

4.5 Fiction Quiz

Directions: Read *The Most Important Question*, and answer the following questions.

The Most Important Question

By R. Howard

- 1 In a jungle there was a large cool pond where many animals came to drink. Tall animals like giraffes, and small animals like meerkats all came to this pond and drank from the water together. Each species had its own section at the pond: the zebras did not drink by the cranes, and the elephants did not drink by the monkeys. It was a very peaceful place.
- 2 One day a hippopotamus came to the pond and bent to drink some water right where the giraffes usually drank. None of the other animals had ever seen him before. They were frightened. He was really big and did not seem to care about the rules of the pond.
- 3 "We should tell him to go away!" a meerkat whispered to a monkey. The monkey nodded. They were both much smaller than the hippopotamus, and they were very nervous about getting eaten by him.
- 4 You see, since none of the animals had ever seen a hippopotamus, they did not know what it liked to eat. It was very important that all of the animals in the jungle knew what the others' preferred foods were, so that they could protect themselves. The zebras knew to stay away from the lions who preyed on them, and the mice knew to stay hidden under the trees, away from the large birds who swooped down to eat them. All of the animals in the jungle grew up learning about the food chain. This food chain was a part of life. The animals who were eaten provided important nutrients for the animals that ate them, like proteins and fat that helped the eaters to grow. How do you think lions become so big and strong?
- 5 A giraffe came up to where the meerkat and monkey stood by the pond and leaned its long head down to talk to them. "Do you think he eats plants?" the giraffe asked worriedly.
- 6 Giraffes only eat plants, and because the hippopotamus was so close to the ground, the giraffe was afraid he would eat all the plants before they could grow tall enough for the giraffes to eat.
- 7 A zebra skipped up to the group, still in a huddle. "You have nothing to worry about, Meerkat and Monkey!" he said. "It looks like the new guy likes plants. Sorry, Giraffe."
- 8 The four animals looked over to the hippopotamus, now about a third of the way into the pond, chomping on some very green leaves with a content and happy expression on his face.

1. Use the words below to complete the sentences about the story. Select **TWO** words that would complete the sentences.

At the beginning of the story, the monkey and the meerkat felt _____.

By the end of the story, the monkey and the meerkat felt _____.

excited	frightened	sick	relieved	lazy
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2. Why did the author include paragraph 1?

- A. to introduce all of the main characters
- B. to introduce the setting
- C. to introduce the conflict
- D. to show readers how the characters resolved the conflict

3. Which of the following details would be LEAST important to include in a summary of this story?

- A. The animals lived in a jungle with a pond where they drank water.
- B. The zebras did not drink by the cranes.
- C. When a hippopotamus came to the pond, a meerkat and a monkey were afraid.
- D. A zebra told the other animals the hippo looked like a plant-eater.

4. Which of the following words from the story has a suffix that means "more"?

- A. peaceful
- B. preyed
- C. worriedly
- D. smaller

5. In which of the following sentences is drink used in the same way it is used in paragraph 1?

- A. Do you want a drink of water?
- B. Please try not to spill your drink on the couch.
- C. Will you drink from the water fountain after PE?
- D. My mom forgot to pack a drink in my lunchbox.

6. Why did the zebra most likely say, "Sorry Giraffe," in paragraph 7?
- A. He interrupted Giraffe's conversation with the monkey and the meerkat.
 - B. He stepped on Giraffe's toes.
 - C. He ate all of Giraffe's food.
 - D. He knew Giraffe was worried that the hippopotamus would eat up all of the plants before they got to Giraffe's height.
7. All of the following questions are answered in paragraph 4, except-
- A. What animal preys on zebras?
 - B. What animals do large birds eat?
 - C. What is the preferred food for mice?
 - D. Why do some animals eat other animals?
8. Who is telling this story?
- A. narrator
 - B. meerkat
 - C. monkey
 - D. giraffe
9. Which sentence best completes the chart below?

When:	Then:
	The meerkat and the monkey became frightened.

- A. The meerkat told the monkey they should tell the hippopotamus to go away.
- B. The giraffe came up to stand by the meerkat and the monkey.
- C. The zebra told the meerkat and the monkey the hippopotamus eats plants.
- D. The meerkat and the monkey saw that the hippopotamus was bigger and did not obey the pond rules.
10. Based on the details in this story, what can you conclude about the animals in the jungle?
- A. Some eat jungle plants and some eat other animals.
 - B. All of the jungle animals eat each other.
 - C. All of the jungle animals can live together because they only eat plants.
 - D. None of the animals have enough food to eat or water to drink.

11. Read the following sentence from the story.

"Do you think he eats plants?" the giraffe asked worriedly.

What is the root word in worriedly?

- A. wor
- B. worry
- C. worrie
- D. ly

12. How was the Meerkat and Monkey's main conflict resolved?

- A. They asked the hippopotamus to leave.
- B. The giraffe told them that the zebra won't eat them.
- C. They realized the hippopotamus eats plants.
- D. They knew that the pond had plenty of water for all of the animals.

13. Which sentence best states the theme of the story?

- A. Always be kind to friends that are larger than you.
- B. Being honest about your choices is always best.
- C. Never drink from a pond you aren't invited to.
- D. Everyone can live together peacefully if they understand each other.