

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

The Early Birds

"The sun has not even risen yet!" Maria whined. "We have never ever left the house this early before!" 1

"She is actually right," Maria's mother told her father, in a voice that was more calm. "Usually we arrive at 2 the market around eight o'clock on a Saturday. That's over two hours from now."

He just smiled. "Just trust me; we are going to do things a little differently today. But we will all be glad we 3 did."

Mrs. Vasquez had started a small organic farm near the family's house shortly after Maria was born. As 4 soon as Maria learned to walk, her mother began teaching her how to grow vegetables so that she could help on the farm. Farming had not become a chore, but rather something Maria loved to do. And ever since, the farm had grown a little bit every year. This year was different, as the farm had become so successful that Maria's father decided to leave his job and work on the farm as well.

For the most part, Maria liked having her father on the farm. He knew a lot about growing vegetables 5 himself. He had convinced her mother to make some big changes to things like their weekly visit to the farmers' market where they sold their vegetables. Maria and her mother usually arrived when most of the other sellers did. Her father thought it would be a good idea to get there before anyone else.

"The weekends are the only times I have to relax," Maria said. "During the week I wake up early to catch 6 the bus, but on Saturdays I can sleep a little later. Everyone needs a break every once in a while. Is it really necessary for us to be here so soon?"

"It is if we are going to sell all of our vegetables, and since I have been at home to help with the harvest we 7 have far more today than your mother usually brings."

"There's no way that we're going to sell all of our vegetables—we have a whole truckload!" Maria was 8 shocked that her father would even think such a thing. On a normal Saturday, she and her mother would be lucky to sell half of what they brought.

"Joe, I've already promised Mrs. Kirkland that I would give her our extra tomatoes from this week," Mrs. 9 Vasquez said to her husband. "I was also planning on canning the cucumbers we have left."

"You will just have to grow some more tomatoes for Mrs. Kirkland, because we are going to sell all of 10 these," he replied. As they opened the back of the truck to unload the vegetables, Maria's father looked at her and smiled. "I really appreciate it that you woke up so early, so I will make you a deal. If we sell all of our vegetables, I will buy you a new dress."

Maria thought that her father's offer was very nice, but it did not make her as happy as it should have. She 11 was certain that they would not sell all of their vegetables.

The family carried their baskets of vegetables to their regular booth. The sun was beginning to rise, and 12 only a few sellers were already there. By eight o'clock the market would be bustling, but at the moment it was nearly silent.

"What are you selling?" A man with a large cart approached their table. "These are beautiful vegetables. 13 Are they organic?"

"Yes sir," Maria told him. "My parents and I grow them on our organic farm." 14

"Well, I own a restaurant downtown where we sell hundreds of salads a week! Since I need so many 15 vegetables, I always get to the market early in the morning and I buy the best I can find before they are gone. Today I'm going to need about twenty pounds of tomatoes."

Maria and her mother both gasped. No one had ever bought that many before! "These will make great 16 salads," he smiled. "I hope to see you next week!"

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "The Early Birds".

Mr. Vasquez had been right. Every customer who came to their table bought huge amounts of vegetables. 17
 By eight o'clock, when the other vendors were just getting set up, they had already sold out of theirs!

"It looks like we can take the rest of the day off," Maria's father said happily. "Maria, if you want to, maybe 18
 you and your mother can go shopping. You can pick out any dress that you like!"

1 What conclusion can be drawn about how Maria's opinion changes in the text?

- A. At the beginning of the text, Maria is irritated that she has to spend all day at the farmer's market, but at the end of the text, she is having so much fun, she is disappointed that they have to leave because they sold out.
- B. At the beginning of the text, Maria is upset that she has to leave early for the farmer's market, but at the end of the text, she is glad she came because she is rewarded with a new dress as a reward for selling all their produce.
- C. At the beginning of the text, Maria is excited like she normally is to go to the farmer's market, but as the day wears on, she grows very tired, so by the end of the text, she is just glad to have sold out so they could leave.
- D. At the beginning of the text, Maria is looking forward to getting a new dress as a reward for selling out of produce, but at the end of the text, she is disappointed because they did not reach their goal of selling out.

2 Which of these conclusions about Maria's point of view is supported by the passage?

- A. Maria did not think it was worth it to arrive at the market so early.
- B. Maria felt confident that her family would sell out of their truckload of vegetables.
- C. Maria did not like helping out on the farm.
- D. Maria thinks organic vegetables taste better in salads.

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 Web Only Interaction

4 What does the use of dialogue show about the relationship between Maria and her father?

- A. Maria does not always agree with her father's decisions.
- B. Maria's father does not care what Maria thinks or believes.
- C. Maria is not as trusting of her father as she is of her mother.
- D. Maria is afraid to hurt her father's feelings by disagreeing with him.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Grandma's Summer Visits

Grandma lived in a town that was 60 miles away. It was about a one-hour drive from our house. I always loved when she came to visit. It was a special treat. She only came to stay once a year, but she would stay for the whole week.

Grandma usually visited us in the summertime. She and I would sleep in late. Then we would get up and watch game shows on TV. I would eat cold cereal, but Grandma would eat hot oatmeal.

During her visits, our routine was pretty much the same. She would drive me to swim practice at 11 a.m. in her big blue car. I nicknamed it "Beast." She did not mind the teasing, or the fact that the car was very old. Grandma appreciated her mode of transportation. Grandma would always cheer me on at practice. It was fantastic having a fan at practice. I always swam extra hard when I knew she was watching.

After practice, Grandma would make me a sandwich for lunch. Then we would spend all afternoon playing board games. She was the only one I knew who loved board games as much as I did. I could count on her to play Yahtzee, Scrabble, and Animal Rummy.

The best thing about Grandma was her wonderful sense of humor. We laughed a lot as we played games. Grandma liked to win, but sometimes we would tie a game. Then, Grandma would say, "Good, then we can remain friends."

Every afternoon, she drank tea with honey, and I drank milk. Then, we would both take a nap. Grandma snored like a grizzly bear, but I did not mind. I knew she was resting up so we could play more games in the evening.

At least once in the week, Mom would let her cook dinner for us. Grandma always chose to make salmon soufflé and creamed corn. I am not sure what salmon soufflé is exactly, but it has always been one of my favorites. After dinner, I would compliment Grandma on her good cooking. She would never take credit for her work. She would reply, "It was nothing," or, "Your mom did more work than I did." Grandma was consistently modest, sometimes to a fault.

At the end of every visit, I would beg Grandma to stay longer. She always thought she would eventually get in our way or we would get tired of her. She would say, "I don't want to overextend my stay."

I do not think Grandma ever knew how much I enjoyed her visits. I know that she was eager to go back to her home at the end of the week. After each of her visits, I always started counting the days until the next summer when she would visit again.



Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Grandma's Summer Visits".

- 5 At the end of the passage, the author wants Grandma to
- A. go home.
 - B. give her money.
 - C. play board games.
 - D. stay longer.
- 6 Which BEST explains why the author enjoys Grandma's visits?
- A. Grandma spends time with her all day.
 - B. Grandma drives her to swim practice.
 - C. Grandma gives her money.
 - D. Grandma cooks salmon soufflé for dinner.
- 7 Why does the narrator tell about Grandma's cooking salmon soufflé ?
- A. to explain that she does not like salmon
 - B. to describe she does not want Grandma to leave
 - C. to explain that Grandma is capable of cooking
 - D. to describe how Grandma is modest
- 8 How are the narrator and Grandma ALIKE?
- A. they both drink tea
 - B. they both like to swim
 - C. they both play board games
 - D. they both snore
- 9 How does the narrator feel when Grandma leaves?
- A. tired because they were busy all week
 - B. anxious for Grandma to come again
 - C. happy that she can play with her friends
 - D. angry that Grandma left

- 10 What does the word consistently mean as it is used this sentence from the passage?
- Grandma was consistently modest, sometimes to a fault.
- A. almost always
 - B. increasingly
 - C. never
 - D. courteously
- 11 What is the BEST meaning of modest as it is used in this sentence from the passage?
- Grandma was consistently modest, sometimes to a fault.
- A. simple
 - B. argumentative
 - C. embarrassed
 - D. humble
- 12 Read this sentence from "Grandma's Summer Visits."
- Grandma was consistently modest, sometimes to a fault.
- Which word is a *synonym* for consistently?
- A. repeatedly
 - B. increasingly
 - C. carefully
 - D. courteously
- 13 Read the line from the passage.
- Grandma snored like a grizzly bear, but I did not mind.
- What does the underlined phrase suggest about Grandma?
- A. Grandma was selfish.
 - B. Grandma snored loudly.
 - C. Grandma looked huge.
 - D. Grandma was strong.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Grandma's Summer Visits".

14 Read the excerpt from the passage.

After dinner, I would compliment Grandma on her good cooking. She would never take credit for her work. She would reply, "It was nothing," or, "Your mom did more work than I did." Grandma was consistently modest, sometimes to a fault.

At the end of every visit, I would beg Grandma to stay longer. She always thought she would eventually get in our way or we would get tired of her. She would say, "I don't want to overextend my stay."

What phrase signals the point of view from which the story is told?

- A. After dinner, I would compliment Grandma on her good cooking.
- B. "Your mom did more work than I did."
- C. "I don't want to overextend my stay."
- D. Grandma was consistently modest, sometimes to a fault.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

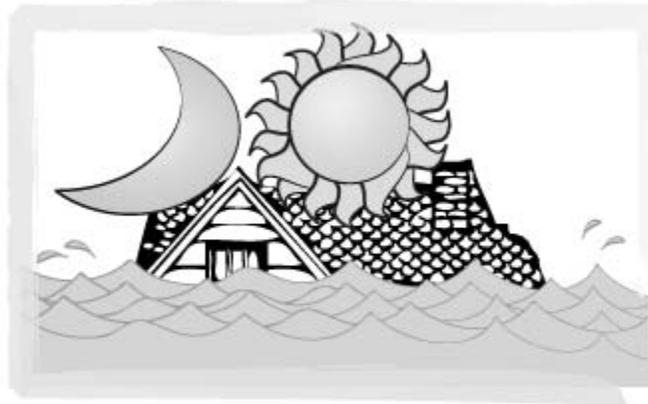
Why the Moon Chases the Sun



In my family, I was the only girl. I had four brothers. My youngest brother was my favorite, and the two of us ¹ were always together. My other brothers worked hard, but the youngest was lazy and did not wish to work. This annoyed me, so one day, when my little brother refused to work, I made a dish of food to take to the other brothers but not to him. As I was leaving the house, I saw a ladder reaching to the sky. I climbed straight up the ladder. My little brother, his eyes wide with disbelief, raced up the ladder after me. As he grew closer, I floated away in the sky, and he floated away after me. I became the sun and my brother became the moon. To this day, my brother the moon chases me, but he never catches me. Because my brother grows more and more hungry, the moon grows smaller and smaller, until he can no longer be seen. Then I feed him from the dish of food I carry, and the moon grows round again.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Why the Moon Chases the Sun / Why the Sun and the Moon Are in the Sky".

Why the Sun and the Moon Are in the Sky



Years ago, the sun and the water both lived on Earth, and they were excellent friends. The sun often paid 1 visits to the water, but the water never visited the sun. The sun tried not to be bothered by this, but one day he felt he had to ask the reason. The water explained that the sun's house simply wasn't large enough.

"If I came to see you," the water reasoned, "I would take up so much room that I would force you out of 2 your home!"

The sun spoke with his wife, the moon, and they decided to build a very large house so that the water 3 could visit them. When they finished the house, the water came over. He asked if it was safe to enter the house, and the sun called from inside that it was. The water began to flow in, and with it, the fish and other water creatures. The water asked if it should stop coming in, but the sun insisted that it continue. More water flowed into the house, and more sea creatures. Finally, the house filled with water, and the sun and the moon had to sit on their roof. Still the water kept on coming, and the sun and moon had to rise into the sky, where they have been ever since.

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| <p>15 What is a difference between the two texts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. One shows the sun and the moon as being friends, while the other shows them as enemies. B. One is told from the point of view of a character, while the other is told by a third-person narrator. C. One describes a myth, while the other describes events that actually took place. D. One tells of something that happened long ago, while the other tells of something that happened a short while ago. | <p>16 Who is the narrator in "Why the Moon Chases the Sun"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. the older brothers B. the reader of the story C. the sun D. the moon <p>17 For "Why the Moon Chases the Sun," which sentence BEST describes how the narrator feels about her youngest brother?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. She likes him as much as she likes her other brothers. B. She loves him like a parent loves a child. C. She loves him, but she teases him when she is annoyed. D. She likes him, but she does not enjoy spending time with him. |
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Directions: Answer the following question(s).

18 Which sentence uses a simile?

- A. Nicole was not afraid of bugs and insects.
- B. "Nicole, I'm hot," grumbled Jojo.
- C. Nicole bent down gracefully and cut more stalks of English Lavender.
- D. Jojo was lying on the bench looking like a sleeping lizard.

19 What is the *best* way to explain how figurative language is used in the following sentence?

She was lying on the bench looking like a sleeping lizard.

- A. It uses a metaphor to compare the way she was lying on the bench to the way a sleeping lizard looks.
- B. It uses imagery to illustrate what it looked like when she was lying on the bench.
- C. It uses a simile to compare the way she was lying on the bench to the way a sleeping lizard looks.
- D. It uses personification to make the sleeping lizard appear to be human-like.

20 Read the following sentence.

Mollie's smile is a rainbow that brightens her dad's day.

What is the meaning of the metaphor in this sentence?

- A. Mollie's smile is bright like a rainbow and it makes her dad happy.
- B. Mollie smiles at rainbows.
- C. Mollie's dad saw a rainbow and it brightened his day.
- D. Mollie likes bright rainbows.