

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story below. Then answer the questions on the next page.

## The Pie-of-the-Month Club

Elliott Tsu is in business. Elliott accidentally became president of the Pie-of-the-Month Club. His responsibilities began with a box of peaches and a family emergency. Elliott's mom had ordered a crate of peaches, and she was getting everything organized to make jam. Suddenly she got an urgent call from Elliott's aunt, who had just become the mother of twins.

Elliott's mom dropped everything. As the taxi pulled out of the driveway, she yelled, "Tell your dad I've left for the airport, and then please do something with all these peaches."

"I sure hope no one expects me to try to make jam," thought Elliott.

Elliott telephoned his dad's office and spoke to Rebecca, the secretary. "Hi, Bec," said Elliott. "Is my dad available?"

"He's in a conference, so you'll have to leave a message," said Rebecca.

"Please tell him that my mom is flying to Seattle to visit my aunt and her new twins."

"Certainly, Elliott," said Rebecca. "Anything else?"

"As a matter of fact, yes. I have a ques-

tion," said Elliott. "What would you do with a million peaches?"

"Well, that's an easy one. I would make pies," said Rebecca.

Elliott consulted several cookbooks until he found a recipe that didn't sound complicated. Mixing the dough was tricky, but Elliott had enough peaches for eleven pies, so he soon got the hang of it. Each pie was a little easier to put together and came out a little nicer around the edges. Elliott baked the pies three at a time, and by late afternoon, he was done.

"I have enough pies for the entire neighborhood," thought Elliott.

Elliott loaded the wheelbarrow and began making deliveries. Everyone he encountered seemed delighted to get a fresh, warm pie.

"What are you charging?" said Mr. Cragmore, taking the last pie.

"Nothing," said Elliott, "this is a neighborly way of getting rid of peaches."

"Take my advice," said Mr. Cragmore. "Next time, find a neighborly way of getting rid of boysenberries, but charge your customers a fair price."

Elliott was in business.

Fill in the circle next to the sentence that answers the question.

1. Which of the following statements best states the main idea of this story?  
 Elliott loves peaches.       Elliott's mother is a cook.  
 Elliott is a baker.       Elliott accidentally started a pie-making business.
  
2. Which of the following statements supports the main idea of this story?  
 Elliott has his own business.       Elliott's dad was on a conference call.  
 Elliott's mom likes to bake.       Elliott's business began with a family emergency.
  
3. Which of the following statements does NOT support the main idea of this story?  
 Elliott's aunt lived in Seattle.       Elliott delivered pies to his neighbors.  
 Mr. Cragmore suggested that Elliott charge money for his pies.       Elliott used the peaches to make pies.
  
4. Why did Elliott's mom leave in such a hurry?  
 She didn't want to cook.       She loved going to Seattle.  
 She wanted Elliott to make pies.       She knew her sister needed her help.
  
5. What conclusions can you draw about Elliott after reading this story?  
 He is easily bored.       He doesn't like to make decisions.  
 He loves to cook and read.       He is creative, hard-working, and friendly.
  
6. What does Mr. Cragmore want Elliott to do next time?  
 He wants Elliott to be a cook.       He wants Elliott to have fun.  
 He wants Elliott to make soup.       He wants Elliott to make boysenberry pies.

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## Liza's Piano Recital

When Liza heard her piano teacher call her name, she felt her stomach flip. She slowly stood up, struggling to keep her knees from shaking as she walked to the piano. It was a relief to sit down, since she was afraid her wobbly legs would not support her any longer. She did not want to topple SPLAT in front of everyone. On the other hand, now that she was sitting down, she would have to play her selection, which made her stomach leap again.

Liza's hands were slippery and sweaty, and she could not imagine how she would be able to prevent them from sliding all over the keys. How could she play the piano when her hands were like two enormous jellyfish? How could she play when she felt like fainting and toppling over backwards onto the carpet? How could she play when she could not remember anything about the piece she supposedly had memorized?

Liza glanced around quickly and located the door, thinking it might be possible for her simply to jump up and run. She could hide in Mrs. West's garden or under a blanket in her father's station

wagon until after the recital. It would be puzzling, but it would be better than performing whatever it was she was scheduled to perform.

Liza realized Mrs. West was making introductions to the audience. "Liza, you may begin playing 'The Happy Farmer' whenever you are ready."

"Remind me how it goes," hissed Liza.

Mrs. West smiled. She walked over and stood behind Liza. She placed her hands on Liza's shoulders and pressed down gently. Then she leaned over and hummed quietly in Liza's ear.

"Oh, right," Liza blurted aloud, "now I remember."

The audience giggled, and Liza relaxed immediately. She rippled through "The Happy Farmer" without forgetting a measure or missing a single note. The second she was finished, she hopped off the bench, took a quick bow, and then skipped back to her seat with the audience applauding enthusiastically.

"They should call that song 'The Happy Piano Player,'" whispered her mom.

"No kidding," said Liza. "Happy it's over!"

Fill in the circle next to the word or words that answer the question or complete the sentence.

7. Before she came over and stood behind Liza, Mrs. West \_\_\_\_.

- fainted
- ran into the garden
- smiled
- hummed

8. After the audience giggled, Liza \_\_\_\_.

- felt her stomach flip
- relaxed
- went outside
- sat down

9. What did Liza do after she bowed to the audience?

- She thought of places to hide.
- She asked Mrs. West for help.
- She played "The Happy Farmer."
- She skipped back to her seat.

10. Why was Liza's stomach upset?

- She was happy.
- She was nervous.
- She was angry.
- She was sick.

11. Liza thought of hiding in the garden because \_\_\_\_.

- she did not want to play in the recital
- she was hot and sweaty
- the audience giggled
- it would be puzzling

2. Mrs. West hummed in Liza's ear because \_\_\_\_.

- Liza had a stomachache
- Liza's hands were like jellyfish
- Liza was feeling faint
- Liza could not remember the tune

Read the story below. Then answer the questions on the next page.

## Dugout Canoes

Throughout the Pacific Northwest, a group of people known as the Haida have long been respected for the beauty and excellence of their canoes. In the past, canoes were the Haida's most valuable export. They could load up the canoes with dried fish and cedar bark and trade them for items they could not get on their islands.

Years ago, Haida canoe builders would hike deep into the rain forests to find what they needed to build their canoes. They knew just what to look for and would choose red cedar trees with the truest grain. Once they found the right tree to suit their needs, they would chop it down and strip off the outer layers of bark. Sealing canoes were made to hold two hunters and were about twenty-four feet long. War canoes could be as long as seventy feet, and they could carry thirty people. Canoes for single paddlers might only be fifteen feet long.

Using an ax and a short chiseling instrument, the builders would hollow out the core of the tree. To measure the thickness of the bottom and sides, holes were drilled through the hull to an exact

depth. The holes were then plugged with yellow cedar pegs two or three inches long. With a sharp knife or other pointed tool, the last of the hull would be hollowed out until the tips of the pegs appeared.

Once the hull was hollowed out to the right thickness, it was filled with water. It was then loaded with rocks heated in an extremely hot fire. The steam produced by this process softened the cedar. The canoe could then be pulled outward to give the hull its characteristic wide, shallow shape. Spreaders were placed between the sides of the hull to make it hold the desired shape as it dried.

Bow and stern pieces carved in the shape of fantastic creatures were attached to the finished hull. The canoe was finally painted in traditional designs.

By the beginning of the 1900s, the Haida population had decreased significantly, and many of its traditions were lost. However, a small number of Haida canoe builders are still creating and using the extraordinary designs that are part of their heritage and their identity.

Fill in the circle next to the words that answer the question or complete the sentence.

13. What is the first step in making a Haida canoe?

- Hollow out the core.
- Choose a cedar tree.
- Measure the yellow cedar pegs.
- Sharpen an elbow ax.

14. What is done after the canoe is filled with water?

- It is carved and painted.
- It is heated to a high temperature.
- It is shaped with a spreader.
- It is loaded with heated rocks.

15. When the hull is finished, \_\_\_\_.

- carved bow and stern pieces are attached
- it is hollowed out to the proper thickness
- it is drilled to a certain thickness
- rocks are quickly heated

16. What might happen if a canoe is made from a weak tree?

- It might be hard to strip the bark.
- It might split as it is being hollowed out.
- It might be hard to decorate.
- It might be difficult to spread the sides.

17. What might happen if the hull is too thick?

- It might be too hard to decorate.
- It might not be comfortable.
- It might not bend when it is heated.
- It might not hold enough people.

18. Predict what might happen when the last of today's Haida canoe builders die.

- People might find a way to make canoes out of fiberglass.
- There will not be any more canoes in the world.
- The Haida might find a better way to travel or hunt.
- There won't be anyone left to continue the Haida tradition.