

Un chiot au bord de la mer

A rainy Saturday in spring. Zoé and her best friend Emma wanted to ride their bikes to the park, and her mother Anne is working again. So Zoé spends the day at her grandmother's, talking about the summers at the sea, a puppy, and what she wants to be.

ANSWER KEY

LISTENING & UNDERSTANDING

L1) WHO SAID IT?: 1a, 2b, 3b

L2) RIGHT OR WRONG?: 1a, 2b, 3a, 4b, 5b

L3) WHAT HAPPENED FIRST?: 1: 13524

L4) UNDERSTAND THE STORY: 1a, 2a, 3b

Translation

A Saturday morning in spring at Madeleine's. Rain runs down the living-room window.

It's Saturday. It's raining outside, and it's very cold.

Zoé is sitting at the window. She's ten. Today she's not happy.

- Grandma, why is it raining again? Today Emma and I want to ride our bikes to the park!

Emma is Zoé's best friend from school. She has a little puppy.

○ By bike? Not today, Zoé. It's too cold. And it's windy outside.

■ But I've got a raincoat! I don't need the sun!

○ You've got a raincoat. But the bike hasn't.

○ Today you can draw, or help me. I'm making pancakes.

The landlady's phone rings. It is Anne, Zoé's mother, calling from work.

▲ Hi, Zoé. I'm sorry, I'm working again today. Until this evening.

■ Again? Mum, you're always working! Even on Saturday!

▲ I know. But I have to help people. Are you and Grandma making pancakes?

■ Yes. Mum, come this evening! There are lots of pancakes.

In the kitchen, Zoé draws the sea, the sun and sand.

■ Look, Grandma! Every summer the whole family goes to the sea.

■ It's hot there, and Mum doesn't work. She's with us all day!

■ In the morning we swim. The sea is colder than the lake, but I'm not afraid.

■ I can swim better than Mum!

○ And your brother?

- He's still too little. He can't swim. He just eats sand!
- After lunch we build a sandcastle. A bigger one every summer!
- In the evening it's windy by the sea, so Mum always says: 'Zoé, your hat! And your jacket!'
- Your mum is right. In the evening by the sea you need warm clothes.
- But I'm never cold by the sea!
- Never? Last year you were as blue as the sea!
- I wasn't! Well... only a little.

Zoé turns the page and draws a small brown dog with big ears.

- Grandma, look: a puppy! Like Emma's. I really want a puppy!
- A puppy? And Félix? Félix doesn't like dogs.
- Félix lives here. And the puppy can live in our flat!
- And who looks after it? Your parents work, and you're at school.
- I know how to look after animals! I look after Félix every day!
- No, Zoé. Félix looks after you.

On the windowsill the grey tomcat opens one eye, looks at the drawing of the dog, and turns his back on it.

- Mum says: 'A dog needs time, and I don't have time.'

- That's true. Your mum works a lot, that's why she's tired.
- That's why I want to be a painter. A painter works at home and can look after a puppy!
- A painter? Not a teacher, like your grandma?
- No! Teachers always say 'later'.
- I never say 'later'. I say: 'Now!'

Afternoon. The rain stops, and the sun comes out over the wet roofs.

- Grandma, the sun! Can I ride my bike now?
- You can. But with a hat and a scarf, because it's still cold outside.
- Emma! The sun's out! Come to the park with the puppy!

Evening. Anne comes into the kitchen, tired, with a wet umbrella.

- Mum! In the morning there was rain, then sun. And Emma's puppy is my friend now!
- ▲ And you want a puppy again, don't you?
- Yes. But in summer, by the sea! A puppy is better off there than in town.
- ▲ Maybe, Zoé. Maybe.

Félix looks at the puppy in Zoé's sketchbook. He doesn't like it at all.