**Maxx the Funniest Kid in America**

1. **What is a fiction?**
2. **What is a realistic fiction?**
3. **What does Maxx want?**
4. **How can he get what he wants?**
5. **What is the setting at the beginning of the story?**
6. **Why is the setting important?**
7. **Why does the author have Dr. Carmody mention how long it will take a mechanic to fix the car?**
8. **What happens that hurts Maxx’s chances of getting what he wants?**
9. **Why was Maxx embarrassed after he cheered for Mario?**
10. **Why does Maxx have reason to feel helpful instead of discouraged?**
11. **Why do Maxx and Maude ride in the back of the big rig?**
12. **Why is Maxx impatient in the back of the big rig?**
13. **How do you expect Maud’s allergic reaction to affect Maxx’s**

 **problem?**

1. **Why does Mario need to know if the refrigerator fails?**
2. **Why is Mario so sure that the cherries will not spoil?**
3. **Why does Maxx feel conflicted as soon as he arrives at the Balsam Auditorium?**
4. **Has Maxx’s conflict been solved? Why?**
5. **Why is Maxx frustrated with Maude?**
6. **After Maxx’s video is announced on TV how would you think his conflict might be resolved?**
7. **Why does Maxx feel that people are laughing at him not with him?**
8. **How is Maxx conflict resolved?**

**Are You Laughing At Me?**

1. **What is a personal narrative?**
2. **How does Michael Witzer get ideas for his comedy acts?**
3. **Why does Michael Witzer suggest involving the audience and starting jokes with something believable?**
4. **What does Michael Witzer mean when he says “as long as he has a microphone in his hand and hears laughs, it feels like home”?**
5. **Why does Michael Witzer compare stand-up comedy to taking a test?**
6. **How would you think Maxx Carmody and Michael Witzer would get along? Why?**
7. **How might Maxx’s experiences help you see the bright side of a difficult situation in your own life?**
8. **How is Michael Witzer like Maxx Carmody?**
9. **What advice would you give to people who face setbacks on the path to reaching their dreams?**