

## 5 Friendship



## My best friend

By Clare Wong

My mum and dad separated when I was six. Dad went to live in Shanghai. I remember that I waved goodbye bravely and then cried when Dad's plane left. It was very difficult. I couldn't talk to any of my other friends about it, but Ted has always been there for me. He is the most loyal friend ever.

Ted and I spend a lot of time together. Sometimes we play. Sometimes we just sit quietly. When I am feeling sad or lonely, Ted pushes his cold wet nose into my hand. He always understands how I feel. We never quarrel.

When we go to the park, other kids want to play with him. He is very popular! He always looks at me eagerly with his big brown eyes, as if to ask 'Is it OK?' before he runs off. When it is time to go home, he always comes when I whistle.

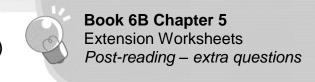
When I first met Ted, he was quite shy. These days he is very confident – Mum says he walks around our flat like he owns it! He has been with us for five years now. He doesn't move as quickly as before. He sleeps more too, in the armchair, curled up with his nose on his paws. But every day he still waits at the door when I come home from school, until today ...

Now I am at the clinic because the vet told me last week that Ted was sick and needed an operation. My heart is breaking as I wait outside the vet's room. If the operation goes well, Ted will be full of life again, like a puppy. If the operation goes badly ... I don't want to think about it.

Here is the vet now. She smiles warmly and gives me the thumbs up. The nurse is carrying Ted in her arms. His golden tail hangs down towards the floor. Ted lifts his head and barks weakly. Everything is going to be OK!







## Post-reading

Write the	answers	and	hlacken		the	circles
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1	When Clare is sad, what does Ted do to make her feel better?  How long has Ted lived in Clare's flat?						
2							
3	Why is Clare at the clinic now?						
4	Ted follows Clare's instructions. Which sentence tells you this?						
	○ A. He is the most loyal friend ever.						
	OB. He always understands how I feel.						
	○ C. When it is time to go home, he always comes when I whistle.						
	O D. He always looks at me eagerly with his big brown eyes.						
5	Read paragraph 5: If the operation goes badly I don't want to think about What does Clare mean?						
	<ul> <li>A. She thinks the operation will go badly.</li> </ul>						
	O B. She is worried about the result of the operation.						
	<ul> <li>C. If the operation goes badly, she cannot think anymore.</li> </ul>						
	<ul> <li>D. She does not want to think about the operation now.</li> </ul>						
6	How does Clare feel after Ted's operation?						
	○ A. weak ○ B. scared						
	<ul><li>○ C. happy</li><li>○ D. proud</li></ul>						
7	Which of the following about Ted is NOT true?						
	○ A. He is not as fit as before.						
	○ B. He waits for Clare at the school door every day.						
	○ C. He likes playing with other kids in the park.						
	O D. He spends more time sleeping than before.						