Reading Comprehension section (15)



The Cracked Chinese Jug

Each morning Han Han fetched water for his village from the river. He placed a bamboo shoulder pole across his back and put the empty jugs on either side.

When Han Han returned to the village, he had one and a half jugs of water. One clay jug had a tiny crack, and some of its water had leaked out.

The perfect jug was proud of itself. It had carried a full load of water. But the imperfect jug was embarrassed. It had done only half of the work.

One day the cracked jug could stand it no longer. "I'm a failure," it cried. "Why do I have a crack?"

Ignoring the jug's cry, Han Han carefully filled both jugs with water at the river. By the time they reached the village, the cracked jug was again only half full. "Why don't you throw me away?" asked the broken jug.

Han Han smiled at the jugs and put them on the shelf.

The next morning when Han Han placed the jugs on the ends of his shoulder pole, he said to the broken one, "For months, I've heard you complain." "I'm ashamed of myself," answered the cracked jug. "I'm worthless."

"Today when we return to the village, I want you to look along the path," said Han Han.

It was the first time the broken jug noticed the flowers. The colorful flowers made the cracked jug very happy. But then it remembered its crack and the leaking water, and again it felt sad.

"What did you think of the flowers?" asked Han Han.

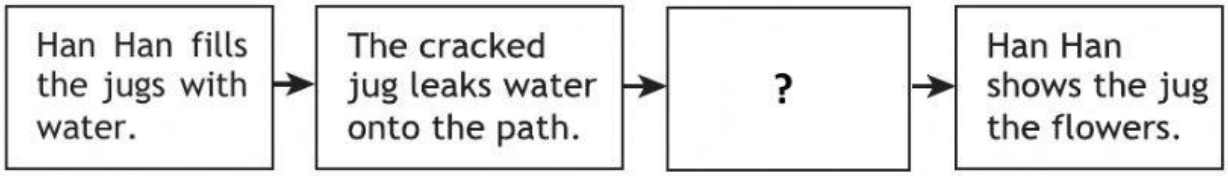
LIVEWORKSHEETS

"They're pretty," replied the jug. "They're only growing on my side of the path." "That's right," said Han Han. "For months you've watered the wildflower seeds. Your 'failure,' as you call it, has changed our village and made it more beautiful."
"Then all that time I felt useless," said the cracked jug, "my flaw was really my most valuable part!"

1) Which word **best** describes Han Han? (1)

A careful
B wise
C happy
D strong

2) The chart below shows the order of events in the story. (1)



Which event **best** completes the chart? (1)

A The cracked jug realizes it is valuable.
B Han Han carries the jugs to the river.
C The cracked jug cries because it leaks.
D Han Han puts the empty jugs on the pole.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3) Read this sentence from the story. (1)

"Then all that time I felt useless," said the cracked jug, "my flaw was really my most valuable part!"

Which word means about the same as "flaw"?

A sadness

B cleverness

C kindness

D weakness

4) Which detail about the jugs is most important to the story? (1)

A The perfect jug carries a full load of water.

B Han Han smiles at the jugs and puts them on the shelf.

C Han Han carries the jugs with a bamboo pole on his shoulder.

D The cracked jug sees that the flowers are only on his side of the path.

5) *"The cracked jug should be proud, it made the village more beautiful."* (3)

Using your own words and evidence from the text, explain why this statement is true.

_____

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Little Flying Helpers



What do you usually do when a flying insect lands on your arm? Most likely you chase it away. But what if that bug were a ladybug? Then chances are you would let it stay. What is it about ladybugs that we like?

Farmers once thought ladybugs were a good luck sign. A ladybug in the field meant that the crops would be successful, and the weather would be good. The farmers may have been exaggerating about what a very small bug can do, but in fact ladybugs do help with the crops. They eat harmful insects.

It is not the adult ladybug that eats the other insects. It's the ladybug larvae. Ladybugs lay their eggs on leaves that are infected with aphids or other insects. When the larvae hatch, they are very hungry and will eat mites, aphids, mealybugs, green flies, and other crop-destroyers.

A single ladybug larva can eat over 1,000 aphids in one day. In the 1800s, ladybugs were brought all the way from Australia to California and released among orange trees that were dying from being eaten by insects. The little red and black "eating machines" completely saved all the trees.

Ladybugs go about their daily business without worrying much about anything. Very few birds or insects will eat a ladybug because it gives off a liquid that is dangerous to eat. Ladybugs also protect themselves by pretending to be dead. They fall off leaves and remain very still until their attacker goes away.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

So next time you see a ladybug, think about what it may be up to. Maybe it is off to save an orange tree. Maybe its next move will be to roll off a leaf and play dead or stand up to a bird about 100 times its size. Maybe it's letting you know that the weather will be good tomorrow. Who knows? Ladybugs are special that way.

6) According to the article, why were ladybugs brought from Australia to California in the 1800s? (1)

A to add more ladybugs to the area
B to predict the weather for farmers
C to save orange trees by eating insects
D to release a special fluid on the trees

7) According to the article, what is one-way ladybugs defend themselves? (1)

A They curl up and hide.
B They remain very still.
C They sting their attackers.
D They fly faster than their attackers.

8) Read this sentence from the article.

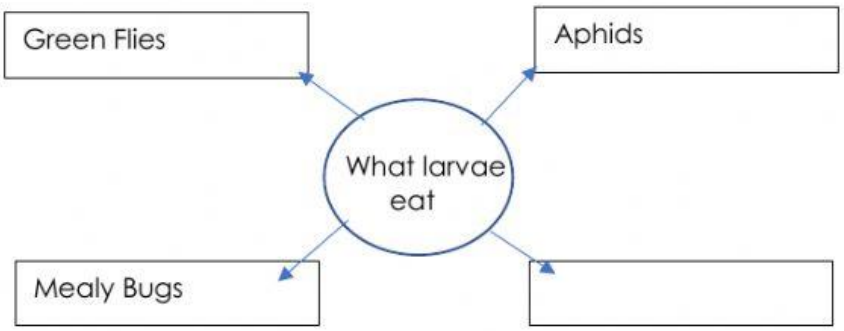
Maybe its next move will be to roll off a leaf and play dead or stand up to a bird about 100 times its size.

The phrase "stand up to" means about the same as (1)

A admire
B support
C challenge
D observe

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9) Here is a web about ladybug larvae.



Which word **best** completes the web? (1)

A oranges

B birds

C leaves

D mites

10) Which sentence shows what the author **most likely** thinks about ladybugs? (1)

A. Ladybugs are interesting insects.

B. Ladybugs are annoying insects.

C. Ladybugs do harm to nature.

D. Ladybugs eat more than they should

11) "Ladybugs don't have many Predators." Is this statement true or false, explain your answer **using evidence from the text.** (3)

_____

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS