Reading Comprehension

Instructions: Read the passage carefully before answering any of the questions.



I Had a Hippopotamus

I had a pet hippopotamus; I kept him in a shed.
I fed him on cabbages, grass and bread.
I loved to draw his picture. It took a lot of chalk!
And everyday we'd go on a long, lovely walk.

I walked him down the street in the winter and the spring.
I took him to school; I'd lead him on a string.
Early every morning my hippo would rejoice,
Singing a hippo song in his awful hippo voice.

The people who live next door looked me in the eye,
They said, "Get rid of that hippo! Tell him goodbye."
"Send him to the jungle or **donate** him to a zoo."
"He can't stay here. He's driving us **cuckoo**!"

I listened to them calmy and didn't make a fuss.
Instead, I kissed my hippopotamus and put him on a bus.
Then I went to the pet store and bought me a cat,
Absolutely no one can complain about that!

~ P. Moultrie

1. What are **TWO** things the hippo ate?

_____ _____

2. Why do you think it took the writer a lot of chalk to draw the hippo?

3. Why did the people living next door dislike the hippo?

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4. How did the writer find out that his neighbors disliked his pet hippo?

5. In stanza three of the poem, the word **donate** means to:

   (a) sell (b) buy (c) give (d) put

6. "He's driving us cuckoo!" What does the word **cuckoo** mean in this sentence?

7. The poem about the hippo is make-believe. Select **TWO** reasons why you can call it a make-believe poem.

8. What did the writer do right before he sent his pet hippo away?

   (a) He bought a cat as a pet.
   (b) He kissed his pet hippo.
   (c) He fussed with his neighbors.
   (d) He got on a bus to the zoo.



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