

HFW - READING - STARTER UNIT

The twelve months

An **awful** woman lived with her daughter and stepdaughter in her **household**. She **possessed** feelings of hate for her stepdaughter, Anna. Anna worked while her stepsister did nothing. On a cold January night, Anna's stepmother remarked. "Your stepsister desires flowers. Go and find some".

Anna wasn't anxious to walk through the chilled **landscape**. The cold air made her **lungs** burn. She walked at a slow **pace** because of the snow. Soon she saw a group of people. It **consisted** of twelve men. Anna told them about the flowers.

One of the man said they were the twelve months and that they would help Anna. January walked to her and made a **motion** with his hand. The days of the month passed **rapidly** until it was February's turn. February also made the month speed up. Then March made the sun shine and flowers grew in the field.

Anna **loaded** her basket with so many flowers that she could hardly **lift** it. Then, she gave a quick but **polite** "thank you" to the twelve men and returned home. She was **eager** to show her stepmother all the flowers. Back at the house, she **spilled** the flowers onto the table. Then, she told her stepmother about the twelve men. Anna's stepmother and stepsister went to **seek** the twelve months. Their **intent** was to ask for gifts. They looked and looked. They became very lost and never found their way home. Anna lived happily by herself.



READING COMPREHENSION

1. What is the story about?

- A) why a year consists of twelve months.
- B) How a girl made the sun shine in winter.
- C) Why moving at a slow pace is good.
- D) How the months helped a polite girl.

2. Why did Anna need to seek flowers?

- A) Her stepmother remarked that she liked them.
- B) Her awful stepsister desired them for her birthday.
- C) She spilled the ones she already possessed.
- D) She was eager to please her stepmother.

3. In paragraph 4 we can infer that ...

- A) the months rapidly helped Anna load her basket.
- B) Anna asked the months to live in her household.
- C) Anna's awful stepmother and stepsister never found the months.
- D) Anna got lost going across the dark landscape on her way home.

4. According to the passage, all the following are true EXCEPT ...

- A) the cold air hurt Anna's lungs.
- B) Anna's stepmother lifted the basket.
- C) January made a motion to speed up time.
- D) Anna wasn't anxious to go out in the cold, dark night.

5. What was Anna's stepmother and stepsister's intent when they left?

- A) They wanted to find the twelve months to ask them for presents.
- B) They wanted to go to the forest to pick up more flowers.
- C) They wanted to go for a walk.
- D) They had to go out to have dinner with their friends.