



DIRECTIONS

Read each passage. Then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the best answer to the question. In your answer document, mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

For some questions, you will write your answers on the lines inside the boxes provided in your answer document. Be sure to write your answers neatly. Remember to keep your writing inside the boxes. Writing outside the boxes will NOT be scored.

Party in My Closet

by
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There's a party in my closet,
But I don't think I'm invited
Because it's my shoes who are celebrating.
They've invited just the right number:
Everyone is paired off.
I can't tell what they're serving,
But I can hear their small-talk *chatter*
Of toes and socks and sidewalks,
And I wonder if they wonder
If people have parties too.



SAMPLE A

The word *chatter* makes the reader feel that the shoes are —

- A loud
- B like people
- C annoying
- D like socks

SAMPLE B

The speaker does not know if the shoes are —

- A in pairs
- B talking
- C in the closet
- D serving refreshments



A New Home

Tonight, some of our people have already gone to bed in hopes that the extra sleep will lend strength for tomorrow's journey, but the rest of us are sitting on the beach, watching the large fire in silence. The flames cast shadows on the many boats waiting at the water's edge. Behind us, the great mountain smokes and bubbles. Beneath our feet we can feel the land grumble. Our floating rock is trying to tell us that it is not well and that it is time for us to find a new home.

It started only a few days ago when the sun had just begun its climb into the sky and many of us were casting nets in the shallow waters. Suddenly, the water began to quiver and the birds visiting in the trees behind us took to the air all at once. The ground beneath us began to shake, gently at first, and then harder, until nuts fell from many of the trees. Then, just as quickly as it began, it ended. Suddenly, someone shouted and pointed to the top of the great mountain, where a thick black smoke billowed forth.

That night, we all gathered around the fire on the beach to listen as the elders discussed what had happened. One by one, the elders spoke, telling their version of what the day's events had meant. As they spoke, Mahami soaked up their words as she might the sun.

Mahami is old and wise. She knows which plants heal and which plants hurt. She knows why the long days follow the short days and why the moon follows the sun across the sky. She also knows which direction the birds fly when they leave this floating rock.

When the last elder had finished speaking, Mahami sat and stared into the flames of the fire. Time passed and people fell asleep, and still she sat. The fire died down and the sun climbed from its bed in the ocean, and still she sat. The moon sprung up from its watery home and followed the path of the sun across the sky, and still Mahami sat.

Then, when the sun was rising once again, Mahami called the elders back. Her decision was made. We must leave immediately, before our floating rock shakes us from her back into the sea.

We work quickly, hunting game and drying meat, digging up roots, and filling skins with fresh water that flows from the jungle. We spread tree sap on the bottoms of our boats and tie our belongings across their bows. Soon, we are ready and wait only for Mahami to tell us when to climb into our boats and paddle in the direction that the birds fly.

When she tells us that we have one more night, we fish for our final meal and build a fire big enough for the great mountain to see. It sends up its own smoky answer and the ground shakes beneath us as if to say that it is sorry we must go. We eat until we are full and then sit and watch the fire. Tomorrow we will leave in search of a new home. Tonight we will spend one last night with our old home.





1

What is the central conflict in this story?

- A** The mountain will explode in the evening.
- B** The people of the island may be in danger.
- C** The elders must have a meeting with Mahami.
- D** The people must get ready to leave the island.

4

The author most likely wrote this story to —

- A** explain what usually happens before an eruption
- B** persuade readers to visit and explore a tropical island
- C** present a story about people dealing with a difficult situation
- D** tell why some people leave their homes and look for new ones

2

Which conclusion can readers reach about the story's setting?

- A** It takes place on a deserted beach.
- B** It takes place in a mountain range.
- C** It takes place on a volcanic island.
- D** It takes place in a barren forest.

5

This type of story can be described as —

- A** a classical myth
- B** a native folktale
- C** a children's fable
- D** an American legend

3

In paragraph 5, Mahami's consideration of the problem is emphasized by the use of —

- A** repetition
- B** word choice
- C** sentence structure
- D** figurative language

6

List two reasons the characters in the story are looking for a new home. Be sure to write your response in your answer document.



Reading Comprehension

7

What is Mahami's role in this society? Why do the people trust her? Describe Mahami's role using details from the story to support your answer. Be sure to write your response in your answer document.

9

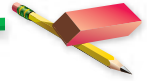
After the central conflict in the story is established, describe the rising action that leads to the resolution of the conflict. Use details from the story to support your answer. Be sure to write your response in your answer document.

8

Describe the new information the people in the story learned about their homes and how they used this knowledge. Use details from the story to support your answer. Be sure to write your response in your answer document.

10

The author uses personification throughout this story. Describe examples of personification and its effect in this story. Use details from the story to support the answer. Be sure to write your response in your answer document.



DIRECTIONS

Write your answer in the space provided in your answer document. You may use the Prewriting Pages to help you plan your writing. Use the Final Draft pages to write your complete, final answer.

A poster hanging on a gym wall shows a picture of a person checking his weight on a scale. Under the picture are the words: “Getting into shape is just a few pounds away!”

Write an essay describing the audience that the poster is reaching and whether or not the message the poster gives is a good one.

Remember to:

- Organize your ideas so they are clear and easy to follow
- Develop your ideas thoroughly by supporting your reasons
- Include specific details to make your writing more interesting
- Stay focused on your purpose for writing
- Use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar