What Happened in the Kitchen

Grade 3 reading · making inferences

Name: Date: Score: / 11



What Happened in the Kitchen

1. Mrs. Kerr came home at four o’clock and stopped in the doorway of her kitchen. The back door was standing wide open. A cold wind was coming in off the garden.
2. A line of muddy paw prints ran from the back door, across the clean wood floor, and onto the cream-coloured rug. The prints grew fainter towards the far end of the rug, but they did not stop.
3. One of her rubber boots had been knocked over and was lying on its side. The other was still standing by the door where she had left it that morning.
4. Rosie, the golden retriever, lay in the middle of the rug with her chin flat on her paws. She did not get up. She did not wag her tail. She looked at Mrs. Kerr for a moment and then looked away.
5. The bowl of apples on the counter had not been touched.

Nobody in this story explains anything. Use the clues to work out what happened.

1. Who made the muddy prints? How do you know?

2. Where had Rosie been before Mrs. Kerr got home? What is your clue?

3. The writer tells us Rosie did **not** wag her tail. What does that tell you?

4. Which word best describes how Rosie feels? Circle one letter.

a excited
b guilty
c hungry
d sleepy

5. Why do the paw prints grow fainter towards the end of the rug? *(paragraph 2)*

6. What most likely knocked the boot over? What makes you think so?

7. The last sentence says the apples had not been touched. Why does the writer tell us that?

8. What do you think Mrs. Kerr will do next? Write one complete sentence.

Word work. Find the word or words in the passage that match each meaning.

1. hard to see; not clear or strong *(paragraph 2)*

2. pushed over so that it fell *(paragraph 3)*

3. a breed of dog *(paragraph 4)*

What Happened in the Kitchen — Answer Key

Grade 3 reading · making inferences

1. Who made the muddy prints? How do you know? **Rosie.** The prints are *paw* prints, they lead from the open door to the exact spot where Rosie is lying, and she is the only one in the room.
2. Where had Rosie been? **Outside in the garden,** where the ground was muddy. The passage never says so — the mud and the open back door say it.
3. Why does the writer say Rosie did not wag her tail? **Because it shows she knows she has done something wrong.** A dog that is pleased to see someone wags its tail and gets up; Rosie does the opposite of both.
4. Which word best describes how Rosie feels? **b — guilty**
5. Why do the prints grow fainter? **The mud wore off her paws as she walked, so each print left behind less than the one before.**
6. What most likely knocked the boot over? **Rosie, pushing past it on her way in.** The other boot is still standing exactly where it was left, so nobody moved them on purpose.
7. Why does the writer mention the apples? **To show that Rosie did not take any food.** The only thing that went wrong was the mud, and saying what did *not* happen makes that clear.
8. What will Mrs. Kerr do next? **Answers vary.** Accept any sensible prediction written in a complete sentence, as long as it fits the story — shutting the door, cleaning the rug, wiping Rosie's paws.

Word work

1. hard to see; not clear or strong — **fainter** (accept **faint**)
2. pushed over so that it fell — **knocked over**
3. a breed of dog — **retriever**

> Every question on this sheet should be marked the same way: **the answer is only right if the student can say what the clue was.** "Rosie did it" is a guess. "Rosie did it, because the prints are paw prints and they end where she is lying" is an inference. A child who gives the right answer with no evidence has guessed correctly, which is worth saying out loud rather than ticking.