Are You Ready, Sam?

The clouds hung low in the gray sky. The chirping of the bluebirds woke me from my restful sleep. As I slowly woke, I got a funny feeling in my stomach. Today was the day. Today, I had to do something I have been afraid to do for a long time. Breakfast was normal and I began to relax.

Mom came into the kitchen asking, “Are you ready, Sam?”

“Yes,” I answered quietly. I wasn’t really!

The school bus came on time, and I sat with my friend, Billy. We chatted about baseball and trading cards. It was a great way to get my mind off of what I had to do today. As we approached the school, I could feel my heart beating. My hands were starting to sweat. I hated this!

I entered Mrs. Owens’ class. She was smiling, and saying hello to all her students as she did every morning.

“Hi Sam,” she said as I walked in.

“Hi,” I said and quickly sat in my seat. We said the pledge, and then took our spelling test. I looked at the clock. The time was near. I hope I am not first! Mrs. Owens said it was time to begin our special day. Special day? That’s a joke.

Mrs. Owens announced, “Sam, you’ll be first.”

I got up slowly, looking at the ground as I walked to the front of the room. I looked up, and everyone was staring at me. Mrs. Owens must have known I was nervous because she came by me, and put her hand on my back.

She said to the class, “Sam has worked very hard on his report, and I know it is very interesting.” Then she turned to me and asked, “Sam, what did you like best about your report on Hawaii?”

I nervously addressed my class saying “aloha.” Then, I thought about the fun things I had read about surfing, volcanoes, and pineapples, and I started to talk. Before I knew it, I was telling the class about everything I had learned. I talked in front of the whole class, and it was fun. It wasn’t scary after all. The class clapped as I finished and Mrs. Owens was smiling. I was proud of myself.

1. What did Sam talk about with his Billy on the bus?
   A. Homework
   B. Spelling test
   C. Baseball and trading cards
   D. Hawaii

0% 100%
2. Which of the following best describes “aloha” as it is used in this story?
   A. Teacher  
   B. An excuse for being nervous  
   C. The name of a Hawaiian person  
   D. A greeting  

3. The main idea of this passage is
   A. Sam did not want to go to school.  
   B. Sam’s teacher was not very nice.  
   C. Sam was from Hawaii.  
   D. Sam got over his nervousness.  

4. How would Sam probably feel about talking in front of the class next time?
   A. More afraid  
   B. More calm  
   C. More embarrassed  
   D. More nervous  

5. One of the reasons Sam was eventually able to enjoy his presentation was that:
   A. He practiced it with his teacher beforehand  
   B. He had been to Hawaii  
   C. He enjoyed his topic  
   D. His friend Billy was in the class  

On a scale between 1 and 10 with 1 being low and 10 being how well did you like this passage?  

Didn’t  
Like It  
At All  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
I Really Liked It  

Connections: Write about a time when you were very nervous about doing something and also what you can do to make yourself less nervous.