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The Lesson in the Garden

Miranda did not want to spend her Saturday helping Grandad in his garden. She would get hot and dirty, and when she was finished, her legs and back would ache. "Mother, please help me get out of this. My friends are going ice-skating at the mall, and I really, really want to go with them."

"No, dear, you made this date with your grandfather weeks ago. He is very excited that you're helping him. And guess what? You'll get to spend the day with your five-year-old cousin, Amanda." Miranda let out a deep sigh.

Grandad and Amanda arrived in a flurry. "Amanda, Miranda, Miranda, Amanda," the child chattered on and on. "My name is like yours, and I am like you, too. You're my best friend, Miranda." The older girl could not keep from smiling. Grandad hugged her. "Come on, Sugarbuttons. Get a move on. Shake a leg, Sweetcakes."

"Oh, Grandad, you and your silly names," Miranda laughed.

When they got to the garden, most of the hard work had been done. The dirt had been plowed and raked. Miranda and Grandad hammered stakes and stretched a string to mark the rows. "Amanda-Apple-Dumpling, bring the measuring stick so we can space the rows evenly," he called.

Grandad had brought juice and peanut-butter crackers for a snack. "This is a picnic, and I just love picnics. Tell us a story, Gramps," Amanda said.

"Well, once there were Native Americans who lived here, Buttercup. They probably farmed this very field. They planted corn, beans, and squash. They called their three crops the Three Sisters, and they prayed for rain and sun to bring them a good harvest so they would have food for the winter. They planted the seeds in tiny 'hills' and put in four seeds and put a dead fish at the bottom."

"Yuck, why would anyone want to do that?" asked Amanda.

"I know," said Miranda. "As the fish rotted it made fertilizer for the plants."

"Right on, Honeybun," said Grandad. "When I was a little boy, I helped my grandma plant her garden. We put four seeds in—one for the rabbit, one for the crow, one to rot, and one to grow."

"Will rabbits and birds eat our seeds?" asked Amanda, wide-eyed. The others nodded. "Then why don't we put in a whole bunch to be sure there will be plenty for us?"

"Because, Kissyface, if the plants are too crowded, they won't be healthy. Each one needs room to grow," Grandad explained.

Amanda stretched out on the blanket and was soon fast asleep. Miranda said, "Thanks, Gramps, for taking us out today. It's been fun."



7 Miranda wanted to get out of helping Grandad in order to —

- A plant her own garden
- B do a baby-sitting job for pay
- C go ice-skating with her friends
- D stay at home and study

8 What was the *most* important lesson that Miranda learned?

- A The love of family is a special thing
- B Small children love stories
- C It is important to thin plants in a garden
- D Dead fish is a good fertilizer

9 What made Miranda smile first?

- A The heavy work in the garden had already been done.
- B Grandfather brought a snack.
- C Amanda told a funny story.
- D Amanda said Miranda was her best friend.

10 Why did Grandfather use funny names when he spoke to the children?

- A He sometimes forgot their names.
- B It is his way of showing affection.
- C The children asked him to.
- D They are old family names.

11 What will Miranda probably do the next time Grandad asks her to do something with him and Amanda?

- A Think of ways to go to the mall with her friends instead
- B Go with him but complain to her mother
- C Make an excuse to get out of helping him
- D Go with them cheerfully and have a good time

12 Native Americans put a dead fish under each "hill" to —

- A make the soil fertile
- B chase rabbits away
- C signal when the crops were ready
- D prevent seeds from rotting

DIRECTIONS Read each question, then choose the answer you think is best. Mark the space for your answer.

SAMPLE A

An astronomer discovered a new asteroid that is 2.7×10^4 meters in diameter. What number is represented by 2.7×10^4 ?

- A 0.027 C 2700
B 2.7 D 27,000

SAMPLE B

Ila reads between 10 and 14 pages of her book each night. About how many nights will it take her to finish a book that is 385 pages long?

- A 20 C 40
B 30 D 400



Before you answer a question, try to rephrase it in a way that is easy for you to understand. Key words, figures, and numbers in the question will help you do this.

- 1 Derona is planning to cut the board shown below along the dotted line.



Which is *closest* to the length of the longest piece of board after she cuts it?

- $5\frac{1}{4}$ $5\frac{3}{4}$ $6\frac{1}{4}$ $6\frac{3}{4}$
A B C D

- 2 Which of these has a value different from the others?

- $\frac{17}{5}$ $3\frac{1}{10}$ $3\frac{2}{5}$ $\frac{34}{10}$
A B C D

GO

- 4 A pair of skis is 2.19 meters long.



What is that number rounded to the nearest tenth?

- A 2.210 D 2.01
B 2.20 E 2.00
C 2.10

- 5 When she works at her father's bait store, Domino puts 12 worms in each cup of soil.

12



She filled 114 cups with worms.

114



How many worms is that in all?

- A 106 D 1368
B 126 E NH
C 1268

- 6 Leonard bought a pair of running shoes on sale for \$48. The regular price of the shoes is \$60. What percentage discount is this?

- A 20% D 6%
B 18% E 1.2%
C 12%

- 7 Lisa finished $\frac{1}{4}$ of her project in April and $\frac{2}{5}$ in May. What fraction of her project has she finished?

$\frac{1}{4}$ April $\frac{2}{5}$ May

- $\frac{1}{10}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{13}{20}$ $\frac{3}{5}$ NH
A B C D E

STOP



DIRECTIONS Read each paragraph and its questions. Choose the answer you think is best for each question. Mark the space for your answer.

Tents

Anyone who enjoys camping knows how important a tent is. A good tent is light, easy to assemble, and functional. This means that the tent offers good protection against the weather, especially wind and rain. Nothing can ruin a camping trip more than a tent that doesn't do its job.

SAMPLE B

What is the *main* purpose of this paragraph?

- A To share a personal story
- B To explain how to pitch a tent
- C To tell a camping story
- D To inform you about tents

Grand Canyon

Nearly 4 million people visit the Grand Canyon every year. The canyon and the Colorado River were once considered of little value. They were just major obstacles to the exploration of the West. In 1869, John Wesley Powell led a dangerous expedition down the river in wooden boats. Powell and a few others survived to show the importance of the Colorado and the beauty of the Grand Canyon.

3 What is the *main* reason this paragraph was written?

- A To explain the geology of the Grand Canyon
- B To encourage a visit to the Grand Canyon
- C To introduce explorer John Wesley Powell
- D To explain how National Parks operate

GO

