

## Healing Paws



Cree Hayuga is at an age when most kids like to play video games or hang out with their friends. Instead, this fifth grader from Santa Fe, N.M., spends three hours each Wednesday afternoon training dogs.

She volunteers at Assistance Dogs of the West. It is one of several programs around the country that train dogs to be the eyes, ears, and hands for people with disabilities.

Cree joined the program when she was in fourth grade because she loves animals. Dogs in the program learn how to open and shut doors, turn lights on and off, throw away trash, and pick up items for people in wheelchairs. "The hardest command to teach [a dog] is the stand-stay position," Cree told *Senior Edition*. She is referring to the position in which the dog stands at its owner's side when it is not doing anything else.

Cree says that training dogs has taught her patience and responsibility. "It's really fun," she said. "The animals get really attached to you, and it's hard to say good-bye."

Although saying good-bye isn't easy, Cree knows that she has helped both the dog and its grateful owner. Cree wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The main idea of paragraph three in the passage is

- A. Cree is in fourth grade.
- B. Cree wants to be a veterinarian.
- C. The dogs learn how to help people do everyday tasks.
- D. Dogs are fun to be around.

2. Cree's personality is shown partly by the fact that she spends more time than the average fifth grader

- A. training circus dogs to do tricks.
- B. studying to become a veterinarian.
- C. playing video games and hanging out.
- D. doing volunteer work that helps people.

3. The main idea of this passage is that

- A. dogs are hard to train.
- B. Cree will be a veterinarian one day.
- C. Cree is a volunteer who trains assistance dogs.
- D. there is not enough help for people in wheelchairs.

4. Which of the following details supports the main idea in question three?

- A. The hardest command to teach is the stand-stay position.
- B. Saying good-bye isn't easy.
- C. Cree has been doing volunteer work with dogs for a year.
- D. Cree lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

5. Why do you think the stand/stay position is hardest for a dog to learn?

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