Anthony dragged his feet as he followed behind his mother. He’d wanted to go over to Neal’s house. But, no. His mother had made him come along with her to the zoo to help with his sisters.

“Anthony,” his mother called, “Come here and take the twins’ hands. I’m going to go get our lunches.”

Anthony took Jayla and Maya’s hands, sighing. The two were chattering about swimming doggies.

Anthony looked as Maya pulled on his arm and pointed. She was gesturing toward a glass enclosure filled with water and sleek, brown, furry swimming animals.

“Those aren’t doggies,” he said. “Those are otters.”

Jayla didn’t care. She pulled her hand from his and trotted down the path. Maya chased after her. Anthony followed the twins.

Jayla had her hands pressed against the glass. She was laughing. Maya was doing the same. Her breath made little clouds of fog on the glass. The girls were giggling.

Boring! Anthony yawned. Out of the corner of his eye he saw a brown blur shoot past. An otter was racing through the water, a second otter on his tail. The two dove into the water and swam circles through the pool before climbing out. Next, they raced across the rocks, and then jumped in again. They looked like they were playing tag. Anthony laughed.

Two otters were locked together in a rolling, playful fight. The two held on to one another as they splashed around in the water. Anthony smiled. They appeared to be hugging each other.
Another, smaller otter floated on the surface of the water. He held a bright orange ball in his paws. He rolled over, dove and swam up to the glass. He *resurfaced*, rolling on his back again, showing off. The otter floated next to the glass, his whiskers twitching as he looked right back at Anthony.

Then, suddenly one of the other otters swam up from under the floating otter and knocked the orange ball away. The floating otter looked surprised. “Sneak attack,” Anthony whispered. He laughed out loud. He’d seen that move many times at his own house. The otters acted just like his two sisters.
Use the story *Sneak Attack* to answer these questions.

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| **1.** Why do the twins pull away and run from Anthony?  
Be sure to look back in the text for explicit and implicit evidence to support your thinking. |   |
| **2.** Characters often experience change in stories.  
How does Anthony change in the story? |   |
| **3.** Read the underlined phrases in the passage.  
What is the meaning of these phrases? How does the author help the reader determine the meaning? |   |
| **4.** Summarize the story.  
Include the main points, but leave out unnecessary information. |   |
| **5.** What does Anthony mean when he says, “Sneak attack?” Why does this make him laugh?  
Be sure to look back in the text for explicit and implicit evidence to support your thinking. |   |

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- At the beginning of the story, Anthony does not want to be at the zoo. **Where did he want to be? What plans might he have had?**
- The author uses specific words to tell the reader how Anthony feels at the beginning of the story. **What words does the author use? What do they tell us about Anthony?**
- In the story, Anthony changes his opinion about the zoo. **How might he react next time Mom asks him to accompany her to the zoo with the twins?**