

Listen and Learn

Asking Questions

A **key detail** is an important piece of information. Asking and answering questions helps you notice key details.



Here are some questions you can ask about the key details in a story:

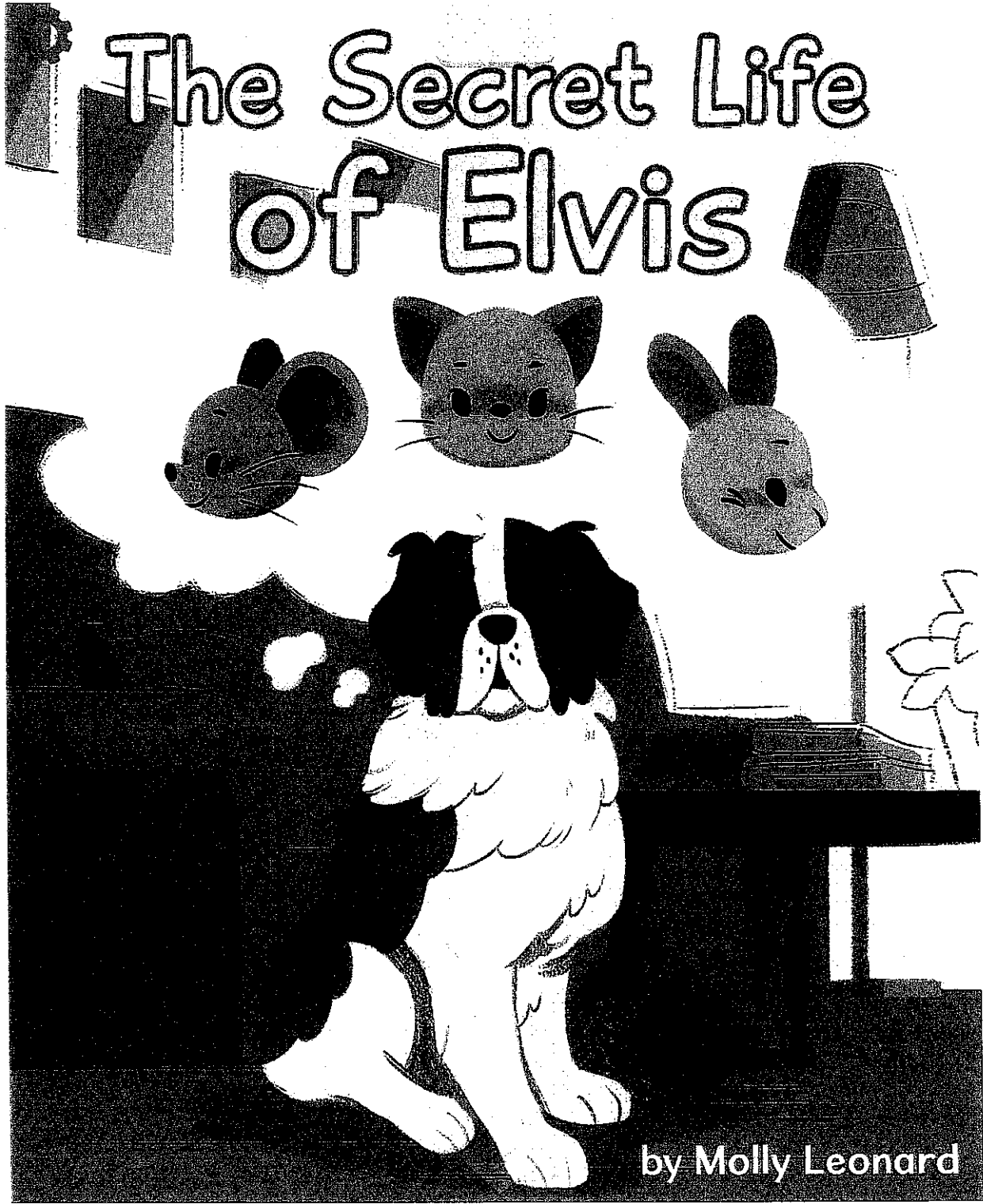
- ▶ Who are the characters?
- ▶ Where are the characters?
- ▶ What are the characters doing?

Think about:

When are they doing this?

Why are they doing this?

Asking and answering questions about key details helps you understand how the parts of the story fit together.





People think it is so easy to be a dog.
They scratch my head and say, “Elvis, your life
is so easy.”

Boy, are they wrong. Being a dog is hard
work! I don’t like what I do every day. I just
can’t do it anymore!





I wake up on a cold, hard floor every day.
I eat dry dog food for breakfast. Yuck!

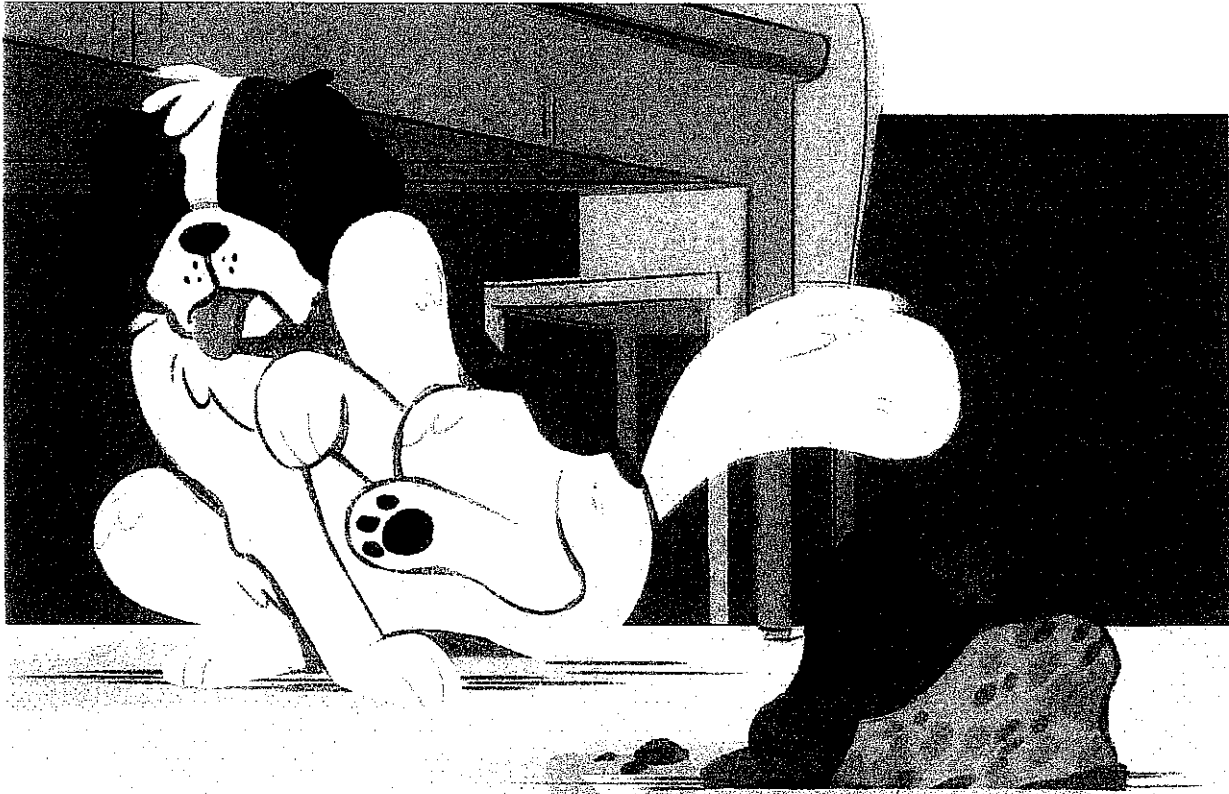
Then I have to drag myself out the door to
chase the mailman. I do NOT want to chase the
mailman! He is a nice guy. He scratches my
belly. He feeds me bananas.





What do I do next? I hide in a closet. I am trying to cough up a hairball.

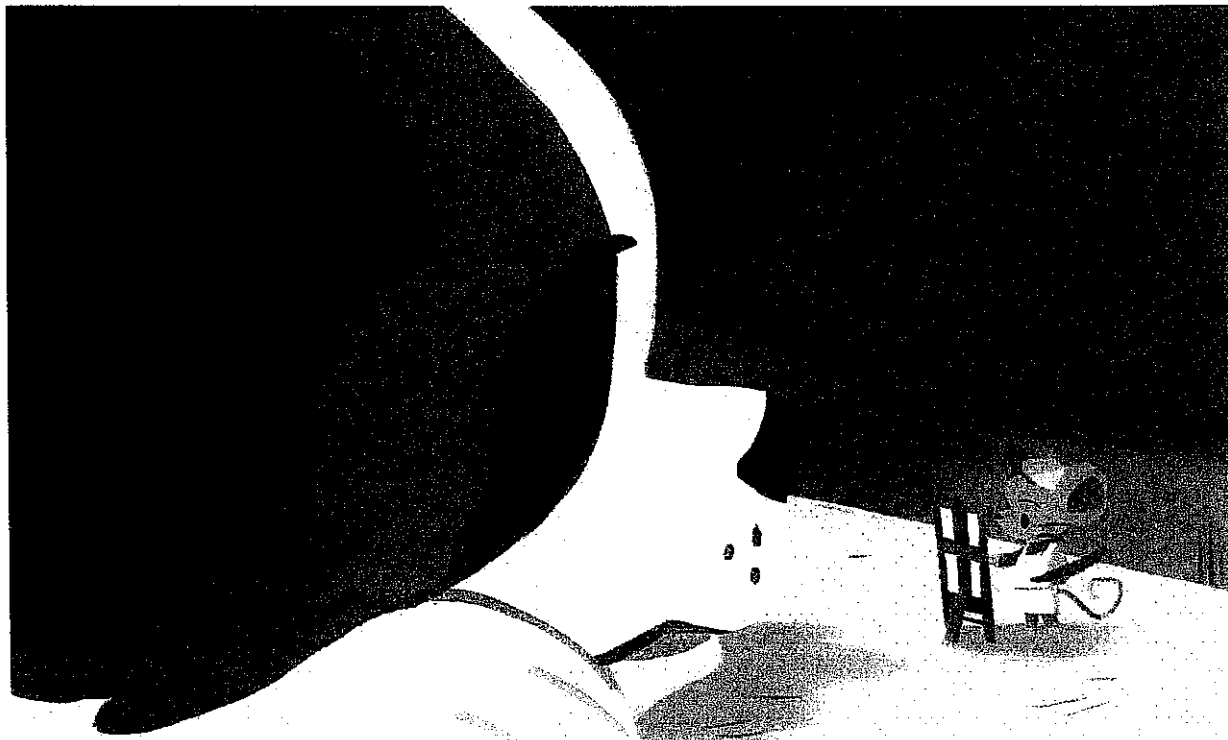
Then I hear someone call, “Elvis! Come!” And of course I come running. I see that someone has dropped some meatloaf. They want me to eat it off the floor. Gross!





Finally, I talk to my best friend, Maxwell.
“What should I do?” I ask him. Maxwell lives
under the dishwasher. He is a mouse. He is also
a painter! Today he is painting a banana.

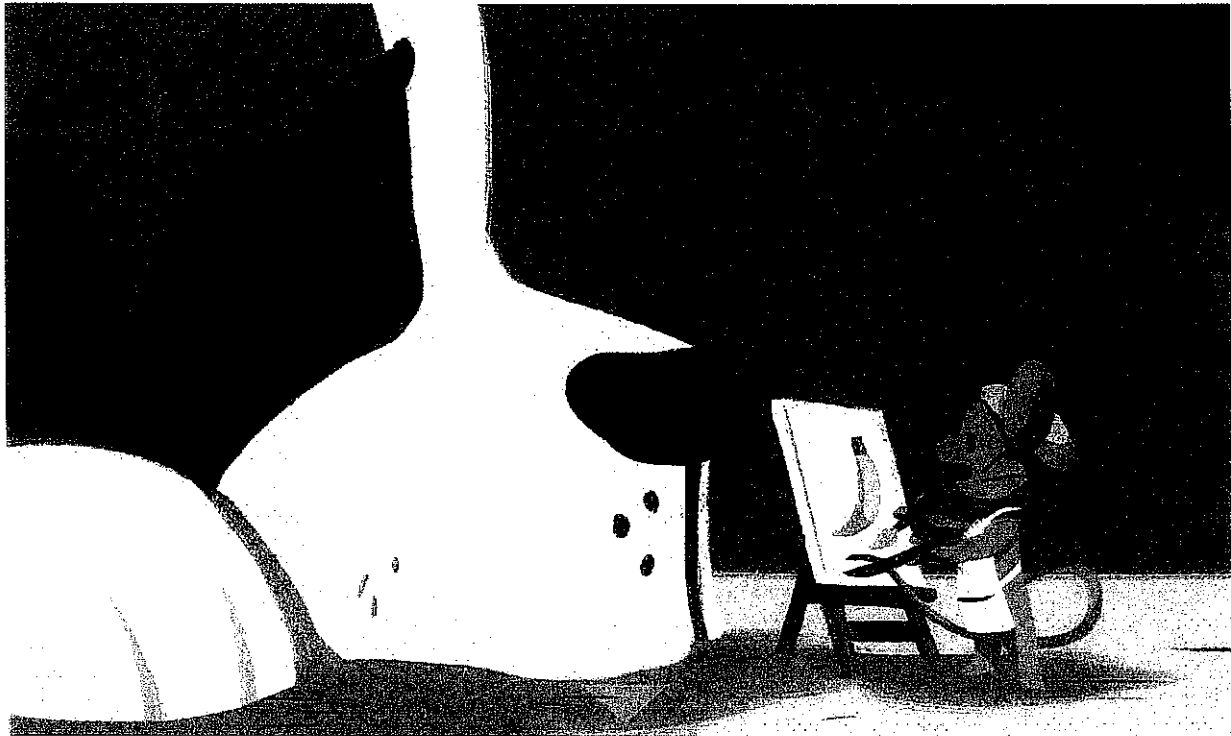
I say, “I don’t want to be a dog anymore,
Maxwell. I have no time alone. The food stinks.
And people throw balls at me!”





“I know what you mean,” Maxwell says as he paints.

“You have to do what makes you happy. That is why I paint beautiful fruit. It makes me happy. Other mice look for crumbs all day. That makes them happy. You have to do what makes YOU happy, Elvis.”





I think about this. Then I say, “Well, I like licking my paws! I like winding around people’s feet so that they trip. And I love drinking milk.”

“I’ve got it!” Maxwell cries. “It sounds like you have spent too much time being a dog. Why don’t you try being ... a cat!”



Question 1 (for p. 1 of passage)

Which character is telling this story?

a.



b.



c.



Question 2 (for p. 2 of passage)

How is Elvis different from most dogs? Complete the sentence.

Elvis does not like to _____ the mailman.

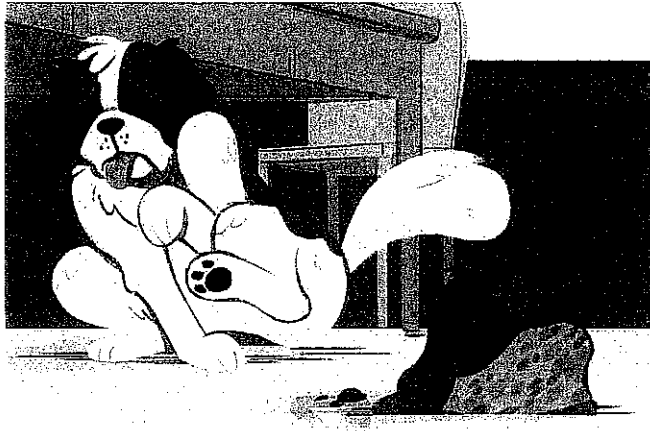
- a. chase
- b. drag
- c. scratch

Question 3 (for p. 3 of passage)



What do I do next? I hide in a closet. I am trying to cough up a hairball.

Then I hear someone call, "Elvis! Come!" And of course I come running. I see that someone has dropped some meatloaf. They want me to eat it off the floor. Gross!



Look at the underlined text and the picture. What do you learn about Elvis?

- a. He does not want to eat the meatloaf.
- b. He does not want to hide in a closet.
- c. He does not want to come running.

Question 4 (for p. 4 of passage)

Why does Elvis talk to Maxwell about his feelings?

- a. Maxwell is a little mouse.
- b. Maxwell is his best friend.
- c. Maxwell is a good painter.

Question 5 (for p. 5 of passage)

What does Maxwell tell Elvis to do? Complete the sentence.

Do what makes you _____.

- a. beautiful
- b. you
- c. happy

Question 6 (for p. 6 of passage)

Look at the events in the chart. What important event happens at the end? Choose the picture.

