



Read the story carefully. Then answer each question in a full sentence.

The Surfer and the Giant Ray

Leo loved the ocean. Every sunny morning, he grabbed his surfboard and headed to Sunset Beach. The waves looked perfect – long, rolling lines shimmering under the California sun. He waxed his board, felt the cool sand, and ran into the sparkling blue water.



Paddling out was peaceful. He felt the gentle push and pull of currents, waiting for the right wave. A big one rose. He paddled hard, stood up, and rode it, feeling the wind and spray. It was pure joy, gliding across the water, a perfect start to the day.



As he drifted, waiting for another set, a large shadow moved beneath his board. It wasn't a dolphin or a shark. The shadow was wide and flat, moving with incredible grace just below the surface. Leo held his breath, his heart thumping with curiosity.

Slowly, the creature came closer. It was a giant manta ray, its wide wingspan easily twice the length of Leo's surfboard! Its skin was dark on top, blending with the deep water.

Manta rays are gentle giants, known for filtering tiny plankton. This one seemed to dance, undisturbed by Leo.



"Wow!" Leo whispered, mesmerized. The ray circled him once, its huge, dark eyes seeming to look right at him. With a powerful, silent flap, it dipped deeper into the ocean, disappearing. Leo felt incredibly lucky to share a moment with such a magnificent creature.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character in the story, and where does he go every sunny morning?

(2) What surprising creature did Leo encounter while waiting for a wave?

(3) In the story, what does it mean that manta rays are "filter feeders"?

(4) How did Leo feel about seeing the manta ray, and what in the story shows his feelings?

(5) What message does Leo's encounter with the manta ray share about the ocean?

