

Question 1

Here is a story about bumblebees. Read the story. Then answer the questions.

The Bumblebee Queen

If you think it is hard being a third-grader, try being a bumblebee queen. A queen bumblebee starts a "bumblebee city," called a colony, every spring. She works alone because the other bees in her family do not live through the cold winter. The queen lives through the winter because she carries eggs. The eggs hatch in the spring. Before winter comes, the queen buries herself in the ground. She stays there until the weather warms up in the spring.

The queen looks for a good place to start a home in the spring. An old bird's nest near the ground is a good spot. After the queen finds a home, she gathers pollen from flowers. She carries the pollen back to her nest. Then she rolls the pollen into small lumps.

Now the queen is ready to start her colony. She lays six to eight eggs on the bed of pollen. The eggs hatch five days later. The baby bees, called larvae, eat the lumps of pollen. It takes the larvae about three weeks to grow and become bees. The queen must gather pollen to feed them. Once the larvae become adults, they are called worker bees. They gather pollen and protect the nest.

The queen's job is not over. She must lay more eggs. There will be at least 20 worker bees in the colony by the middle of the summer. There might be as many as 100 worker bees.

A new queen will be born at the end of the summer. The new queen has an important job to do. She must find a good spot in the ground to sleep, or hibernate, for the winter. With all the work she must do in the spring, she will need the rest!

This story is **mostly** about how a queen bee

- A rolls pollen
- B builds a colony
- C feeds baby bees
- D finds a place to sleep

Question 2

Here is a story about a girl named Thumbelina. Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Thumbelina

by Hans Christian Andersen

The woman loved flowers. She stooped and kissed the beautiful bud. As her lips touched the petals, they burst open, and oh! wonder of wonders! there, in the very middle of the flower, sat a little child. Such a tiny, pretty little maiden she was.

They called her Thumbelina. That was because she was no bigger than the woman's thumb.

And where do you think she slept? A little walnut shell, lined with blue, that was her cradle.

When she slept, little Thumbelina lay in her cradle on a tiny heap of violets, with the petal of a pale, pink rose to cover her.

And where do you think she played? A table was her playground. On the table the woman placed a plate of water. Little Thumbelina called that her lake.

Around the plate were scented flowers, the blossoms lying on the edge, while the pale, green stalks reached thirstily down to the water.

In the lake floated a large tulip leaf. This was Thumbelina's little boat. Seated there she sailed from side to side of her little lake, rowing cleverly with two, white horse hairs. As she rowed backwards and forwards she sang softly to herself. The woman, listening, thought she had never known so sweet a song.

An excerpt from Childhood's Favorites and Fairy Stories, first published in 1927

Which person is **most likely** telling the story?

- A a woman in the story
- B a gardener in the story
- C someone not in the story
- D Thumbelina, a girl in the story

Question 3

The Moon

Earth's satellite, it orbits every 27 days.
Its phases: full moon, half moon, crescent, new—
Created by the earth's shadow on its surface.
That's what my science book says—
But facts and numbers can't describe

My friend:
The golden face
Who comes to my window in the night
To play a game of hide-and-seek.
Who likes to peek
In and out behind the clouds

He *reveals* himself through the trees
And conceals himself
In the black veil of darkness.
Who watches me sleep
Then goes to bed in the morning.

In the poem, the moon is compared to a _____.

- A black veil
- B golden face
- C dark cloud
- D science book

Question 4

Talking So Much

A little boy, named Tommy, kept getting in trouble for talking too much during class. His teacher said, "Tommy, no good will come from talking so much!"

Tommy went home and asked his father, "Daddy, is there any good in talking a lot?"

His dad replied, "Toads and frogs croak night and day. The crickets chirp all morning, and the owls hoot all night, but no one pays any attention to them. On the other hand, the rooster crows at a certain time each morning and wakes up everyone. This proves that no good is achieved by talking a lot. What is important is to say the right thing at the right time."

How is the rooster different from the other animals mentioned by Tommy's dad?

- A The rooster crows once a day, while the other animals make noise all the time.
- B No one pays attention to the rooster.
- C All the other animals sleep during the day, but the rooster stays awake.
- D The rooster is louder than all the other animals.

Question 5

The Northern Lights

Way up by the North Pole there is a fireworks display. Bright waves of color fill the sky, where they dance and flash, shake and blaze. It happens each evening of the year. It is caused by giant clouds of light that have traveled from the sun to the Earth. When they reach our sky, they move up toward the North Pole. The clouds of light turn bright red, blue, white, yellow, purple, and green. These bright lights are called the Northern Lights and are even brighter than the fireworks on the 4th of July! Sometimes, the Northern Lights can be seen in America. So, if you ever see brilliant waves of color dancing in the evening sky, you'll know you are seeing the Northern Lights.

In this passage, the Northern Lights are compared to
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- A storm clouds
- B fireworks
- C flashlights
- D ocean waves

Question 6

Throw It Away

People throw away tons of garbage every year. This garbage usually goes to a landfill, which is a place where garbage is buried in the ground. Most things in a landfill will break down over time and become part of the earth again. Some items will break down quickly, and others will take many years to break down.

The material that something is made of determines how long it will take to break down. Tin cans may take 100 years to break down, while soft drink cans may take up to 500 years. Glass bottles take more than 500 years – perhaps as long as a million years! No one knows how long it takes plastic bottles to break down. They could last forever. Think about these numbers the next time you throw something away!

Which sentence from the passage supports the idea that plastic bottles are very difficult to break down?

- A "Think about these numbers the next time you throw something away!"
- B "They could last forever."
- C "People throw away tons of garbage every year."
- D "The material that something is made of determines how long it will take to break down."

Question 7

The Gettysburg Address

In 1863, the United States was *divided*. One half was the North and one half was the South. The North and South wanted different things. They went to war. It was known as the Civil War. In July of 1863, the North won a big battle at a place called Gettysburg. Many men lost their lives there. Later that year, President Lincoln went to Gettysburg to give a speech with his friend. They went to honor the soldiers who had fought and lost their lives. His friend gave the first speech and then President Lincoln spoke. His speech was just four minutes long. In his speech, he said, "All men are created equal."

These words were true and touched everyone's heart.

How do you know people liked Lincoln's speech?

- A Their hearts were touched.
- B They won the big battle.
- C Their country was divided.
- D They honored the soldiers.

Questions 8 and 9

Carly's Pet

One day Carly's grandmother came to visit.

"Why do you look so sad, Carly?" she asked.

"We live in an apartment and can't have pets!" Carly explained.

"Pets don't have to be animals," Grandma said. "Pets are living things that we care about. They are like favorite friends."

Then Grandma thought for a moment. "I think you need a pet that grows up," she finally said.

The next day Grandma arrived with a large bag.

Carefully, she took out a potato and placed it on the table. "Meet your new pet," she said, her eyes sparkling like diamonds. She pointed to little bumps on the potato. "It already has sprouts and is trying to grow. Let's put the bottom part in water, so it has something to drink. Soon you'll have a lovely pet potato!"

8. In the story, pets are being compared to _____.

- A potatoes
- B animals
- C friends
- D family

9. In the story, Grandma's eyes are being compared to _____.

- A the stars
- B shiny jewels
- C bright lights
- D potato sprouts

Question 10

The Farmers' Market

The farmers' market is a colorful place.

Each family farm has its own space.

There are summer tomatoes in yellows and reds,

And lots of green lettuce in bunches and heads.

I love the summer market, but most of all

I love the market in the fall.

Baskets of red apples, bales of yellow hay,

Golden pears to taste on a little tray.

Pumpkins bright like orange moons,

White and green gourds shaped liked spoons.

Everyone there has a smiling face.

The farmers' market is a wonderful place!

In the poem, pumpkins are compared to _____.

A spoons

B bales

C apples

D moons