

“A Day Like No Other”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



Frank Wilcox has been chief of police in Lansett County for 25 years. He had just turned 30 when he took the job.

He has seen murders. He has seen robberies. He has seen cats stuck in trees. He has found missing children.

Today would be like no other.

It is 11:00 at night. Chief Wilcox begins putting together his things. He is tired. He wants to go home.

“Chief Wilcox,” calls an officer walking quickly into his office. It is Officer Simpson. He looks nervous. He looks like he would like to be anywhere else but there.

“What is it, Simpson?” asks the Chief.

“Holman’s Grocery was just held up at gun point,” Simpson says. His voice is **shaky**. He coughs to clear his throat.

“Was anyone hurt?” asks Chief.

Lansett is a very small county. The Chief knows just about everyone who lives there. If anyone was hurt, there is a good chance he knows who it was. Maybe that’s why Officer Simpson looks nervous.

“No one was hurt,” says Simpson. “But we caught the suspect.”

“Ah, well, Simpson. You guys can take care of that. I’m--,” Chief Wilcox stops in mid-sentence.

He understands what is wrong. From behind Officer Simpson, the Chief sees his youngest daughter, Devon. She is in handcuffs.

Chief Wilcox gets a lump in his throat. He sits in his chair, stunned. “How could it be?” he thinks.

“Devon, will you please tell me what is going on?” the Chief demands.

Devon does not look at him. The Chief can feel anger growing inside of him. He **refuses** to let that anger show.

“Take her back for questioning,” the Chief says to Officer Simpson in a calm voice.

“Devon, whatever you do, tell the truth,” the Chief says. “I’m your dad. I love you. We will figure this out.”

Questions:

1) What is the main problem in this story?

- A. Devon won't look at her dad.
- B. Officer Simpson is nervous.
- C. The Chief's daughter has been arrested.
- D. The Chief is tired and wants to go home.

2) How long has Wilcox been Chief?

- A. _____

3) What can the reader tell about Chief Wilcox?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. He has seen a lot in his job.
- B. He wants the truth.
- C. He is 30-years-old.
- D. He can stay calm even when he is angry.

4) Why does Chief want to go home?

- A. He is hungry.
- B. He is tired.
- C. He does not want to see Devon.
- D. He is worried about his family.

5) Why is Officer Simpson nervous?

- A. He is scared of Chief Wilcox.
- B. He has just been held up at gun point.
- C. He has just arrested Chief's daughter.
- D. He has just found an important piece of evidence in a new case.

6) What does it mean to be **shaky** ?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. to be loud
- B. to be hard to hear
- C. to be unsure and unsteady
- D. to be strong and uncontrollable

7) When does Chief know what is wrong with Officer Simpson?

- A. when he sees the gun
- B. when he stands up
- C. when Officer Simpson tells him
- D. when he sees his daughter

8) "He **refuses** to let that anger show." Which sentence below means the same thing?

- A. He is forced to let that anger show.
- B. He is about to let that anger show.
- C. He wants to let that anger show.
- D. He decides not to let that anger show.

