

Read this poem about climbing trees and answer the questions that follow.

## Every Time I Climb a Tree

*by David McCord*

Every time I climb a tree  
Every time I climb a tree  
Every time I climb a tree  
I scrape a leg  
Or skin a knee  
And every time I climb a tree  
I find some ants  
Or dodge a bee  
And get the ants  
All over me

And every time I climb a tree  
Where have you been?  
They say to me  
2 But don't they know that I am free  
Every time I climb a tree?  
I like it best  
To spot a nest  
That has an egg  
Or maybe three

And then I skin  
The other leg  
But every time I climb a tree  
I see a lot of things to see  
Swallows rooftops and TV  
And all the fields and farms there be  
Every time I climb a tree  
Though climbing may be good for ants  
It isn't awfully good for pants  
But still it's pretty good for me  
Every time I climb a tree

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1. In the poem, what is the **main** purpose in repeating the line, “Every time I climb a tree”?
    - A to show that the trees are tall
    - B to show that the speaker climbs a lot of trees
    - C to describe how the speaker climbs to the top
    - D to explain how the speaker tears his pants
  2. Why might the speaker feel “free” when climbing trees?
    - A The speaker feels like an ant in a tree.
    - B The speaker can see nests and birds.
    - C Treetops are above the rooftops.
    - D Nothing stops the speaker from seeing many things.
  3. In stanza 2, who **most likely** says, “Where have you been?”
    - A the bees and the ants
    - B the speaker’s teachers
    - C people who want to climb the tree also
    - D people who do not understand about climbing trees
  4. In stanza 3, what is meant by “But still it’s pretty good for me”?
    - A All the things the speaker sees are worth the scrapes and tears.
    - B Every time the speaker climbs a tree, people ask where he has been.
    - C The speaker scrapes his legs when he climbs trees.
    - D When the speaker climbs trees, he sees ants and bees.
  5. In stanza 3, what is shown by the statement “And then I skin / The other leg”?
    - A It is fun to climb trees.
    - B Climbing trees is good for ants.
    - C A person can get hurt climbing trees.
    - D A person can see a long way from the top of a tree.
- End of Set**
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*Answers to*  
*Grade 3 Reading Comprehension Sample Items*

<b>Selection Title</b>	<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Thinking Skill</b>	<b>Objective Number</b>
Every Time I Climb a Tree	1	B	Critical Stance	Analyzing	2.04
Every Time I Climb a Tree	2	D	Interpretation	Analyzing	3.01
Every Time I Climb a Tree	3	D	Interpretation	Generating	2.05
Every Time I Climb a Tree	4	A	Interpretation	Analyzing	3.01
Every Time I Climb a Tree	5	C	Interpretation	Analyzing	3.01