

**Questions 1-10** refer to the following texts. Read the texts, then the questions and the answers marked **(1-4)** and then choose the one that you think the best answer.

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**QUESTIONS 1 and 2 are based on the following reading.**

#### **APRIL FOOL'S DAY (APRIL 1)**

One common trick on April Fool's Day, or All Fool's Day, is pointing down to a friend's shoe and saying, "Your shoelace is untied." School children might tell a classmate that school has been cancelled. Whatever the trick, if the innocent victim falls for the joke the prankster yells, "April Fool!"

Putting salt in the sugar bowl for the next person is not a nice trick to play on a stranger. College students set their clocks an hour behind, so their roommates show up to the wrong class - or not at all. The cleverest April Fool joke is the one where everyone laughs, especially the person upon whom the joke is played.

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**1.** What is the best joke according to the article?

1. *The one that makes the person, who was made fun of, laugh*
2. *When the salt is put into the neighbour's tea*
3. *When the pupils are told about the cancelled classes*
4. *When all the family prepare it*

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**2.** Why is April Fool's Day so popular in our country?

1. *It's funny*
2. *You don't go to school*
3. *One can play tricks on the teachers*
4. *It was not mentioned in the text.*

**QUESTIONS 3 - 10 are based on the following reading.**

#### **EGG-SHELL POTTAGE (A Welsh tale)**

In the parish of Treveglwys, near Llanidloes, in the county of Montgomery, there is a little shepherd's cot that is commonly called Twt y Cwmrws, the Place of Strife; and this is the story of how it got its name.

The inhabitants of the cottage were a wife and husband, and they had born to them twins, whom they nursed with great care and tenderness.

Some months after their birth, the wife was called out to the house of a neighbour; and she had to leave the babies alone. Even though she had not far to go, she did not like to leave her children by themselves in their cradle, even for a minute, as her house stood all alone, and there were many tales of goblins or the *Tyiwylth Teg* about the neighbourhood. But she went and returned as soon as she could.

On the way back, however, she was not a little scared to see some of the old elves of the blue petty-coat, as they were usually called, even though it was mid-day. And yet when she got back to her house she was relieved to find all was as it was before.

After some time had passed, however, the good people began to wonder why the twins did not seem to grow at all; they remained as little dwarfs. The man became quite angry and swore they could not be his children; the woman cried just as angrily that they were. And thus arose the great strife between them that gave name to the place.

One evening when the woman was very troubled she decided to go and consult a Gwr Cyfarwydd, feeling certain that he knew all there was to know, since he was so wise. Now there was to be a harvest soon of rye and oats; so the wise man said to her,

'When you are preparing dinner for the reapers, empty the shell of a hen's egg, and boil the shall full of pottage; then take it out through the door as if you meant it for a dinner to the reapers, and then listen to what the twins will say. If you hear the children speaking things above a child's understanding, return into the house, take them up and throw them into the waves of Llyn Ebyr, which is very near to you. But if you do not hear anything amiss, do them no harm.'

So when the day of the reaping came, the woman did as the wise man said; and as she went outside the door to listen, she heard one of the children say to the other, *Acorns before oak I knew, An egg before a hen, Never one Hen's egg-shell stew Enough for harvest man!*

On this mother quickly came back through the door and took the two children; she threw them into the Llyn without another thought. Suddenly the goblins in their trousers appeared to save their dwarfs, pulled them from the lake and ran off with them.

When the woman got back home, she was overjoyed to find her own two children in their cots alive and well. Never again did the goblins try to trick her; and never more was there strife between the woman and her husband.

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3. Why did they call the shepherd's cot "the Place of Strife"? There was ... in this place.

1. a quarrel
2. a house of a dwarf
3. a river with this name
4. a song about it

4. Why didn't the wife want to leave her children alone?

1. They were too small.
2. She was afraid of goblins.
3. There were a lot of wolves in the neighbourhood.
4. She wanted to take them to her neighbour.

5. How were the twins different from ordinary children?

1. They didn't play games.
2. They didn't grow.
3. They could speak.
4. They could read thoughts.

6. The worried woman decided to go to ... .

1. a goblin
2. an elf
3. her father
4. a wise man

7. The woman was advised to listen to the children while taking out....

1. a jar full of pottage
2. a shell of an egg full of pottage
3. a jar full of pudding
4. a shell of an egg full of pudding

8. The children turned out to be ... for their age.

1. too strong
2. too clever
3. very quick
4. very tall

9. The woman threw her children into the waves of... .

1. Treveglwys
2. Twty Cwmrws
3. Gwr Cyfarwydd
4. Llyn Ebyr

10. What happened when the twins were thrown into the river?

1. They got drowned.
2. They swam to the bank.
3. Goblins saved them.
4. Dwarfs saved them.

