Name _____ Number Right _____ **16**

Directions: *You have 4¼ minutes to read the selection and answer the questions. Do not begin reading until your teacher gives the signal.*

I am a very popular bug, if I must say so myself. People hate mosquitoes, swat flies, and scream at cockroaches and spiders, but everybody treats me with respect. Yes, my relatives and I are special friends of farmers everywhere, because we eat harmful insects such as aphids and scale insects.

While mosquitoes are dodging poison sprays and flies are ducking the swatter, my friends and I are being *collected* to be sent to all parts of the country to wage war on harmful insects. We are usually caught in the fall when we are hibernating on rocks or logs. People look for our colorful bodies—often red with black spots. We are then put in cold storage until spring.

After a rather stuffy journey in straw packing, we are released over gardens and fields. We will help to save the plants by eating the insects that are destroying them.

Please don't think I'm bragging, but my relatives in Australia were shipped over to California some years ago and saved a whole orange crop by eating the cottony cushion scales that had attacked them.

By now you have learned why I am popular. I am *helpful* and don't have any annoying ways. You can learn a lesson from me. If you're a pest, people don't want you around, but if you go out of your way to help, you've got it made! Just a little hint from a ladybug who knows what she's talking about!

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Circle the correct answer.

1. Ladybugs are popular insects because ___?___.
   - **a.** they are pretty
   - **b.** they eat aphids and other harmful pests
   - **c.** they are plentiful
   - **d.** they have no disagreeable odor

2. Ladybugs have pretty coloring. They are often ___?___.
   - **a.** black with yellow spots
   - **b.** red with black spots
   - **c.** black with white spots
   - **d.** pink with black spots

3. **True** or **False:** Ladybugs are usually caught in the spring when they are hibernating on rocks or logs.

4. Many years ago, ladybugs from Australia were shipped to California to ___?___.
   - **a.** eat the cottony cushion scales that were harming orange trees
   - **b.** eat aphids on the rose bushes
   - **c.** eat mosquitoes on the orange trees
   - **d.** eat flies on the tomatoes

5. Ladybugs teach us the importance of being ___?___.
   - **a.** popular
   - **b.** proud
   - **c.** pretty
   - **d.** helpful

6. If you were to give a title to this selection, what would you choose?
   - **a.** "Harmful Insect Pests"
   - **b.** "A Rather Stuffy Journey"
   - **c.** "Helpful Ladybugs"
   - **d.** "Saving an Orange Crop"

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