



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Pawsitive Pets

An activity of "Tee and Boba".

Read the comics, "Tee and Boba" (page 28, *What's Up* October 2023). Tee and Boba now have pets! Let's explore the experience of having pets, be they real or imaginary.

1a) Watch the following video about why Pet Therapy works:

Why Does Pet Therapy Work? (It's Not Just Cute Dogs)

➤ <https://youtu.be/ODuRBPjoPrs?feature=shared> (Psy Show Psych, Jul 6, 2018)

1b) Fill in the cloze passage below, based on the video.

In the 1860s, a famous nurse, Florence Nightingale, observed that chronically ill patients experienced (A) _____ well-being when they were accompanied by animals. This phenomenon, known as pet therapy or animal-assisted therapy (AAT), is not due to the cute and fluffy appearance of the animals (B) ____, but also due to the (C) _____ between the animals and the humans.

Studies have shown that AAT is effective in (D) _____ anxiety and stress, even in patients who are not exactly (E) _____ about animals. They experienced pain relief, (F) _____ moods, and decreased stress levels. This seemed largely due to the release of endorphins, the body's (G) _____ painkillers, during interactions with animals. Various animals like dogs, rabbits, horses, lizards and even crickets, can be (H) _____ effective in providing AAT. Whether humans are sick, stressed, or just trying to process life, animal (I) _____ will not judge them, but simply be a (J) _____ presence. This might create a safe space for (K) _____. Today, AAT programmes can be found in hospitals, nursing homes, and college campuses, offering a (L) _____ of therapeutic interactions.

In conclusion, the healing power of animal companionship goes (M) _____ the superficial appeal of adorable animals. It's about (N) _____ a connection that provides comfort, reduces stress, and (O) _____ emotional well-being.

2a) Read the following article about an unusual “pet” craze amongst some youth.

Unusual hobby: Young people in China ‘rear’ mango pits as ‘pets’

➤ <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/unusual-hobby-young-people-in-china-rear-mango-pits-as-pets>

Amanda Lee (25 July 2023) The Straits Times

2b) Create your own unique imaginary pet inspired by the article. Give it a name and write a brief description of your pet’s personality and special abilities.

MY UNIQUE PET
(name)

(Short Description)

(Appearance)

(Made of)

(Personality)

(Special Abilities)

2c) Imagine spending time with your imaginary pet as if it were real. Reflect on the experience.

2d) To what extent is keeping an artificial pet like keeping a real pet? Do you think it is a worthwhile hobby? Why or why not? Share your thoughts with a friend.