
The World of Walt Disney

Reading Comprehension

Walt Disney's Greatest Storyman

We often see an animated film and do not consider the work that went into it behind the scenes. Bill Peet is one of the primary storytellers behind many well-known animated movies and children's books.

Bill Peet's creative abilities developed at a young age. He grew up in the countryside and visited his grandfather's farm often, which gave him access to the wilderness. These experiences, along with trips to the zoo, laid the foundation for future drawings of animals.

When Peet went to school, his constant drawing was sometimes a problem, but his teacher continued to encourage it. He dreamed of a career where he could put his passion for drawing to good use. He earned a scholarship to an art school after high school and studied there for three years.

After art school, Peet needed to find a way to earn a living. He moved to California after he heard that Walt Disney was looking for artists. When he first started working for Walt Disney, Peet sketched and planned screen stories. Eventually, he became a primary storyman. Peet did the complete storyboards for two movies: *The Sword in the Stone* and *101 Dalmatians*. He also worked on *Peter Pan*, *Dumbo*, and *The Jungle Book*.

Peet's children's stories began as bedtime stories for his sons. He illustrated his stories with many animals and some people too. Peet used different types of media for his drawings. He drew in pastels, pencils, pen, and even oil paint. Many of the illustrations in his books are done in coloured pencil crayons and ink.

Two of Peet's animated movies won awards. He is more well-known though as "Walt Disney's Greatest Storyman."

Story Questions:

- Which of the following movies did Bill Peet not work on, based on the passage?
 - A Bug's Life*
 - Dumbo*
 - 101 Dalmatians*
 - The Jungle Book*
- What does the word *access* mean as it is used in the second paragraph?
 - able to approach
 - a way of using something
 - the ability to get to a place
 - to retrieve data from a computer

3. What inspired Bill Peet's drawings of animals?
 - a. the countryside near his home
 - b. his grandfather's farm and wilderness
 - c. visits to the zoo
 - d. all of the above

4. What quality would make Peet "Walt Disney's Greatest Storyman"?
 - a. his high school art
 - b. his ability to write and illustrate stories
 - c. his life in the city
 - d. his oil paintings

Journal Writing

5. How can your passions and abilities relate to possible careers in the real world? **Write** a 7-10 sentence response, giving examples to support your answer.

Math Worksheet

6. **Practise** [mixed operations with two fractions](#).

Word Problems

7. **Read** the word problems below and **write** the answers.
 - ★ Bill loved to do science experiments with his sons. He mixed $\frac{7}{30}$ of a cup of water with $\frac{5}{18}$ of a cup of vinegar. How much more vinegar than water did Bill use? What was the total amount of fluid in the mixture?

 - ★ Bill created a solution with $\frac{7}{9}$ of a cup of water, $\frac{1}{18}$ of a cup of rubbing alcohol, and $\frac{1}{6}$ of a cup of soap. What was the total amount of liquid in his solution?

Fun Stuff!

8. **Answer** these [Disney themed "Would You Rather?" questions](#) with your family or friends. You can extend the game by asking the person to explain why they chose what they did.