

CHAPTER 5: CIRCUS FAMILY



BEFORE YOU READ. Look at the picture and read the title of the story.

1. Circle your answers and write them on the lines.

The people are _____

- 1. Teachers
- 2. Doctors
- 3. Clowns

They work at a _____

- 1. Restaurant
- 2. Circus
- 3. Hotel

2. What can you see at the circus? Circle the things you can see there.

THINGS YOU SEE AT THE CIRCUS			
Elephants	Fish	Dancers	Jugglers
Clowns	Cars	Horses	Movies

3. Write your answers on the lines.

Did you ever go to the circus? _____ Where? _____

CIRCUS FAMILY

When Jon Weiss gets ready for his job, he puts on make-up, a large red nose, and big striped shoes. His wife, Laura, laughs at his costume. Everyone at work laughs at it, too, but Jon loves his job. Jon is a clown in the circus. Sometimes his job is dangerous because Jon is a “human cannonball”. First, he climbs into a cannon. A cannon is like a very large gun. Then someone pushes a button on the cannon. Jon shoots 120 feet (or 36.6 m) out of the cannon every night at the circus. Is Jon’s wife worried? No. In fact she pushes the button.

Jon and Laura met when they were in high school. Jon’s classmates always laughed at Jon because he was very funny. He liked to make people laugh, so he went to work at the circus after he graduated. Laura went with him. Jon and Laura wanted to stay in the circus for a year before they went to college. But they both really enjoyed the circus, so they decided to stay.

The couple now has three children. They all travel around the country together with the circus. Their oldest child, Jonny, is seven years old. Sometimes he works in the circus, too. He wears a clown costume, like his father. Jon and Jonny drive around the circus together in a miniature car, and Jonny waves to all the people. When Jonny is busy, his little sister, four-year-old Nicole, drives with Jon in the small car. Their little brother, Max, is only two years old. He is still too young to be in the circus. Jon and Laura think the circus is a wonderful place for their family. They spend a lot of time together, and the children have fun, too.

READ ON TWO

1. **MAIN IDEA.** What is the most important idea of the story? Circle the correct letter.

- 1. The Weiss family enjoys being together in the circus.
- 2. Jon Weiss started to work for the circus after high school.
- 3. Jon Weiss like to make people laugh

2. **JUST THE FACTS.** Circle the correct answer

- | | | | |
|--|-----|----|--------------|
| 1. Is Jon Weiss a clown? | YES | NO | I DON'T KNOW |
| 2. Is Laura worried about Jon. | YES | NO | I DON'T KNOW |
| 3. Did Jon's father work at the circus? | YES | NO | I DON'T KNOW |
| 4. Did Jon graduate from high school? | YES | NO | I DON'T KNOW |
| 5. Did Jon and Laura go to college? | YES | NO | I DON'T KNOW |
| 6. Do their children go to school? | YES | NO | I DON'T KNOW |
| 7. Does Jon enjoy his job? | YES | NO | I DON'T KNOW |
| 8. Does Max work at the circus? | YES | NO | I DON'T KNOW |
| 9. Does Jon spend a lot of time with his family? | YES | NO | I DON'T KNOW |

3. **LEARN NEW WORDS.** Write the correct word on the lines.

circus clown ~~costume~~ dangerous pushes shoots worried

- 1. Jon puts on make-up, a red nose, and big striped shoes. That is his costume.
- 2. Jon is a _____ in the circus.
- 3. Jon works at the _____. It's a fun place to work.
- 4. Sometimes his job is _____ because Jon is a "human cannonball."
- 5. He climbs into a cannon, and someone _____ a button on the cannon.
- 6. Jon _____ 120 feet out of the cannon every night at the circus.
- 7. Laura isn't _____ about Jon because she pushes the button on the cannon.

4. **FIND THE ANSWERS.** Answer the questions with a partner and share with the class.

1. Why did Jon go to work at the circus?

He went to work at the circus because

2. How long did Jon and Laura want to stay in the circus before college?

3. Why did they stay in the circus?

READ ON TWO

5. **THINK IT OVER.** Jon and Laura Weiss think the circus is a good place for their children. But some people do not agree. Think about some reasons for both opinions. Write the reasons below and share them with your classmates.

THE CIRCUS IS A GOOD PLACE FOR CHILDREN, BECAUSE...	THE CIRCUS IS NOT A GOOD PLACE FOR CHILDREN BECAUSE...
<i>They can be with their family.</i>	<i>They can't live in a house.</i>

6. **TAKE A SURVEY.** Ask your classmates this question. Count their answers and put the numbers in the chart.

QUESTION	YES	NO
Do you think the circus is a good place for Jon and Laura's children?		

7. **WRITE IT DOWN.** Jon and Laura Weiss think the circus is a wonderful place for their family. Do you agree with them? Why or why not? Write three to four sentences and share them with your classmates.

I (agree/disagree) with Jon and Laura because _____
