

Learning to Whistle

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Roger always wanted to learn how to whistle. All his friends whistled when they wanted to get his attention. But not Roger. He tried and tried, but he just couldn't make that cool sound all his friends made. "Maybe it's because you're missing your front teeth," said his buddy Todd. "I couldn't whistle before I lost my teeth," said Roger. "I just don't know how to do it."

Roger practiced his whistling when he called his dog, Moe, to come to him. Moe just stood there and looked at him confused. Roger thought he would try to whistle the way his brother showed him by putting his two fingers in his mouth. Again, Roger didn't have any luck.

"Oh well," said Roger to Todd. "I'll just have to accept that I can't whistle." "It's not that big of a deal anyway," Todd said. "So you can't whistle." "Just think about all the other things you can do that I can't." "For example, you can swim the fastest in our class, and you can jump rope longer than any other boy in our gym class." "I guess you're right," said Roger.

The next day the boys were playing in the park after school. Todd was on the monkey bars and slipped and fell off. The only person around was an older man walking his dog down the path. Roger tried yelling to him, but the man didn't hear him. All of a sudden, Roger put his two fingers in his mouth, and suddenly he let out the loudest whistle! The man walking his dog heard him and hurried over to Roger and Todd. The man used his phone to call for help. "It's a good thing you got help when you did," said the man. "His leg is broken, and we need to get him to the hospital." Todd couldn't believe that Roger's whistle was so loud it got the attention of the man walking his dog. "I thought you couldn't whistle," said Todd in a lot of pain. "It just came out when I tried," said Roger. "I guess when I saw you in trouble, I just tried my best and it worked."

The medical team arrived and took care of Todd and got him to the hospital. Todd was going to be okay, except he wouldn't be on any monkey bars any time soon.

From that day on Roger was able to whistle, but he didn't want to whistle because it reminded him of the day Todd fell off the monkey bars. "I guess I'll just keep my whistles for emergencies," said Roger to Todd. "Let's hope there aren't any emergencies," said Todd with a smile.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What was the reason Todd thought Roger couldn't whistle?
 - A. He didn't hold his fingers correctly.
 - B. He was missing his front teeth.
 - C. He was trying too hard.
 - D. None of the above

2. Name something Roger was good at doing?
 - A. Playing baseball
 - B. Playing tag
 - C. Swimming fast
 - D. Playing soccer

3. Where were the boys when Todd fell off the monkey bars?
 - A. At school
 - B. At Todd's house
 - C. At Roger's house
 - D. At the park

4. What happened when Todd fell off the monkey bars?
 - A. He broke his leg.
 - B. He broke his arm.
 - C. He sprained his ankle.
 - D. He got a cut on his arm.

5. Why didn't Roger want to whistle at the end of the story?
 - A. He forgot how to whistle.
 - B. He didn't really like to whistle.
 - C. It reminded him of Todd getting hurt.
 - D. He thought it was silly.

Learning to Whistle – Answer Key

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