to lower his head.
- C. Jenny wants him to go to the pond.

3. Jake wants to go back to the farm. What evidence from the story supports this conclusion?

- A. "Jake's big brown head came up. He stopped and looked at her."
- B. "Jake just wanted to go home. He walked toward the farm."
- C. "Jake's head came down toward Jenny. But his feet did not move."

4. Why doesn't Jake want to go to the pond?

- A. Jake is tired.
- B. Jake hates ducks.
- C. Jake is cold.

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A. Jake and Jenny want to go back to the barn.
- B. Jake and Jenny want to go to the pond.
- C. Jake and Jenny want to go to different places.

6. Read the following sentences: "Jake is a **sweet** horse, but he'll be sour now until he gets home." Bill smiled."

As used in this passage, what does "**sweet**" mean in this sentence?

- A. sugary
- B. nice
- C. mean

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Jenny pulls on Jake, _____ Jake gets mad.

- A. so
- B. but
- C. like

8. What does Jenny use to pull Jake?

9. What does barn sour mean?

10. Jake is barn sour, but he is not a bad horse. Why is this?
