



A New Home for Snowball

by Michèle Dufresne



- 1 Kendra held Snowball, her pet rabbit, with one hand and wiped tears from her eyes with the other. “We’re moving to the city, and you can’t come with us,” Kendra told Snowball. Snowball squirmed. Kendra put him back in his pen.
- 2 At dinner that night, Kendra looked at her parents and said, “How come we can’t take my rabbit to the city, but we can take our cat, Rolly? It just isn’t fair. I don’t want to move!”
- 3 Kendra’s mom sighed and said, “I know it doesn’t sound fair, honey—it’s hard to leave your friends—but Rolly is an indoor cat. He can live in our apartment in the city with

no problem. Snowball lives outside! You can visit him at Grandma’s on the weekends.” Kendra squeezed her eyes to keep the tears away and looked down at her plate, pushing her peas around.

- 4 After dinner Kendra darted to her room. Her mind began to swirl with an idea. She found a book about pet rabbits on her bookshelf. Flipping it open, she found a chapter on litter training a rabbit. The whole chapter explained how to care for an indoor rabbit. It might take some time, and Snowball might make some mistakes, but the book said rabbits could learn to use

a litter box in the same way cats did! And they were very quiet—just like cats!

5 “Litter train Snowball?” asked Kendra’s dad. “I never heard of a rabbit using a litter box. It won’t work!”

6 “Oh, Kendra!” said her mother. “Snowball will be happy living at Grandma’s!”

7 “I want to try litter training Snowball,” said Kendra. “It might work!”

8 Kendra found an old dog crate in the barn, and it became Snowball’s new home. She filled a cat litter box with hay. She scooped up a few of Snowball’s droppings from the yard and added them to the hay. She moved the box to a corner where he seemed to prefer to go. He was a smart rabbit, and after just a few mistakes, he learned how to use his litter box. Kendra had to watch him carefully when she took him out for exercise—one day he almost chewed up the electric cord to her dad’s phone.

9 When moving day arrived, Snowball went with his family to the city. Kendra set up his cage in her bedroom. When she let Snowball out, he hopped around, checking out their new home. Then Snowball hopped to the laundry room. “Come look, Mom. Look, Dad!” cried Kendra. She grinned and pointed to Snowball in the litter box.



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Test Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. How does Kendra solve her problem of what to do with Snowball?

- a. She puts Snowball in his pen.
- b. She decides to take Rolly instead.
- c. She takes Snowball to Grandma's house.
- d. She trains Snowball to use a litter box.

2. What does the author want us to know about Kendra by stating she *darted* to her room?

After dinner Kendra **darted** to her room.

- a. she danced
- b. she ate
- c. she ran
- d. she relaxed

3. How did Kendra's feelings change from the beginning of the story to the end?

- a. In the beginning, Kendra was miserable, and at the end, she was joyful.
- b. In the beginning, Kendra was upset, and at the end, she was frustrated.
- c. In the beginning, Kendra was confident, and at the end, she was disappointed.
- d. In the beginning, Kendra was excited, and at the end, she was upset.

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Test Questions (*continued*)

4. What did Kendra's dad think about her idea to litter train Snowball?

- a. He thought it was a clever idea.
- b. He did not think a rabbit could be trained.
- c. He thought Kendra should try to train Snowball.
- d. He did not think Grandma would agree with the training.

5. Why did Kendra squeeze her eyes and push peas around on her plate?

- a. She was upset about Snowball staying behind.
- b. She was upset Rolly was able to go along with them.
- c. She was disappointed her grandmother wanted to keep Snowball.
- d. She was disappointed she couldn't train Snowball.