

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Ants and the Grasshopper

Based on a fable by Aesop

There once was a grasshopper who sang and fiddled all through the summer months. His industrious neighbors, the ants, lived very differently. They worked all day and only stopped at night to rest.

"Quit your laboring. Join me in singing and dancing," the grasshopper often suggested.

"Stop your fooling around. Get ready for the winter," the ants often answered.

Soon summer gave way to winter, as it always does.

The ants nestled in their cozy holes with plenty of food. The poor grasshopper, however, was cold and starving.

"Please, let me come in and share your food," the grasshopper begged outside the ants' nest.

The ants were not sympathetic. "You fiddled and sang throughout the summer while we worked. Now you must live with the results of your decision."

1

A

B

C

D

2

F

G

H

J

3

A

B

C

D

4

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Blooper

"You're up, Mark. We need a big one," Coach Farley said.

The coach smiled, but Mark knew he was worried. It was the ninth inning and their team was behind by one run and down to their last out. To make matters worse, Mark was having a terrible day. He had struck out twice, hit three flies that were caught, and been thrown out at first base.

The first pitch flew over the plate. Mark swung and missed. The next pitch was too low and the third was too high, two balls and one strike. On the fourth pitch, Mark hit the ball hard. It went flying along the first base line and foul, two balls and two strikes.

The next pitch was low, but Mark went for it anyway. He chipped the top of the ball, and it dribbled a few yards in front of him. As Mark ran toward first base, the pitcher and catcher both raced for the ball and crashed. By the time the shortstop reached the ball, Mark was halfway to first base and their team's other runner was racing to third. The shortstop threw to first, hoping for a last out, but the first baseman missed the ball. The ball zipped past Mark. Better yet, the runner scored, and Mark was safe at first.

Now the game was tied, and Mark's team had their best hitter up at bat.

Answer the questions below.

1 Why was Coach Farley worried?

- A** Mark had swung and missed.
- B** Mark was the last player of the inning.
- C** The team was behind in the last inning.
- D** The team had not played well up to then.

2 Why didn't the catcher get the ball Mark chipped?

- F** Mark was already halfway to first base.
- G** He ran into the pitcher.
- H** The ball flew along the first base line.
- J** The pitch was low.

3 Why was Mark safe at first base?

- A** The first baseman missed the ball.
- B** The shortstop threw to first.
- C** His team's runner scored.
- D** Mark chipped the top of the ball.

4 Why do you think the pitcher and catcher crashed into each other?

5 Did Mark's team have a chance of winning the game? Explain.

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Swim Meet

Tina put on her bathing cap and grabbed her towel. The swim practice was about to begin. Tina got to the pool before everybody. The coach wasn't even there yet.

Coach Rice arrived a few minutes later. She smiled at Tina and said, "You've been working really hard for the meet tomorrow. I wish everybody tried so hard."

The next day, Tina was worried. She had to swim in two relay races, and she was the slowest swimmer on the relay team.

Finally, it was time for the first relay race, so Tina sat with the relay team near the pool. The first two racers did well, and now it was Tina's turn. She got in the water and pushed off. She kept telling herself that everybody was counting on her.

When Tina finished, her teammates were all cheering. "You have really improved," Coach Rice said.

Answer the questions below.

1 What sentence best describes the way Tina felt about the swim meet?

- A** She was sure she could help her team win.
B She was worried but determined to do her best.
C She knew she should not be worried about the race.
D She wanted to make the coach proud.

2 What detail from the story supports the conclusion that Tina's team won?

- F** It was time for the first relay race.
G Tina got to the pool before everyone else.
H Tina told herself everyone was counting on her.
J Tina's teammates were all cheering.

3 When and where does this story take place?

- A** on one day in Tina's school
B on a Saturday at a playground
C on two days at a swimming pool
D during the summer at a camp

4 Do you think Tina was still the slowest swimmer on the team? Explain your answer.

[illegible]

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

Maria's Saturday

"Please clean up that table for me, honey," Maria's mother said.

Some ladies were just leaving a table at Sunshine Bakery. Maria got off her stool and cleared the dishes from the empty table. She took them to the kitchen, then returned to sponge off the table.

When Maria sat down on her stool again, her mother said, "Thank you so much, honey, for being such a big help."

Maria spent most Saturdays at the family bakery. Saturdays were their busiest days, when the bakery was packed with customers. Maria's mother worked the counter with Maria's older sister. Her father baked bread and pastries all day while Maria cleared tables and brought in fresh bread from the kitchen.

The smell of fresh bread filled the bakery. Maria thought her dad's bread was the best in the world. They played jazzy music all day. No wonder people always smiled when they came into Sunshine Bakery.

Maria was shocked when her mom said that it was time to close. Maria hadn't been paying attention to the clock, and she had thought that it was much earlier in the day.

Maria locked the door, and a few minutes later, her father took out a huge pizza from the oven and set it down on one of the tables. The whole family crowded around the pizza to eat their dinner together.

Answer the questions below.

1 How did Maria feel about working at the bakery on Saturdays?

- A** She would have liked it more if it were less busy.
- B** She liked helping her father bake bread.
- C** She would rather be with her friends.
- D** She enjoyed being at the bakery.

2 How did Maria probably feel at the end of the day?

- F** tired but happy
- G** sleepy and sad
- H** bored and tired
- J** angry but excited

3 The events in the story last

- A** a few minutes.
- B** a couple of hours.
- C** from morning to evening.
- D** from Saturday to Sunday.

4 Why do you think time passed so quickly for Maria?

5 Why do you think the customers smiled when they came into Sunshine Bakery?

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

Vet on Wheels

Jo Barns has six cats and two dogs. She used to dread their yearly visit to the vet. Now, she just makes one phone call.

"I call Vet on Wheels," she says, "and they send out a vet who sees all my pets in one hour."

Mike Roper has just one cat, but it's a fussy Siamese. Mike hated to take her to the vet because she yowled the whole time. Now he too calls Vet on Wheels. "What a relief," he says.

Vet on Wheels is the brainchild of Liz Wells, who has been a vet in Wayford, Maine, for the last twenty years. People used to joke that she should make house calls. Then one day she took the idea seriously. "I thought, yes, I should make house calls. It makes people's lives easier, and it's good for their pets."

Answer the questions below.

- 1** How did the Vet on Wheels customers probably feel about Liz Wells?
- A** angry
 - B** fearful
 - C** thankful
 - D** worried
- 2** Why do you think Jo Barns used to dread going to the vet?
- F** Her animals didn't like to go.
 - G** She had so many animals.
 - H** The vet was so far away.
 - J** It meant that the animals were sick.
- 3** What is one reason Vet on Wheels is better for pets than going to a vet?
- A** They eat better at home than at a vet's.
 - B** They don't have to see a vet so often.
 - C** They see a vet who takes care of them.
 - D** They aren't frightened by a strange place.
- 4** How was Jo Barns's life different after she started calling Vet on Wheels?

[illegible]

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Big-Ring Circus

Nan's Journal

Saturday, May 5, 2005

Dad took Jesse and me to the Big-Ring Circus this afternoon. The gigantic tent was packed with happy kids and parents, from the floor to the top of the tent. We were all having a great time.

Soon the overhead lights dimmed, the band started playing, and the spotlights turned on the circus parade. Riders on horses, elephants, and camels led the way. Dancers and tumblers came next, followed by the hilarious clowns.

After that, two clowns stayed in the big ring. One clown kept falling down and losing things. First he lost his hat, then his coat, and finally his shoes. The other clown kept taking things out of his hat. He filled a giant bag with the things he pulled from his hat. Then the first clown made a mess looking for his lost clothes in that huge bag. I couldn't stop laughing the whole time, and neither could anybody else.

My favorite part was watching the acrobats. They climbed ladders almost to the top of the tent. Then they started jumping from bar to bar. They swung upside down like monkeys in a jungle. They did somersaults in the air. It looked like they were flying. They also did tricks together. One acrobat would jump and another would catch her. I kept thinking somebody would fall, but they never did.

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 Which words best describe the circus as Nan saw it?

- A** small, loud, exciting, and funny
- B** big, crowded, noisy, and exciting
- C** silly, loud, strange, and sad
- D** quiet, funny, crowded, and dangerous

2 Why did the lights dim and the band start playing?

- F** The show was starting.
- G** The clowns were coming on stage.
- H** The acrobats were about to start their act.
- J** The animals were in the ring.

3 How did Nan feel about the acrobats?

- A** They should have been more careful.
- B** They were very funny.
- C** Their act was exciting.
- D** They were afraid of falling.

4 How were the two clowns different?

5 Do you think Nan would tell her friends to go to the circus? Explain your answer.

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

Why I Love Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the very best day of the fall season. This national holiday falls on the fourth Thursday in November. It is a day to remember the first Americans. Banks, post offices, and most stores close for Thanksgiving Day. Schools close for the long weekend.

American families get together for a big meal. This time of being together means a lot. The centerpiece of most Thanksgiving dinners is the turkey. This all-American bird tastes great with stuffing and cranberry sauce. Sweet potatoes and other vegetables add to the feast. And don't forget pumpkin pie for dessert. Nobody leaves the table hungry on Thanksgiving.

Answer the questions below.

- 1** Which sentence from the first paragraph is a statement of opinion?
- A** Thanksgiving is the very best day of the fall season.
 - B** This national holiday falls on the fourth Thursday in November.
 - C** Banks, post offices, and most stores close.
 - D** Schools close for the long weekend.
- 2** Which sentence from the second paragraph is a statement of fact?
- F** The centerpiece of most Thanksgiving dinners is the turkey.
 - G** This all-American bird tastes great with stuffing and cranberry sauce.
 - H** Sweet potatoes and other vegetables add to the feast.
 - J** And don't forget pumpkin pie for dessert.
- 3** What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
- A** American families love a big meal.
 - B** Americans eat too much on Thanksgiving.
 - C** The turkey is the most important Thanksgiving dish.
 - D** American families share a big meal on Thanksgiving.
- 4** Write your opinion about Thanksgiving.

[illegible]

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

Fourth-Grade Sports Survey

Mr. Frank's fourth-grade math class took a survey of students' favorite sports. First they made a list of fifteen sports. Then the students voted for their five favorite sports. The winners were swimming, soccer, baseball, basketball, and football. These five sports were used on the survey. Sailing is a great sport, but it did not make the list. Other popular sports that did not make the cut were skating, kickball, and skiing.

All fourth graders at the Lake Shore School received a survey. There are 224 fourth graders. The students had to pick only their favorite one of the five sports. It was a hard choice. All five sports are lots of fun and exciting.

The survey found that baseball was the favorite sport of most students. In all, 63 of the 224 students picked baseball. The number-two spot went to soccer, with 57 students. Basketball was a close third, with 50 students. Swimming and football each received 27 votes.

The survey results seem strange to me. To my mind, swimming is much more fun than basketball or football. Swimming is also the best way to get exercise. People can swim year-round in an indoor pool. Basketball is the only other sport in the group that can be played year-round in places with cold winters.

What is your favorite sport?

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 Which sentence from the first paragraph is a statement of opinion?

- A** First they made a list of fifteen sports.
- B** Then the students voted for their five favorite sports.
- C** These five sports were used on the survey.
- D** Sailing is a great sport, but it did not make the list.

2 Which sentence from paragraph 2 is a statement of opinion?

- F** All fourth graders at the Lake Shore School received a survey.
- G** There are 224 fourth graders.
- H** The students had to pick only their favorite one of the five sports.
- J** All five sports are lots of fun and exciting.

3 Which sentence from the last two paragraphs is a statement of fact?

- A** The survey results seem strange to me.
- B** To my mind, swimming is much more fun than basketball or football.
- C** Swimming is also the best way to get exercise.
- D** People can swim year-round in an indoor pool.

4 What is your favorite sport? Write an opinion about it.

5 What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

.....