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The Grasshopper and the Ant
by ReadWorks

The leaf was heavy. Ant struggled to carry it toward his family's home. From behind him, he heard someone laugh. It was Grasshopper. "It's a beautiful summer day," said Grasshopper. "Why don't you put your work down and play. There will be time later to gather food." "It is a beautiful day," replied Ant. "But if I don't work on warm days, my family will not eat on cold days." So it went, day after day, week after week. Every time Grasshopper saw Ant, he laughed. "Work, work, work! There's more to life than work." Summer came to an end. The nights became cool. Ant kept busy. He wanted to gather as much food as he could before the coming winter. Grasshopper, too, felt the chill of autumn. He began to look around for things to gather. There was not much left. And time was running out. Finally, the snow came. Ant huddled with his family in the warmth of their hill. They ate leaves until they were full. They played games. At night, they slept well. Grasshopper, meanwhile, grew hungry and weak. Moral: It is best to prepare for times of need.

1. What is the theme of the story?

☐ A. There is more to life than work

☐ B. Teasing others is wrong

☐ C. It is important to plan.

☐ D. It is important to have fun.

2. What is the genre of the story?
Shade in the circle to select your answer.

☐A.Mystery ☐B.Fable ☐C.Historical Fiction ☐D.Fairy Tale

3. Choose the sentences that do not support the theme
Shade in the circle to select your answer.

☐ A.The ant is tired of working

☐ B.The grasshopper is hungry in the winter

☐ C. Both the ant and the grasshopper noticed winter is coming

☐ D.The ant played in the summertime

☐ E.The ant wanted to gather as much food as he could before winter

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4. Which two words are synonyms of huddled?
   Shade in the circle to select your answer.

   ☐A.Gathered ☐B.order ☐C.organize ☐D.Cluster

5. Which words are an antonym of struggled?
   Shade in the boxes to select your answer.

Hassle	Surrender	Strain
Success	Grapple	Calm

Three Sons

1. There was once a family of three sons. The boys were not kind to one another. In fact, they fought constantly, each one trying to outdo the others in some sort of sport. For instance, if one boy were building a raft, another had to build a canoe. Then the third had to build an even larger and ner boat. Because each of them worked alone, their work was dicult, and the results were not always worthwhile. Of their three boats, not one was seaworthy. There was little peace in their home.

2. Their father despaired. He feared they would never learn to cooperate. He decided to try to teach them a lesson. He gathered up a cartful of thin reeds and tied them together with strong vines. At dinner, he announced a contest: "Behold this bundle of twigs," he bellowed. "I challenge you to break it in half, for whoever figures out the secret will win a life of rich rewards."

3. The oldest son took the bundle in his calloused hands. He was strong, and he used all of his strength to try to break the reeds, but they would not be broken. Finally he gave up, and his younger brother took on the challenge. He balanced the reeds across the tabletop and used all of his weight to try to snap the bundle, but it did not crack. Finally, he gave up, and the youngest brother took the tightly bound twigs in his hands. He, too, struggled with all of his might to snap the bundle into two pieces, but it would not break.

4. Finally, the father took the bundle from them. He untied the vine that held them together. He then divided the bundle into three equal piles of twigs. "Now break your twigs into two," he said. Each boy, one at a time, did as his father asked. The task was easy. Each bundle broke with hardly any eort. "When you divide your work, it is easy and you can accomplish much," the old man said. And with that, the young men understood that alone each of them was weak. But together, they had great strength.

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6. Which lines best reveal the theme of the story?
Shade in the circle to select your answer.

☐ A.Finally, the father took the bundle from them.

☐ B.Each bundle broke with hardly any effort.

☐ C. "When you divide your work, it is easy and you can accomplish much," the old man said.

☐ D.And with that, the young men understood that alone each of them was weak. But together, they had great strength.

7. Which two paragraphs best show the main conflict?
Shade in the circle to select your answer.

☐A.2 ☐B.1 ☐C.3 ☐D.4

8. What is the theme of the story?
Shade in the circle to select your answer.

☐ A.Is is always best to do work alone

☐ B.Cooperation does not lead to success

☐ C.It is difficult to work together

☐ D. Working together leads to success

9. What is the main conflict of the story?
Shade in the circle to select your answer.

☐ A.The brothers could not break the reeds

☐ B.The brothers fought constantly

☐ C.Their father feared they would never cooperate

☐ D.none of the boats were seaworthy

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10. The resolution of the story occurs when
Shade in the circle to select your answer.

- ☐ A.The brother struggled with all his might to break the bundle
- ☐ B.The three equal piles of twigs were easily broken by the brothers
- ☐ C.The father decided to teach them a lesson
- ☐ D.The third son built a larger boat