

Thermometers

Story By: Have Fun Teaching



Harold was at the doctor's office. He wasn't feeling well. In fact, he had a fever. When the nurse came in, they checked his height and weight. Then they checked his temperature.

The thing was, this thermometer the nurse used was very different from the one his mom used at home. His mom used a white plastic one with a silver tip. He put the tip under his tongue and sat around until it beeped. Then he read the digital display to see his temperature. This one was different.

The nurse took a beige wand style thermometer with what looked like a suction cup at the end and ran it across his forehead. It beeped and showed the temperature in just a second or two.

"Wow!" Harold exclaimed. "That's cool, because it's so fast."

The nurse grinned at him. "Yup, it's quick and painless." She agreed, frowning at the reading of 102.9 degrees.

Harold was suddenly curious. "Are there any other kinds of thermometers?"

She nodded sagely. "We used to use the glass ones long ago, but they took a long time under the tongue and could break. Now we mostly use these forehead checking ones. They're fast, but not the most accurate."

"What is the most accurate then?"

"Rectal temperature." She informed him.

"What's that?"

The nurse pointed at his behind. "Most kids and babies don't like that though."

Harold grimaced. "Oh. Yeah. What else?"

"We can test with an ear thermometer, or there's one that goes in your armpit, too."

"Gross." Harold didn't like the idea of them putting some device in his armpit. The ear didn't sound bad though.

She shrugged. "It's just measuring body heat. That's all any of them do."

"I think I'll stick with the forehead one. It didn't hurt, it wasn't uncomfortable, and it wasn't weird."

The nurse nodded. "I like it, too."

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Where is Harold?
 - A. at the doctor's
 - B. at the school nurse's office
 - C. at a dentist
 - D. dreaming

2. What does Harold take a sudden interest in?
 - A. stethoscopes
 - B. needles
 - C. bandages
 - D. thermometers

3. What was Harold's temperature?
 - A. 102.6
 - B. 106.2
 - C. 101.8
 - D. 102.9

4. What did the nurse say was the most accurate type of temperature reading?
 - A. rectal
 - B. forehead
 - C. armpit
 - D. under the tongue

5. Which type of thermometer does Harold like best?
 - A. rectal
 - B. forehead
 - C. armpit
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