Grandpa and the Tiger

A tiger was loose! It had escaped from the zoo. The police were called. The fire department was called. The news was on the radio. The news was on the television. Everyone was told, "Stay inside where it is safe! Do not go outside. Remain calm. Do not panic."

Grandpa got up and ate his breakfast. He didn't listen to the radio or watch television. He went for an early morning walk. Grandpa didn't notice that the streets were empty. He didn't notice that no one else was about. Then Grandpa saw the tiger!

The tiger, its tail twitching, was walking down the middle of the sidewalk! Grandpa didn't slow down at all. He walked right up to the tiger. The tiger began to growl. Grandpa said, "Now, now, you big baby, just settle down." Then Grandpa reached over and began to scratch the astonished tiger behind the ears. The tiger began to purr.

As Grandpa scratched and the tiger purred, a big truck with a cage silently pulled up. Grandpa said, "Now, get out of my way you big baby!" Then as fearful police officers and zookeepers stared in astonishment, Grandpa pushed the tiger right into the cage!

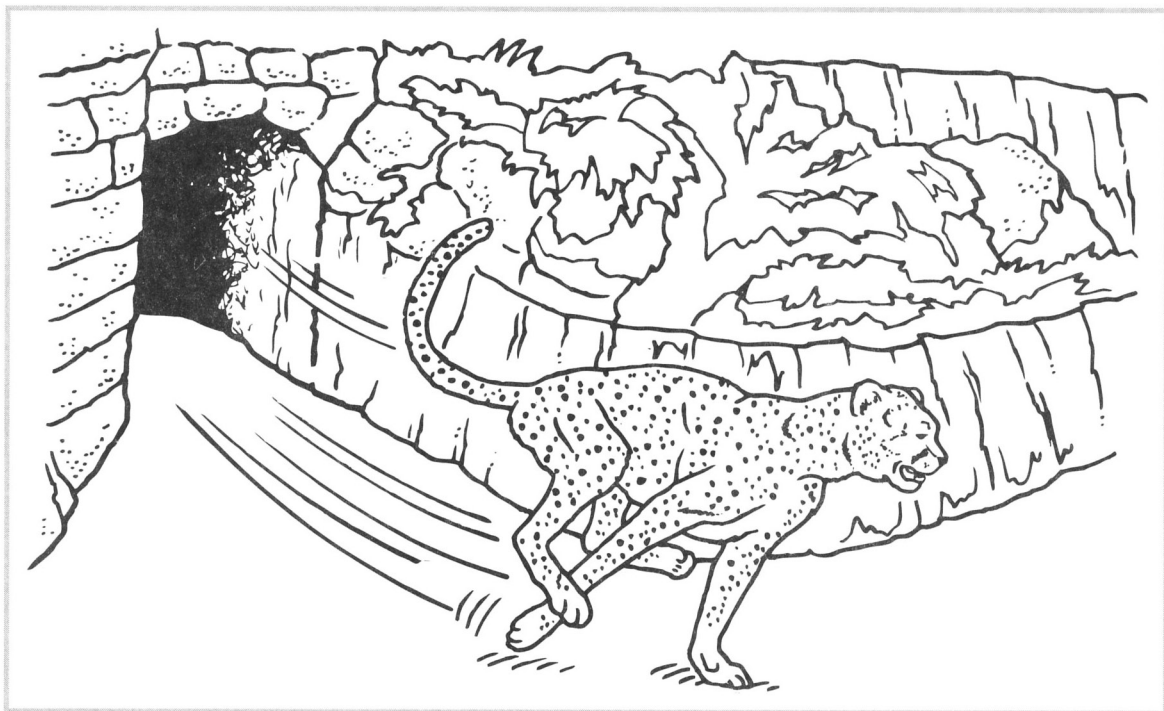"I need my hearing checked," said Grandpa. "I just petted a big dog that purred like a big cat!"

A Code for a Cheetah

A lady went up to a keeper at a busy city zoo. The lady asked a question. "Why is it safe to let visitors' pet cheetahs?" she asked. "Couldn't that be a little dangerous?"

The keeper knew this was not a good question. This question meant a cheetah was loose! A big, wild cat had gotten out of its cage! The keeper kept calm. She asked the lady where exactly she saw the cheetah being petted. When the lady told her, the keeper said something on her radio. She did not say "We have a cheetah lose." Instead, she used a code. Why?

Workers all over the zoo carried radios. If visitors heard on the radio that an animal was loose, they might panic. Everyone might start to run. They might start to scream. They might run wildly. Zookeepers had thought ahead. They had plans for when animals got lose. A code let zookeepers know to put the plan into action. The code stopped people from panicking.

The cheetah had jumped across a deep moat. It had jumped over 17 feet (5.2 m)! Once the cheetah was shown some raw chicken, it followed its keeper back to its cage. Zookeepers then made sure that never again would there be a cheetah for visitors to pet!

Show What You Know

Answer the questions on "A Code for a Cheetah" and "Grandpa and the Tiger."
You may look back at what you have read if you need to.

1. **From the story one can tell that zookeepers did not know a cheetah could jump**
   - (A) 13 feet (4.0 m).
   - (B) 15 feet (4.6 m).
   - (C) 17 feet (5.2 m).
   - (D) 19 feet (5.8 m).

2. **If Grandpa had known he was petting a tiger,**
   - (A) he might have not been so calm.
   - (B) he might have had his eyes checked.
   - (C) he might have not been so astonished.
   - (D) he might have had his hearing checked.

3. **Both stories are about**
   - (A) animals that escaped.
   - (B) petting and scratching cheetahs.
   - (C) what type of cages big cats need.
   - (D) people who don't know animals are dangerous.

4. **From the stories, you can tell that**
   - (A) no one cares if an animal escapes.
   - (B) it is dangerous to touch wild cats.
   - (C) one can pet wild cats if one panics.
   - (D) it is safer to pet a tiger than a cheetah.

5. **Most likely, if Grandpa had listened to the radio he**
   - (A) would not have known what it meant.
   - (B) would not have gone for a morning walk.
   - (C) would have taken some raw chicken with him.
   - (D) would have thought the tiger's name was Ralph Ned.

Show What You Know (cont.)

6. One zoo used the code words "Ralph Ned" when an animal was loose. Fill in the box to show what each person would most likely think if they heard "We have a Ralph Ned bear," on the radio.

zookeeper	
zoo visitor	

7. Think about when things happened in the story. Fill in the boxes to show when they happened in the story.

1.	2. Grandpa takes walk.	3.
4. Truck pulls up.	5.	6. Granpa says he petted a big dog.

Write two or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. "A Code for a Cheetah" _____

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9. "Grandpa and the Tiger" _____

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10. Pretend you are a zookeeper. Part of your job is planning for an animal escape. Write down some of the things on your plan.

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