NAME: _____ DATE: _____

The Mystery of the Missing Bell

It was Christmas Eve at the North Pole, and Santa's workshop was buzzing with excitement.
Elves were wrapping colorful packages, placing bright red bows on boxes, and loading toys into Santa's shiny red sleigh.

Pip, a cheerful little elf in a green hat, had one special job every year.
He was responsible for polishing the silver jingle bells that attached to the reindeer harnesses.
The bells were not just for decoration—their cheerful ringing helped guide Dasher, Dancer, and the rest of the team through foggy winter skies.

Pip was working quickly when he suddenly stopped. He counted the silver bells on his workbench:
one, two, three, four, five, six, seven...

"Oh no!" Pip gasped. "There are only seven bells! There should be eight!"

Pip looked under his workbench. He searched inside the scrap box. He even checked behind the big pile of wrapping paper, but the eighth bell was nowhere to be found. Santa's sleigh was scheduled to depart in less than thirty minutes!

Just as Pip began to panic, he heard a soft clink-clink coming from near the fireplace. He tiptoed over and peeped around the brick corner. There sat Barnaby, Santa's fluffy white workshop cat, gently batting a shiny silver bell across the rug like a toy.

"Barnaby!" Pip giggled with relief.

Pip gently retrieved the bell, gave Barnaby a warm scratch behind the ears, and tied the final bell securely onto Rudolph's harness. As Santa took off into the starry night sky, the eight silver bells chimed together in perfect harmony.

Answer the questions below using full sentences.

1. What is Pip's special job at the North Pole every Christmas Eve? _____
2. Why are the silver bells important to Santa's journey? _____
3. Where did Pip finally find the missing bell, and who had it? _____
4. How did Pip solve his problem when he found the bell? _____