

Read the selection in your Student Edition and choose the best answer to each question.

The Brave Little Toaster

by Cory Doctorow

1 Which sentence best describes Mister Toussaint's conflict?

A Mister Toussaint loses control of his home when his smart appliances take over.
B Mister Toussaint's smart refrigerator disposes of his groceries and orders a new batch of items.
C Mister Toussaint is offered a trick device that interferes with all of the smart appliances in his household.
D Mister Toussaint's grandfather leaves him a "stupid" toaster that cannot integrate with the smart appliances in his home.

2 What conclusion can be drawn about the setting of the story, knowing that it belongs to the science fiction genre?

F The story is set in the United States.
G The story is set in outer space.
H The story is set in the future.
J The story is set in an appliance store.

3 In science fiction, writers explore unexpected possibilities of the past or the future, using known scientific data and theories as well as their imagination. Which **two** details convey that *The Brave Little Toaster* belongs to the science fiction genre?

A Element of time travel
B Advances in technology
C Setting on another planet
D Solving a puzzling situation
E Non-humans with human traits

4 Read the sentence from paragraph 3:

Or, rather, it was almost empty; there was a single pouch of energy drink sitting on a shelf in the back.

What is the most effective way to combine these clauses?

F Or, rather, it was almost empty since there was a single pouch of energy drink sitting on a shelf in the back.
G It was almost empty, so there was a single pouch of energy drink sitting on a shelf in the back.
H Because there was a single pouch of energy drink sitting on a shelf in the back, it was almost empty.
J Or rather, there was a single pouch of energy drink sitting on a shelf in the back although it was almost empty.

5 Read these sentences from paragraph 15.

Mister Toussaint tried the microwave. Even the cleverest squeezy-pouch couldn't survive a good nuking.

Which is the most effective way to combine the two sentences?

- A Mister Toussaint tried the microwave but even the cleverest squeezy-pouch couldn't survive a good nuking.
- B Mister Toussaint tried the microwave, and even the cleverest squeezy-pouch couldn't survive a good nuking.
- C Mister Toussaint tried the microwave yet even the cleverest squeezy-pouch couldn't survive a good nuking.
- D Mister Toussaint tried the microwave, for even the cleverest squeezy-pouch couldn't survive a good nuking.

6 Which **two** quotations from paragraphs 8–15 help the reader understand the meaning of the word chafe in paragraph 16?

- F *Mister Toussaint began to suspect that the pouch was some kind of stupid Internet of Things prank.*
- G *The next day, Mister Toussaint came home and discovered that the overflowing rubbish was still . . . under the sink.*
- H *The trashcan told him that toxic substances had to be manually sorted.*
- J *LOONY GOONY's singing voice really got on Mister Toussaint's nerves.*
- K *Even the cleverest squeezy-pouch couldn't survive a good nuking.*

7 Read the dictionary entry for the word retract.

retract *ri-träkt* *v* **1.** to take back; disavow **2.** to draw back or in **3.** to utter a sound with the tongue drawn back **4.** to draw back the tongue

Which definition most closely matches the way the word retract is used in paragraph 16?

- A Definition 1
- B Definition 2
- C Definition 3
- D Definition 4

8 What does computation mean in paragraph 31?

- F Estimation
- G Calculation
- H Account
- J Error

9 What can be inferred about science fiction stories?

- A They present a world that never was and never could be.
- B They involve interactions between people and animals.
- C They feature imaginative writing that accurately reflects life.
- D They speculate on a world that might one day be possible.

10 How does Mister Toussaint's attitude toward the toaster evolve?

- F By the end of the story, Mister Toussaint wishes that the toaster were "smart."
- G Even though he thinks the toaster is "stupid" at first, he eventually realizes its value.
- H When he first picks up the toaster, Mister Toussaint is sentimental, but later he asks the firefighters to take it away.
- J Mister Toussaint is reluctant to bring the toaster home, but realizes that he can integrate it with his other appliances.

11 What is Mr. Toussaint's primary motivation for confronting his refrigerator at the beginning of the story, and how does this motivation influence the events in the story, including the resolution of the conflict?

12 Write a summary of the story.