The Dog by the Fountain

Read the story. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

On her way home from school, Ines saw a small brown dog sitting alone by the park fountain. It wore a green collar but had no tag, and when Ines knelt down, it wagged its tail and licked her hand. Ines had wanted a dog for as long as she could remember, but her mom always said their apartment was too small. Now a dog had found her instead, and maybe she could secretly keep it in her bedroom, at least for a little while.

Then she noticed the dog's neat, brushed fur. Someone was taking good care of this dog, and that person might be searching for it right now. Ines carried the dog home and explained everything to her mother. Together they made signs that said "FOUND: Small Brown Dog" with their phone number, and they hung them at the park, the bus stop and the corner store.

The next afternoon, the phone rang, and it was Mr. Haddad, an elderly neighbor who lived three streets away. His dog, Pepper, had slipped out of the gate while he was getting the mail. When he arrived, Pepper jumped straight into his arms. "My knees are not what they used to be," Mr. Haddad said, "and Pepper needs longer walks than I can give her. Would you like to walk her on Saturdays?"

Ines looked hopefully at her mother, who smiled and nodded. From then on, Ines and Pepper walked around the park together every Saturday morning.

1. **What choice did Ines have to make after she found the dog?**

2. **Pepper "slipped out of the gate." What does "slipped out" mean, and which words help you tell?**

3. **Why did Ines decide that the dog probably had an owner?**

4. **Do you think Ines made a good choice? Give a reason from the story.**

Answer key

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1. What choice did Ines have to make after she found the dog?
   Whether to keep the dog secretly in her bedroom, or to try to find its owner.

2. Pepper "slipped out of the gate." What does "slipped out" mean, and which words help you tell?
   Got out quietly without anyone noticing. The clue is that it happened "while he was getting the mail," so Mr. Haddad was not watching.

3. Why did Ines decide that the dog probably had an owner?
   Its fur was neat and brushed, so someone was taking good care of it.

4. Do you think Ines made a good choice? Give a reason from the story.
   Sample answer: yes. Pepper was happy to see Mr. Haddad again, and because Ines was honest, she got to walk Pepper every Saturday, which was almost like having a dog of her own.