

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

There's a Skunk in the Library

"There's a skunk in the library!" Sam cried as he ran down the hallway to his classroom. "There's a skunk in the library!"

All along the hallway, classroom doors opened, and curious heads poked out.

"Oh, it's just Sam," said Nick.

"Yeah. Last month he said there was a snake in the bathroom," said Rachel.

"The month before that, he said there was a bear in the cloak room," said Pete.

"Come on, children," Ms. Tiller said. "Principal Martin will deal with Sam."

The students returned to their classrooms.



“There’s a skunk in the library!” Sam cried.

Principal Martin came out of his office and stood in the hallway with his hands on his hips. He frowned at Sam. Sam stopped and stood in front of Principal Martin.

“What’s going on, Sam?” Principal Martin asked.

“There’s a skunk in the library!” Sam said.

Principal Martin shook his head. “Come into my office.”

Sam hung his head as he followed Principal Martin into the office. Principal Martin sat down behind his desk. He motioned for Sam to sit in the chair.

“Now, why do you think there’s a skunk in the library?” Principal Martin asked.



Sam's eyes were wide. "I saw it. It was looking at books on the bottom shelf."

Principal Martin looked concerned. "Sam, are you all right? Is there something going on at home?"

"What do you mean?"

Sam asked.

"Well, there can't be a skunk in the library."

"Why not?" Sam asked.



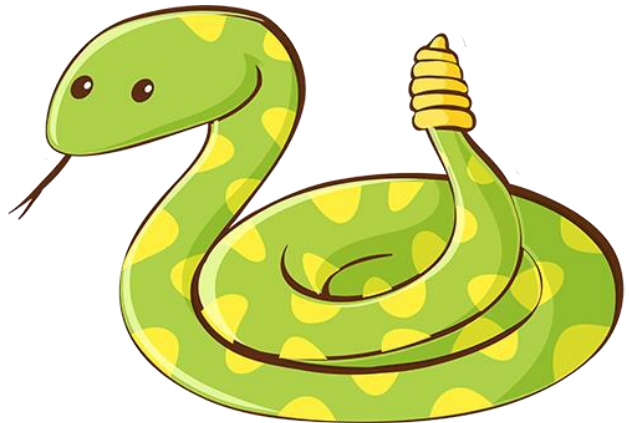
"Skunks don't read, and they don't visit libraries," Principal Martin said. He was trying to be kind to Sam, but Sam told a lot of tall tales.

"It's there. I promise." Sam was annoyed that no one believed him. He didn't always make pranks.

Principal Martin said, “I think I’m going to have to call your mother, Sam. Last month, you said there was a snake in the restroom. Remember? You brought the rubber snake. Molly still won’t go in there.”

Sam chuckled. That had been a good prank.

Principal Martin looked up Sam’s phone number.



Sam sat silently in the chair. He knew he would be in big trouble when his mother got the phone call.

Principal Martin was dialing the number when Ms. Tiller burst into the room. Her hair was messy, and her cheeks were red. She looked at Principal Martin with wide, scared eyes.

“What is it, Ms. Tiller?” Principal Marin asked.

“There’s a skunk in the library!” She held her hand to her heart and gasped for breath. “It just sprayed Mrs. Chan!”

Principal Martin looked at Sam and slowly hung up the phone. There was a skunk in the library. He was the principal and he had to do something. He stood up. He cleared his throat. He looked at Sam again. Principal Martin had no idea what to do.

Just then they all heard a commotion in the hallway. And they smelled something bad. Really, really bad.

Mrs. Chan, the school librarian, burst through the door into the principal’s office.

“There’s a skunk in the library!” she shrieked.



Questions:

1. Why did no one believe Sam about the skunk?
 - a. No one believed Sam because they don't like him.
 - b. No one believed Sam because he tells tall tales all the time.
 - c. No one believed Sam because his mother told them not too.
 - d. No one believed Sam because he's laughing.

2. What was Principal Martin doing when Ms. Tiller burst into his office?
 - a. Principal Martin was ordering pizza.
 - b. Principal Martin was calling the police.
 - c. Principal Martin was calling Sam's mother.
 - d. Principal Martin was reading a book.

3. What were Sam's earlier pranks?

4. Do you think people will believe Sam the next time he runs down the hallway shouting something? Why or why not?

Answers:

1. Why did no one believe Sam about the skunk?

b. No one believed Sam because he tells tall tales all the time.

2. What was Principal Martin doing when Ms. Tiller burst into his office?

c. Principal Martin was calling Sam's mother.

3. What were Sam's earlier pranks?

Sam said there was a bear in the cloak room and a snake in the bathroom.

4. Do you think people will believe Sam the next time he runs down the hallway shouting something? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.