

Dexter Detective

Dexter had always wanted to be a detective.

While other children dreamed of becoming footballers or astronauts, Dexter spent his afternoons examining footprints in muddy paths and watching police programmes with a notebook balanced on his knees. He paid close attention to details others ignored: the way people spoke when they were nervous, the small clues hidden in ordinary places, the stories objects could tell if you listened carefully enough.

At just nine years old, he knew most people thought his dream was unrealistic. But Dexter didn't mind. He believed that determination mattered more than age.

One Saturday morning, while walking home from the corner shop, Dexter noticed something glinting near the pavement. He crouched down and brushed aside a few leaves, revealing a delicate gold bracelet tangled in the grass. Tiny gemstones sparkled in the sunlight.

Dexter's heart raced.

He didn't pocket it. Instead, he examined it carefully, just as a real detective would. The clasp was worn, suggesting it had been used often. Inside, barely visible, was an engraving: *For L*.

"This belongs to someone," Dexter murmured.

At home, he spread his findings across the kitchen table and began his investigation. He retraced his steps, questioned shopkeepers, and even sketched a small map of the area where he had found the bracelet. Some people smiled politely; others seemed surprised by his seriousness.

Then, outside the library, Dexter noticed a woman speaking to a police officer. She looked anxious, twisting her hands together as she talked. Something about her expression caught his attention.

He approached slowly and waited until the officer stepped away.

"Excuse me," Dexter said. "Did you lose something?"

The woman's eyes widened. "Yes," she said. "A bracelet. It was my mother's."

Dexter carefully held it out. "I found it near the shops."

Her face softened with relief. "Thank you," she said. "You have no idea how important this is to me."

The police officer returned, listening as Dexter explained how he had found the bracelet and identified its owner. The officer nodded approvingly.

"You've got good instincts," he said. "Ever thought about becoming a detective?"

Dexter smiled. "Every day."

As he walked home, Dexter felt taller somehow. He hadn't solved a crime or chased a villain, but he had done something meaningful. For the first time, his dream no longer felt far away — it felt possible.

Comprehension Questions

1. What does the first paragraph suggest about Dexter's personality?
A) He is observant and focused
B) He is imaginative but careless
C) He prefers being alone
D) He is easily distracted

2. Why does Dexter not keep the bracelet when he finds it?
A) He is afraid of being caught
B) He believes it belongs to someone else
C) He does not like jewellery
D) He plans to sell it later

3. What does the engraving "*For L*" suggest to Dexter?
A) The bracelet is valuable
B) The bracelet is new
C) The bracelet has sentimental meaning
D) The bracelet belongs to a shop

4. Why does Dexter question shopkeepers during his investigation?
A) He wants attention
B) He hopes they recognise the bracelet
C) He needs permission to investigate
D) He enjoys talking to adults

5. What makes Dexter approach the woman outside the library?
A) She is talking loudly
B) She looks nervous and upset
C) She recognises Dexter
D) She asks for help

6. How does the woman react when Dexter shows her the bracelet?
A) She is suspicious
B) She is confused
C) She is relieved
D) She is angry

7. What does the police officer's reaction show about Dexter?
A) He is lucky
B) He is dishonest
C) He is too young to help
D) He shows strong detective qualities

8. Why does Dexter feel "taller somehow" at the end of the story?
A) He has grown physically
B) He feels proud and confident

- C) He wants praise
- D) He is excited about the bracelet

9. What is the main theme of the story?

- A) Crime and punishment
- B) Growing up too quickly
- C) Dreams becoming achievable through actions
- D) The importance of adults

10. Which sentence best sums up the moral of the story?

- A) Children should not interfere in adult matters
- B) Honesty is always rewarded with praise
- C) Age does not limit responsibility and ability
- D) Police officers solve all problems

Answers

1. **A**
2. **B**
3. **C**
4. **B**
5. **B**
6. **C**
7. **D**
8. **B**
9. **C**
10. **C**