Name _____   Date _____

Walking Tall

One day, Gerald and Jenny Giraffe welcomed a little baby boy into the world. With all of their friends and family around, little Gino opened his eyes for the very first time. From then on, baby Gino was always surrounded by other giraffes who taught him how to walk, talk, and eat. But one day, Gino wandered away from his family and met a family of Kangaroos. When Gino first saw them, he watched them hop around from one place to the next and saw them eating leaves from nearby trees. Gino had never seen animals like this before and he wondered why they did not have brown spots and long necks.

After watching the Kangaroos for a while, Gino decided to talk to them. He saw a little Kangaroo nearby so Gino came out from behind the bush. When the little Kangaroo saw Gino coming, he stopped eating and started laughing at him. "What is wrong with his neck?" the little Kangaroo said to his mother. The little Kangaroo's mother told her son to be quiet and called Gino closer to them. With his head hanging low, Gino walked over to the Kangaroos. The mother Kangaroo explained to both little ones that not everyone is the same; some animals can hop and some animals can reach the leaves at the top of the trees. The mother Kangaroo told both boys that instead of hiding from or laughing at one another, they should become friends with different animals to learn more about them. The two little ones promised to never laugh at animals who are different from them and they remained friends for the rest of their lives.

1. Look at the first paragraph. How does Gino feel about being a giraffe? Circle your answer:

           Happy   Sad   Angry

2. What two things make Gino different from the kangaroos? _____

  _____

  Underline the words that make you think so.

3. What kind of animal did Gino see in the second paragraph? _____

  _____

4. Why did the little Kangaroo laugh when he saw Gino for the first time? _____

  _____

5. Based on what you know about Gino, would he be a good friend? _____

  Explain: _____

  _____