Language Arts – Reading Comprehension

The Friendship: An African Folktale

Eagle and Tortoise rarely saw each other because Eagle was usually soaring the skies while Tortoise was shuffling along on Earth. But Eagle had heard how hospitable Tortoise was, so one day he went to befriend him.

Tortoise was undaunted by Eagle's fierce looks—nothing scared Tortoise—and he was friendly as always. Yet when Eagle flew off, he mocked Tortoise.

"Tortoise feeds me," he said, "but he'll never reach my treetop home for me to feed him, ha ha!"

Tortoise's friend Frog overheard Eagle and told Tortoise about Eagle's mockery.

"Tell Eagle to bring a gourd you'll fill with food," recommended Frog, "and sneak inside it."

Eagle was happy to deliver a gourd, and after he departed, Tortoise crawled inside. When Eagle returned, Tortoise's wife told him Tortoise had filled the gourd with food to take home.

Eagle flew away thinking, Now Tortoise gives me extra food, and I'll still never feed him!

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When Eagle opened the gourd, Tortoise popped out.

"It's my turn to enjoy your hospitality," he said.

Eagle was infuriated and tried to peck Tortoise, but he just scuffed his beak on Tortoise's shell.

"Both friends give in a friendship," Tortoise said, "and ours is over!"

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. Why do Eagle and Tortoise rarely see each other?
   - Ⓐ Tortoise is too busy hosting other animals at his home.
   - Ⓑ Eagle scares Tortoise, so Tortoise stays far away from him.
   - Ⓒ Both animals have trouble seeing.
   - Ⓓ The two animals spend most of their time in different places.

2. How does Tortoise hear that Eagle is mocking him?
   - Ⓐ He hears it from his friend.
   - Ⓑ He hears it from his wife.
   - Ⓒ He hears Eagle while hiding in a gourd.
   - Ⓓ He hears Eagle talking too loudly.

3. Read the example sentence: *"It's my turn to enjoy your **hospitality**," Tortoise said.* What does the word **hospitality** mean?
   - Ⓐ the healthy food given at dinner time
   - Ⓑ the friendly, welcoming treatment of guests
   - Ⓒ the protection from enemies
   - Ⓓ the gifts used to surprise others

4. Why is Eagle happy to deliver a gourd to Tortoise?
   - Ⓐ Eagle has too many gourds and is glad to get rid of one.
   - Ⓑ Eagle is glad he could give Tortoise something to repay his kindness.
   - Ⓒ Eagle is glad that Tortoise is going to fill the gourd with more food.
   - Ⓓ Eagle wants to be part of Tortoise's sneaky plan and is happy to provide the gourd.

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5. What is the lesson that the story teaches?

Ⓐ It is more useful to have tough friends than overly kind friends.

Ⓑ It is better to have one good friend than many poor friends.

Ⓒ For a friendship to work, both friends need to help each other.

Ⓓ Friendships should not depend on gifts.

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