



6 Memorable experiences

Reading

My most memorable experience

By Danny Ho

When I was seven, Mum and Dad said they had something to tell me. I thought that sounded exciting. ‘What is it?’ I asked eagerly. ‘Am I getting a new electronic game?’

‘No,’ Mum smiled. ‘It’s better than an electronic game.’

‘A computer?’ I asked.

‘No,’ said Dad. ‘You’re going to have a baby brother.’

I was so disappointed. I didn’t want a boring, smelly baby. It was awful news.

The night before my brother was born, I stayed at Grandma’s house. Sleeping in a strange bed was horrible and I was scared of Grandma’s old cat. I was worried about meeting the baby. Most of all, I didn’t want to share my mum and dad.

The next day Grandma took me to the hospital. Mum looked tired. Dad was very proud of her – and of Ken, my brother. He was red and wrinkled like a dried plum.

For the next few weeks Ken cried and cried! Mum didn’t have time to do the housework or washing. Once I even had to wear a dirty uniform to school. I was really upset about that. I wasn’t unkind to Ken. I just pretended that he wasn’t there. I never held him or played with him.

One day, Mum and Dad were trying to make Ken smile. Dad was pulling silly faces and Mum was playing with Ken’s toes. Ken wasn’t interested. I was reading a book. I peeped out at them and hid again quickly. Ken smiled. I looked out again. Ken smiled a big, joyful, toothless grin. I felt warm inside and smiled back.

‘That was Ken’s first smile!’ said Mum. ‘He likes you. Give him a hug.’ So I did. Cuddling my baby brother was a wonderful experience. I was ashamed of my past behaviour. Ken held my finger tightly and smiled. It was an amazing feeling.

Now my brother is four years old. He smiles all the time but I’ll never forget his first smile. It was better than an electronic game and a computer!



Name: _____ ()

Class: _____ Date: _____

Post-reading

Write the answers and blacken ● the circles.

- 1 What did Danny think of babies when he was seven?

- 2 Find a word that means 'a big smile'.

- 3 Danny writes: I peeped out at them and ... What does 'them' refer to?

- 4 How old is Danny now?
 A. 7 B. 9
 C. 10 D. 11
- 5 Danny did not like having a brother because _____.
 A. his brother was red and wrinkled
 B. babies were noisy
 C. he did not want to share his parents with his brother
 D. he was worried about meeting him
- 6 Which of the following is true? (You can choose more than one answer.)
 A. Danny's parents failed to make Ken smile.
 B. Danny read to Ken.
 C. Danny pulled silly faces at Ken.
 D. Ken thought Danny was funny.
- 7 In the end, Danny writes: I was ashamed of my past behaviour. What does 'past behaviour' refer to?
 A. being unkind to Ken B. not paying attention to Ken
 C. peeping at his parents D. being angry with his parents