

**1. What was the main reason the author felt isolated in high school?**

- A. His teachers were unkind
- B. His friends attended a different school
- C. The school was small and unfriendly
- D. He struggled academically (B)

**Explanation:** The author felt isolated because his closest friends went to a different school, making it hard for him to adjust.

**2. What was the author doing when he noticed the fire in his house?**

- A. Sleeping
- B. Watching television
- C. Doing homework
- D. Talking on the phone (C)

**Explanation:** The author was doing homework at the dining table when he noticed smoke filling the room.

**3. Why did the author's mother run back into the burning house?**

- A. To rescue the cat
- B. To retrieve important documents and memories
- C. To help the firefighters
- D. To turn off the electricity (B)

**Explanation:** The author's mother risked her life to save photos and letters from her late husband.

**4. What prevented the author from running into the house to save his mother?**

- A. His mother stopped him
- B. A fireman held him back
- C. He was too scared to move (B)
- D. The house collapsed

**Explanation:** A fireman restrained the author to prevent him from risking his life unnecessarily.

**5. What contributed to the author feeling deeply embarrassed at school the next day?**

- A. His lack of proper attire
- B. His inability to complete homework (A)
- C. His late arrival to school
- D. His classmates teasing him.

**Explanation:** The author wore borrowed clothes and shoes, which made him feel out of place and embarrassed.

**6. How did the author's schoolmates help him after the fire?**

- A. By collecting money to rebuild his house
- B. By organizing a table with supplies and clothes for him
- C. By offering to do his homework
- D. By providing emotional support only (B)

**Explanation:** The schoolmates' thoughtful gesture deeply touched the author and made him feel included.

**7. Where was the author's cat found after the fire?**

- A. In the rubble of the house
- B. At a neighbor's house
- C. Over a mile away from the house
- D. At the fire station (C)

**Explanation:** The cat had run far away due to the fire and was eventually found by a kind stranger.

**8. What does the phrase "My cat was back and so was I" signify in the story?**

- A. The author had physically returned home
- B. The author regained his sense of security and joy
- C. The author decided to leave his new school
- D. The author forgave his classmates (B)

**Explanation:** The return of the cat symbolized emotional healing and a fresh start for the author.

**9. What lesson did the author learn from his experiences in the story?**

- A. Material possessions are unimportant
- B. Isolation is inevitable
- C. Opening up to others can foster new relationships
- D. Life is full of permanent losses (C)

**Explanation:** The author's willingness to connect with new people helped him overcome his loneliness.

**10. What role did the stranger play in the story?**

- A. Provided financial aid to rebuild the house
- B. Found and returned the author's cat
- C. Helped extinguish the fire
- D. Comforted the author during his loss (B)

**Explanation:** The stranger located the cat and worked hard to return it, showcasing human kindness.

