A CHICKEN’S LIFE

Why do you think Ryan calls the chickens his “friends” and says that the chickens think the same way about him?

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Why do you think chickens, like Charlotte, are kept in cages where they are unable to do things that come naturally to them, like stretching their wings and building nests?

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Why do you think the kind man who saved Steve did not want to go back to work at the hatchery?
A CHICKEN’S LIFE
Inferencing Answer Guide

Card 1: Why do you think Ryan calls the chickens his “friends” and says that the chickens think the same way about him?

Possible Answers
Evidence From the Text: He cares for the chickens and takes them to the vet. The chickens stay near Ryan.
Prior Knowledge: A friend is someone you like, care about, and enjoy being with.
Inference: I think that Ryan and the chickens like and enjoy being with each other, and that’s what friends do.

Card 2: Why do you think chickens, like Charlotte, are kept in cages where they are unable to do things that come naturally to them, like stretching their wings and building nests?

Possible Answers
Evidence From the Text: Thousands of chickens are kept in cages in warehouses on farms where they lay eggs that are taken away from them on conveyor belts and sold in stores for food. Chickens are kept in wire cages and aren't given anything to make nests with. They are kept in tiny cages with seven or eight other chickens.
Prior Knowledge: Farmers make money by selling eggs for humans to eat.
Inference: I think farmers keep chickens in cages because they can make more money without as many workers, but the animals really suffer.

Card 3: Why do you think the kind man who saved Steve did not want to go back to work at the hatchery?

Possible Answers
Evidence From the Text: Steve hatched along with hundreds of other chicks, but their mothers weren’t there. The farmer only wanted to keep female chicks, so Steve was tossed into a bin and was going to be ground up for fertilizer. But he fell out of the bin, and the kind man found him shivering, picked him up, and took him to the sanctuary.
Prior Knowledge: When people see a baby animal in trouble, they want to help.
Inference: I think the kind man felt sad that baby chicks are killed at the hatchery, and he didn't want to be part of it.
A DOG’S LIFE

Why do you think Molly wished she could be indoors with her family?

A DOG’S LIFE

Why do you think Justin didn’t look back at Molly after he chained her outside?

A DOG’S LIFE

Why do you think Sam says, “We have to do something!” on page 8?
Card 1: Why do you think Molly wished she could be indoors with her family?

Possible Answers

Evidence From the Text: She was left outside chained and had nowhere to go to escape the cold. Maybe if she lived inside, Justin would give her a pat on the head, scratch her ears, and tell her she was a good girl.

Prior Knowledge: Dogs can get cold and lonely. They like to be with their family.

Inference: I think Molly was cold and really sad that she was alone all the time. She wanted to go indoors and be treated like part of the family.

Card 2: Why do you think Justin didn’t look back at Molly after he chained her outside?

Possible Answers

Evidence From the Text: Justin used to play tug of war with her and throw a tennis ball for her to catch.

Prior Knowledge: People play with their dogs because they care about them. Children get scared when their parents are angry.

Inference: I think Justin felt guilty when he chained Molly outside because he was scared to disobey his mother, but he knew it was wrong.

Card 3: Why do you think Sam says, “We have to do something!” on page 8?

Possible Answers

Evidence From the Text: Molly and her puppies didn’t have food or shelter from the cold.

Prior Knowledge: Dogs and puppies can freeze to death when it’s cold outside. When someone is suffering, we should try to help.

Inference: I think Sam saw how Molly and her puppies were suffering in the cold and knew that the right thing to do was to help them.
Why do you think Zach says, “How can people be so mean to cows”?

Why do you think the only time Bailey’s mom was happy was when she had him?

Why do you think the kind people rescued Bailey from the field?
Card 1: Why do you think Zach says, “How can people be so mean to cows”?

Possible Answers

Evidence From the Text: Millions of animals are killed for their skin every year and end up as shoes, jackets, belts, bags, and wallets. Leather comes from cows who are treated badly in giant “animal factories.”

Prior Knowledge: When someone does something unkind on purpose, that is being mean.

Inference: I think Zach feels that if we know using animal skins for leather hurts animals, then it’s mean to keep doing it.

Card 2: Why do you think the only time Bailey’s mom was happy was when she had him?

Possible Answers

Evidence From the Text: Bailey’s mom was treated like a living milk machine and pumped full of drugs. Bailey was taken away from her the day after he was born, and they never saw each other again.

Prior Knowledge: Mother cows love their babies. Cows have feelings.

Inference: I think Bailey’s mom had a sad life being used for her milk, but she loved her baby, Bailey, and the only thing that made her happy was having him with her.

Card 3: Why do you think the kind people rescued Bailey from the field?

Possible Answers

Evidence From the Text: Bailey was so tired, weak, and hurt that he couldn’t stand up. The workers left him in a field all by himself.

Prior Knowledge: Calves at 5 months old are babies and need help to survive. When someone is suffering, we should try to help.

Inference: I think the kind people saw how Bailey was suffering and knew that the right thing to do was to help him.
A RAT’S LIFE
Why do you think Sally says, “How can anyone be so mean?”

A RAT’S LIFE
Why do you think Sally gets upset when she learns that even dogs, like Jake, are experimented on?

A RAT’S LIFE
Why do you think some charities don’t pay for experiments on animals?
Card 1: Why do you think Sally says, “How can anyone be so mean?”

Possible Answers
Evidence From the Text: Some researchers threw animals into a cooler when they were still alive or cut their heads off with scissors.
Prior Knowledge: Animals can feel pain. When someone does something unkind on purpose, that is being mean.
Inference: I think Sally feels that if we know animals can feel pain, then it’s mean to hurt them.

Card 2: Why do you think Sally gets upset when she learns that even dogs, like Jake, are experimented on?

Possible Answers
Evidence From the Text: Jake is part of her family and sleeps in her bed. Dogs in experiments sleep alone in small metal cages.
Prior Knowledge: Dogs can feel pain and get lonely. They like to be with their family.
Inference: I think Sally can imagine the pain and suffering that dogs go through when they’re experimented on because she knows Jake.

Card 3: Why do you think some charities don’t pay for experiments on animals?

Possible Answers
Evidence From the Text: Smart charities focus on prevention and modern research methods that don’t use animals.
Prior Knowledge: Animal experiments hurt animals.
Inference: I think some charities realize that hurting animals by experimenting on them is cruel and bad science, especially since faster and more reliable modern research methods that don’t hurt animals are already being used.