

Read this story about a boy who wants to buy his first pet and answer the questions that follow.

A New Pet

① Rafael rolled his wheelchair onto the ramp and set the brake. As the bus driver pushed the button that let the ramp glide upward, Rafael thought about his mother's promise. It had taken some convincing, but finally she had agreed to let him have a pet. She had worried that Rafael wouldn't take care of a pet. He had **insisted** that he was responsible enough to care for an animal. After months of talking, at last he had his mother's permission to visit the pet store near his apartment.

② As the bus approached the pet store, Rafael pulled the cord, ringing a bell that told the driver to stop. Soon, Rafael joined the other shoppers on the busy sidewalk. He made his way up the block to the pet store. His friend Gavino had told him that Mr. Hernandez, the owner, would help him find a good pet.

Rafael opened the door to the store and wheeled toward the counter. An older man smiled at him and said, "Good afternoon. I'm Mr. Hernandez. May I help you?"

"I'm Rafael. I am looking for my first pet, but I don't know which animal would be best."

⑤ "Well," said Mr. Hernandez, "that depends. Do you live in a house or an apartment? Do you have a big yard or a small yard? How much work are you willing to do? Different animals need different amounts of care."

"I live in a small apartment with my mother. We don't have any yard at all. But I'll take good care of any pet I get."

Mr. Hernandez thought for a moment. "I've got just the pet for you. I think your first pet should be a fish."

"A fish?" mumbled Rafael. When he thought about a pet, he hadn't thought about a fish. He thought about a gerbil or a puppy or a kitten.

"I don't know anything about taking care of a fish, Mr. Hernandez."

⑩ "It's easy. It just takes a little scrubbing once a week," said Mr. Hernandez. He led Rafael around the counter and into a back room. Stopping by a long table, Mr. Hernandez pointed to several small bowls filled with water. A brightly colored fish swam in each one.

⑪ "These are called beta fish. All you need is a small bowl, water, and some food. You can add some pebbles or some plants to the bottom of the bowl, too. There are two important rules when taking care of betas. You must feed them regularly, but not too much at one time. And you must keep the fish bowl clean."

⑫ Mr. Hernandez pulled a small bowl to the sink. "I'll show you how to clean the bowl," he said. Using a small net, Mr. Hernandez reached in, caught the beta, and placed it in a cup of water.

⑬ “First, take the fish from the bowl and place it in a container of clean water. Then remove the pebbles and rinse them. Set them aside, being careful that none of them go into the drain. Empty the water from the bowl and wash it with soapy water. Rinse the soap from the bowl, making sure that all the soap is gone. Okay so far?”

⑭ Rafael nodded his head. Mr. Hernandez continued, “Put the clean pebbles at the bottom of the bowl. Carefully pour fresh water into the bowl so you don’t splatter water everywhere. Finally, put the fish back into the bowl and feed him. Set the bowl in a quiet place and enjoy watching your new pet.”

“Isn’t that bowl small for a fish?” Rafael asked.

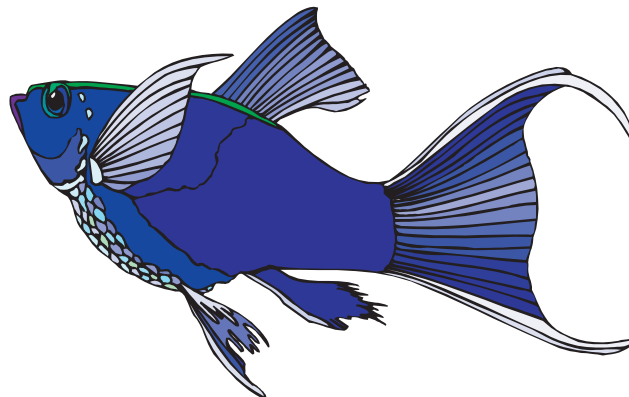
“Unlike most other fish, betas don’t use their gills to breathe oxygen

from the water. They come to the water’s surface and breathe oxygen from the air. They use a special breathing organ called a labyrinth. It is like your lungs. Since they don’t get oxygen from the water, they don’t need much water to live in.”

“Can I keep two fish in the same bowl?”

“Oh, no,” Mr. Hernandez shook his head. “The brightly colored betas are males. They don’t like each other. Put them together, and they fight.” Mr. Hernandez paused. “So, what do you think about having a beta as a pet?”

Rafael watched the betas ripple and flutter through the water. “I think you’ve convinced me,” Rafael said. “I’m ready to pick out my new pet beta.”



Standard 4-R3.6

1. In paragraph 2, what does it mean that Rafael “made his way up the block”?
 - A He traveled on only part of the street.
 - B He looked for the pet store on the street.
 - C He traveled on the sidewalk toward the store.
 - D He found moving hard because the sidewalk was crowded.

Standard 4-R2.10

2. What is the **main** purpose of this passage?
 - A to explain how to care for a beta fish
 - B to persuade the reader to buy a beta fish
 - C to entertain the reader with a story about beta fish
 - D to tell about a boy and how he chooses his first pet

Standard 4-R2.1

3. At first, Rafael feels uncertain about having a fish for a pet. How does he feel **after** talking to Mr. Hernandez?
 - A angry
 - B doubtful
 - C excited
 - D hopeful

Standard 4-R2.1

4. Why does Mr. Hernandez believe a beta fish would be a good pet for Rafael?
 - A A beta fish is easy to care for.
 - B Rafael has never had a pet before.
 - C Beta fish do not breathe like other fish.
 - D Rafael cannot have a puppy or a kitten.

Standard 4-R2.1

5. What is the **most likely** reason that Mr. Hernandez takes the time to talk to Rafael about beta fish?
 - A Very few customers are shopping in the pet store.
 - B Mr. Hernandez knows more about beta fish than other pets.
 - C He wants Rafael to know that a beta fish would be a good pet.
 - D Rafael’s mother told Mr. Hernandez that her son may have a pet fish.

Standard 4-R2.1

6. Why does Mr. Hernandez show Rafael how to clean the beta fish's bowl?
- A to explain how beta fish breathe
 - B to show that beta fish are easy to care for
 - C to see if Rafael is ready to have his own pet
 - D to show Rafael the kind of work he does every day

Standard 4-R1.6

7. According to the information Mr. Hernandez shares with Rafael, which statement about beta fish is true?
- A Beta fish need large bowls to live in.
 - B Beta fish do not breathe under water.
 - C Beta fish must have pebbles in their bowls.
 - D Two male beta fish can share the same bowl.

Standard 4-R1.4

8. Read the first sentence of the summary below.

<p>Summary of "A New Pet"</p> <hr/> <p>With his mother's permission, Rafael goes to choose his first pet.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Which of the following completes the summary?

- A Rafael meets Mr. Hernandez at a pet store. Mr. Hernandez explains that beta fish fight and do not breathe like other fish.
- B Rafael's mother does not want him to have a pet. Rafael convinces her that he will be responsible enough to care for an animal.
- C Mr. Hernandez tells Rafael that a beta fish would be a good pet. Rafael explains that he really wants a puppy or a kitten.
- D At the pet store, Rafael meets Mr. Hernandez who says that a beta fish would be a good pet. After Mr. Hernandez talks to Rafael about beta fish and how to care for them, Rafael decides to get a beta fish as his first pet.

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