

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Big City Fun

by Kelly Hashway

1 As Emily stepped off the train into Penn Station, she looked around at all the people rushing here, there, and everywhere. Emily clutched her older sister's hand and wished she was back home in Pennsylvania. "This way, Em," Diana said, ushering Emily through the crowd and onto the streets of New York City.



2 Emily closed her eyes, trying to block out the city noise and picture her peaceful backyard at home filled with giant trees and the field of lush, green grass. "Open your eyes, silly. You don't want to miss this," Diana said. "Keep up girls," Dad said, taking Mom's hand and leading them down the avenue. Emily peeked out one eye. People were everywhere, and the buildings were huge.

3 "Aren't there any trees around here?" Diana laughed. "I know you like it back home, but look around. The city is awesome. Look at all the stores and the displays." Emily looked up. She was used to billboards back home, but these were colorful and animated.

4 Before she knew it, she was smiling. "Where are we going?" she asked her mom. Her parents had kept the reason for the trip a secret, saying it was a surprise. "You'll see." Her mom smiled back at her. They kept walking, and Emily took in all the sights. Everything seemed bigger here. Taller buildings, more people, brighter signs.

5 Finally, they reached a store and walked inside. "Whoa!" Emily said. She looked around the toy store in amazement. There were rides in the store. And not little ones either. "This is like a toy store and a carnival in one!" Emily and Diana went on every ride, and they even played a giant keyboard on the floor by jumping on the keys. Emily had never had so much fun.

6 By the time they left, it was getting dark. "Let's find a nice place to eat dinner," Dad said. But Emily just stared at the city all lit up like a Christmas tree. "This is incredible." She was still happy she lived in the country, but she knew she wanted to visit the city again very soon.

- 1.) What is the best summary for the story?
 - a.) There are huge buildings and people everywhere in New York City.
 - b.) Although Emily prefers being in the country, she was able to enjoy visiting the city.
 - c.) Emily wanted to go home to Pennsylvania because the city was too crowded.
 - d.) Diana and Emily had fun going on rides and playing in the toy store.
- 2.) Which detail from the story would be best to include in a summary?
 - a.) The billboards in the city were colorful and animated.
 - b.) Going to the toy store was a surprise.
 - c.) The toy store was like a carnival.
 - d.) Emily knew she would want to visit the city again.
- 3.) What is the best summary for paragraphs 1-3?
 - a.) The city scared Emily.
 - b.) The girls could not keep up.
 - c.) Her parents had a secret surprise.
 - d.) Emily wished she was home.

A Sleeping Beast

1 Long ago lived a ruler named Hekla who became so evil that his subjects chased him into the sea. He swam as long as he could, but soon exhaustion overtook him. A whale took pity on the man and carried him on his back. After many days, they arrived at a beautiful island.

2 The people on the island told the weak man that he was fortunate. "We call our home Iceland," they said. "This is a land of ice, but our hearts are warm. We will help you get healthy again." And, that is just what they did.

3 Soon, Hekla was strong enough to explore the island. People accepted him warmly, but the darkness in Hekla's heart had never left. He began demanding that people call him their ruler. He claimed to know what was best for the island.

4 "We do not need a ruler," the people reasoned. "Our only rule is to be kind to each other." Hekla laughed at them. He took half the fish they brought from the sea for himself. He built a prison for anyone who disobeyed him.

5 One day, the people heard a menacing rumble. Suddenly, a mountaintop exploded in fire. A great volcano had erupted! Had Hekla angered the sleeping beast? The people pleaded with him

to show kindness. But Hekla, fearful of the volcano, ran into the sea. Immediately, the volcano became silent.

6 Peace returned, but from then on, the people called the volcano Hekla. It was a reminder of the importance of always showing kindness.

4.) Which sentence best summarizes paragraph 1?

- a.) Hekla did not care for his subjects, and he made them angry.
- b.) After being chased into the sea, an evil ruler was taken to an island by a whale.
- c.) A whale rescued a ruler who had been kind to whales.
- d.) A ruler who could not swim well became too exhausted to continue.

5.) Which detail would be the least important to include in a summary of the passage?

- a.) The people of Iceland named the volcano Helka.
- b.) The people of Iceland's only rule was to be kind.
- c.) Helka was so evil that his subjects chased him into the sea.
- d.) Helka ran into the sea after the volcano erupted and peace returned to the island.