Comprehension Questions for *The Head In The Clouds Duckling*

1. What is the setting at the beginning of the story (pg. 4)?
2. Why is this a special day for the duck family (pg. 4)?
3. What did Hank exclaim and do (pg. 5)?
4. What did Hank's family call him (pg. 5)?
5. What word is used to describe Ana (pg. 6)?
6. What was Mother Duck's command to the ducklings before they left their home (pg. 6)?
7. Who was first in line (pg. 6)?
8. Why did Hank trip (pg. 7)?
9. Where did the duck family go first (pg. 9)?
10. What were they able to smell (pgs. 9 - 10)?
11. How did Hank describe the colors he saw during their first stop? What do you think this means (pg. 10)?
12. What problem occurred in the garden (pg. 12)?
13. How do you think Hank feels (pg. 13)?
14. After the duck family left the garden, where did they go next (pg. 14)?
15. What is the foot of a hill (pg. 14)?
16. Why did Hank leave the path (pg. 14)?
17. Who did Hank wave goodbye to (pg. 14)?
18. What could Hank see from the top of the hill (pg. 15)?
19. What happened while Hank was on the top of the hill (pg. 15)?
20. Who was the last one to join the group (pg. 16)?
21. As the duck family started moving down the hill, why was there a problem (pg. 17)?
22. At the bottom of the hill, describe how Hank feels. Give evidence for how he feels (pg. 18).
23. Where is the duck family going next (pg. 19)?
24. How can you tell that the duck family is excited to go to the woods (pg. 19)?
25. What is Hank's position in line as the family continues on their journey (pg. 19)?
26. Does Hank want to do the right thing? How do you know (pg. 20)?
27. Does Mother Duck encourage the ducklings to do a good job? Explain your answer (pg. 20).

28. Why does Mother Duck want her ducklings to hurry (pg. 21)?
29. Who did Hank see in the woods (pgs. 22 - 23)?
30. Who was lurking in the tall grass (pg. 23)?
31. What is Hank anxious to do (pg. 24)?
32. What are the words Hank is using to stay focused (pg.25)?
33. What is Hank's warning to his family (pg. 26)?
34. What did Mother Duck see that helped the duck family escape from Coyote (pg. 27)?
35. How did Hank's family make him feel like a hero (pgs. 28 - 29)?
36. Why is Hank happy to be at the end of the line (pg. 30)?
37. Describe the situations when Hank had his head in the clouds moments (pgs. 7, 10, 15, 22 - 23).
38. Give examples of why Ana was described as alert (pgs. 6, 11, 17).

Answers to the Comprehension Questions

1. The setting at the beginning of the story is the safe, grassy bank of the pond (pg. 4).
2. This is a special day for the duck family because this is the first time the ducklings will be going on an outing away from home (pg. 4).
3. Hank exclaimed, “I want to see everything!” He was looking here, there, and everywhere (pg. 5).
4. His family called him “Head in the Clouds Hank.” (pg. 5).
5. The word, alert, is used to describe Ana (pg. 6).
6. Mother Duck’s command was “All heads looking straight ahead . . . Forward, March! One-two-three-four! One-two-three-four!” (pg. 6).
7. Ana was first in line (pg. 6).
8. Hank tripped when he turned to look back at the pond (pg. 7).
9. First, the duck family went into the garden (pg. 9).
10. The duck family was able to smell the flowers and the fruit. They smelled the daffodils, roses, and strawberries (pgs. 9 - 10).
11. Hank used the words gumball colors to describe the garden. It means he saw the bright colors of gumballs (pg. 10).
12. Hank didn’t hear Ana’s warning, and he slipped on the pile of acorns. This caused the acorns to fly everywhere. One acorn hit Ana smack in the head (pg. 12).
13. I think Hank feels bad because he caused a problem. He is sad because he was moved to fourth in line (pg. 13). *The answers can vary.*
14. After the duck family left the garden, they went to the foot of a hill (pg. 14).
15. The foot of a hill is the bottom of a hill.
16. Hank left the path to find some shade (pg. 14).
17. Hank waved goodbye to the duckling who was fifth in line (pg. 14).
18. Hank could see the pond (pg. 15).

19. While Hank was on the top of the hill, he drifted off into his own dreamland (pg. 15).
20. Hank was the last one to join the group (pg. 16).
21. As the duck family started moving down the hill, Hank didn't hear Ana's warning. He had a head in the clouds moment and tripped on a stone step (pg. 17).
22. Hank feels bad and guilty for causing another problem. With head lowered, he mumbled, "What did I do?" He watched his family brush the dirt from their feathers (pg. 18).
23. Next, the duck family is going to the woods (pg. 19).
24. It seems that the duck family is excited to go to the woods because they were in a hurry to line up. They scrambled to their place in line (pg. 19).
25. As the family continues on their journey, Hank is fifth and last in line (pg. 19).
26. Yes, I think Hank wants to do the right thing. When he saw his brothers and sisters stand at attention, Hank said, "I'm going to stand tall, too." He also said, "And this time, I'm going to keep my eyes on Mother." (pg. 20).
27. Yes, I think Mother Duck encourages the ducklings to do a good job. When Hank was standing at attention, Mother Duck looked directly at him with a twinkle in her eyes. She called, "Great job, everyone!" (pg. 20).
28. Mother Duck wanted her ducklings to hurry because it was getting late, and it was going to be dark soon (pg. 21).
29. He saw the birds, a squirrel, the rabbits, and a coyote (pgs. 22 - 23).
30. Prowling Coyote was lurking in the tall grass (pg. 23).
31. Hank is anxious to get to his family and warn them about Coyote (pg. 24).
32. Hank is using Mother Duck's words, "Look straight ahead! . . . One-two-three-four! Look straight ahead!" (pg. 25).
33. Hank's warning is "Prowling Coyote's on his way!" (pg. 26).
34. Mother Duck saw an opening in a fence (pg. 27).
35. Hank's family cheered. "Head in the Clouds Hank saves the day!" Ana said, "Hank, you are our fearless guard!" (pgs. 28 - 29).

36. I think Hank is happy to be at the end of the line because he was able to protect his family by being at the end of the line. “I’m the defender,” he said. Also, he wants to see everything (pg. 30).
37. These are the situations when Hank had his head in the clouds moments: Hank turned to look back at the pond (pg. 7); he imagined playing in the garden (pg 10); Hank could see the pond in the distance and he drifted off into his own dreamland (pg. 15); Hank wanted to see everything so he stopped and looked here, there, and everywhere (pgs. 22 - 23).
38. Ana was the duckling leader (pg. 6); she warned the ducklings about Chipmunk’s pile of acorns (pg. 11); she alerted the ducklings about the stone steps ahead (pg. 17).