

Richard Cheng works for a jewelry company in Los Angeles. One week during the spring of 1983, he was sent to New York City with some gems. He was supposed to bring the jewels to a show being held in a midtown hotel, and display them there. He was supposed to sell them if he could find any buyers with enough money. What he wasn't supposed to do was to lose them. He carried the jewels in a briefcase. He had with him rubies, opals, sapphires, and other precious stones.

When he reached New York, Mr. Cheng decided to stay at a friend's apartment instead of taking a room at the hotel where the show was being held. He thought he would save himself and his company some money that way. He also wanted to spend some time with his friend. He took a taxi from his friend's apartment to the place where he was supposed to leave the jewelry for safekeeping. There was just one problem. He left the case in the taxi and the driver drove off.

It wasn't until the next morning that the taxi driver, Pablo Oviedo, cleaned out his cab and found a leather case under the back seat. Mr. Oviedo didn't even open the case. He handed it over to his boss at the taxi garage. Along with all the gems, there were some papers in the case with Cheng's name on them.

The story had a happy ending. Mr. Cheng got back his case with all the jewels in it. Mr. Oviedo got a nice money reward in addition to the good feelings that came from knowing he had done the right thing.

1. Mr. Cheng worked for
  - (a) a Los Angeles jewelry firm.
  - (b) the New York Police.
  - (c) a midtown hotel.
  - (d) a New York taxi company
2. Another word for gems is
  - (a) taxis.
  - (b) cases.
  - (c) worries.
  - (d) jewels.
3. Cheng was lucky that
  - (a) he went to New York.
  - (b) the police could help him.
  - (c) Oviedo was an honest person.
  - (d) no one opened his case.
4. Which happened first? Mr. Cheng
  - (a) found his case.
  - (b) took a taxicab.
  - (c) arrived in New York.
  - (d) lost the jewels.
5. Mr. Cheng is someone who is
  - (a) too wealthy to care.
  - (b) unable to drive carefully.
  - (c) both careless and lucky.
  - (d) not completely honest.
6. For the cab driver, doing the right thing meant
  - (a) cleaning his cab carefully.
  - (b) keeping the strange case.
  - (c) driving away very fast.
  - (d) giving the case to his boss.
7. In the future, Mr. Cheng should
  - (a) remain in Los Angeles.
  - (b) leave the jewelry business.
  - (c) drive his own taxi.
  - (d) be much more careful.
8. Mr. Oviedo's reward included
  - (a) knowing he was honest.
  - (b) half of the jewels.
  - (c) a midtown hotel.
  - (d) a New York taxi company.

Each year, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presents numerous awards for excellence in the movies. There is an award for the best picture, one for the best actor, and one for the best actress. The awards are not simply for the stars. They are also presented to the best performers in supporting roles as well. The Academy Award is the movie industry's most coveted prize. It is something everyone involved in making a movie hopes for, but very few ever receive.

It was in 1928 that the first Academy Award was presented. The movie "Wings" was named best picture in what has become an annual event and part of show business tradition. The actual prize which the Academy presents is a statue which is 13½ inches high. It weighs 8½ pounds. It is made of bronze and is covered with a layer of gold. The statue is commonly called an "Oscar."

Although the award ceremonies began in 1928, the Academy's prize statue, or symbol of movie excellence, did not get its name until 1931. One day, the Academy librarian looked at the statue and declared, "It looks like my Uncle Oscar!" From that day forward, the statue has been known by no other name.

1. This selection is mainly about
  - (a) a man named Oscar.
  - (b) a librarian.
  - (c) the Academy Award.
  - (d) winning a gold statue.
2. Which happened last?
  - (a) The Academy was formed.
  - (b) "Wings" was best film.
  - (c) Oscar got its name.
  - (d) A librarian saw the statue.
3. Something coveted is
  - (a) under wraps.
  - (b) very much wanted.
  - (c) easy to find.
  - (d) in the movies.
4. The Academy Award is
  - (a) a large cash prize.
  - (b) a solid gold statue.
  - (c) easy to win.
  - (d) for movie excellence.
5. The first Academy Award was
  - (a) won by "Wings" in 1928.
  - (b) for "Gone with the Wind."
  - (c) given to "Star Wars."
  - (d) awarded in 1931.
6. A supporting role is
  - (a) not a starring part.
  - (b) often served with butter.
  - (c) the one that pays the most.
  - (d) rarely very interesting.
7. The Academy Award got its name
  - (a) after careful study.
  - (b) from a chance remark.
  - (c) from an early movie.
  - (d) after everyone voted.
8. A young performer would probably be most happy with
  - (a) another small part.
  - (b) a very long holiday.
  - (c) a night at the movies.
  - (d) an Oscar.



Katie Kondenar, age 19 months, pulled herself up on a chair. Then she got down and crawled across the rug. She even took a few steps all by herself. Her parents are proud of their baby and they are absolutely delighted with her accomplishments. The Kondenars have special reason to be so happy.

On June 23, 1983, Mrs. Kondenar was mowing the front lawn of the family home, in Smithtown, Long Island. Her two girls Katie, then 18 months, and Karen, age 4, were safely inside the house, or so she thought. All of a sudden Mrs. Kondenar realized that Karen had left the door open. She ran to the pool in the backyard, and there was baby Katie. The child was floating face down in the water.

The mother's screams of horror brought a neighbor who was a fire fighter trained in first aid. He worked on the child but was unable to restore breathing or a heart beat. Everyone feared that the child had died from drowning. The baby was transported to the hospital, but the doctors there offered little hope.

On the third day after Katie had fallen into the pool, she began to move a little. Doctors then said she might live, but that the chances of her brain working effectively again were very slim. The Kondenars didn't give up. Throughout the ordeal, family, neighbors, and friends of the little girl said special prayers. The prayers were answered. First Katie opened her eyes and looked at her mother. Everyone calls it a miracle.

1. Katie Kondenar

- (a) is an excellent swimmer.
- (b) can often be found crying.
- (c) nearly died from drowning.
- (d) causes trouble for her mother.

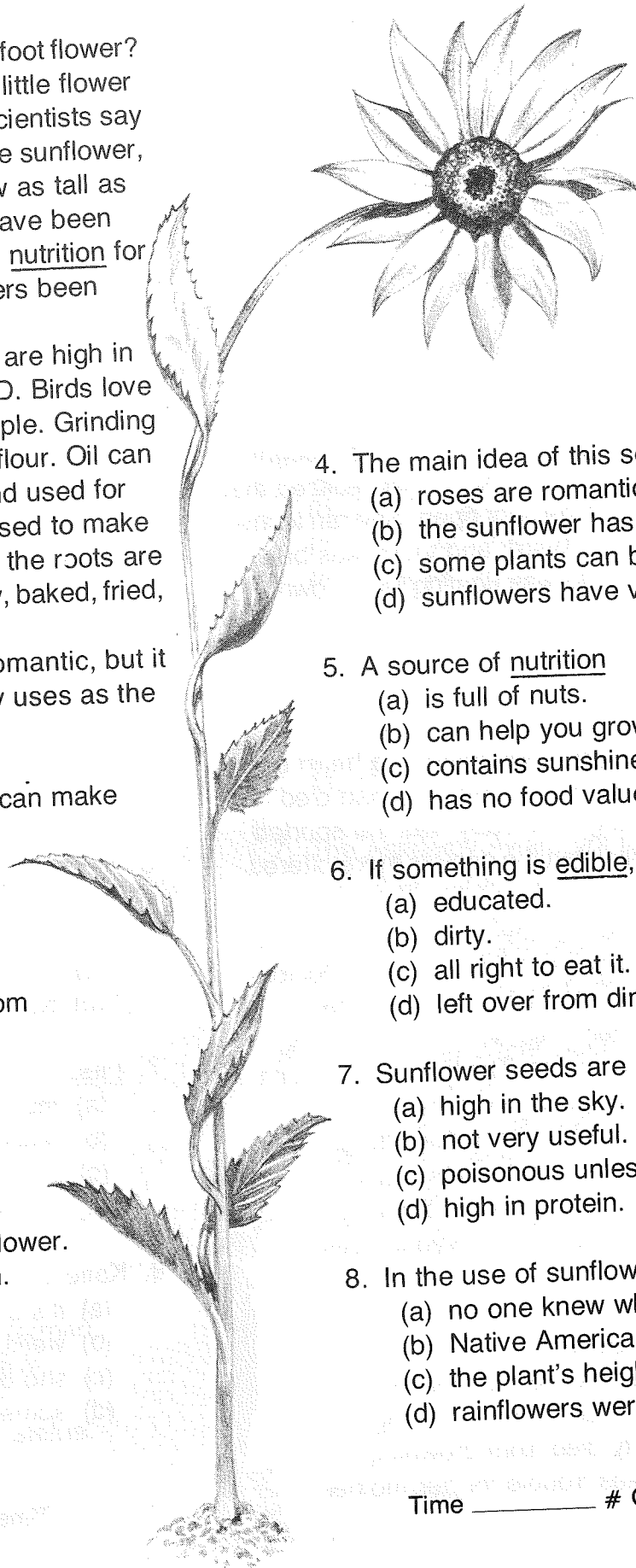
- 2. The child got to the pool because
  - (a) her sister left the door open.
  - (b) she fell out of her crib.
  - (c) someone took down the fence.
  - (d) her mother was doing dishes.
- 3. Which happend first?
  - (a) Mrs. Kondenar mowed the lawn.
  - (b) Katie fell in the pool.
  - (c) Karen opened the door.
  - (d) Katie nearly drowned.
- 4. From now on, the Kondenars will
  - (a) never mow the lawn again.
  - (b) work at the Smithtown hospital.
  - (c) watch Katie very carefully.
  - (d) keep less water in the pool.
- 5. A miracle is something that
  - (a) happens on a Monday.
  - (b) causes great difficulty.
  - (c) is beyond human power.
  - (d) is easy to understand.
- 6. Which happened last?
  - (a) Katie's mother found her.
  - (b) Katie fell in the pool.
  - (c) A neighbor tried to help.
  - (d) Katie went to the hospital.
- 7. First aid
  - (a) must be done in a hospital.
  - (b) teaches people to swim.
  - (c) stops a case from breathing.
  - (d) is help for an accident victim.
- 8. Katie's steps mean a lot because
  - (a) it's a miracle she's alive.
  - (b) walking is easier than crawling.
  - (c) she gets around on her own.
  - (d) someone got her new shoes.

What can you do with a thirty-foot flower? You can't keep it at home in a little flower pot, that's for sure. However, scientists say that there are many uses for the sunflower, which has been known to grow as tall as thirty feet. Native Americans have been using this plant as a source of nutrition for years. Only recently have others been realizing its value.

The seeds of the sunflower are high in protein, calcium, and vitamin D. Birds love these seeds, as do many people. Grinding the seeds makes a delicious flour. Oil can be obtained from the seed and used for cooking. The stems can be used to make paper, fuel, or fertilizer. Even the roots are edible. They can be eaten raw, baked, fried, or sliced in a salad.

A red rose may be more romantic, but it doesn't have nearly as many uses as the sunflower.

- Ground sunflower seeds can make
  - flowers.
  - flour.
  - roses.
  - smaller sunflowers.
- Cooking oil can come from
  - sunflower stems.
  - sunflower roots.
  - oil flowers.
  - sunflower seeds.
- People do not eat
  - the roots of a sunflower.
  - a sunflower's stem.
  - food cooked in oil.
  - sunflower seeds.



- The main idea of this selection is
  - roses are romantic.
  - the sunflower has many uses.
  - some plants can be eaten.
  - sunflowers have vitamins.
- A source of nutrition
  - is full of nuts.
  - can help you grow.
  - contains sunshine.
  - has no food value.
- If something is edible, it is
  - educated.
  - dirty.
  - all right to eat it.
  - left over from dinner.
- Sunflower seeds are
  - high in the sky.
  - not very useful.
  - poisonous unless cooked.
  - high in protein.
- In the use of sunflowers,
  - no one knew what to do.
  - Native Americans led others.
  - the plant's height was trouble.
  - rainflowers were preferred.

During the course of his or her working day, a police officer might have numerous occasions to direct a vehicle to pull over to the side of the road and stop. Sometimes the officers check for proper identification documents. Sometimes they check to make sure that the driver of the car or truck is sober. Sometimes it is a traffic violation that causes the police to stop a car.

One day in Key Largo, Florida, Sheriff's Deputy Al Parker pursued a speeding car. As he got closer, the car began to look very familiar to him. In fact, when he got close enough to read the license plates, he knew it was his own car. He radioed this back to police headquarters as the pursuit continued. The deputy chased the car for several miles at speeds of up to 85 miles an hour before the driver finally got the message and pulled over.

When the driver stopped, Al Parker asked him if the car he was driving belonged to him. The driver looked at him and replied that it wasn't his car, but it belonged to a friend who permitted him to drive it. The deputy said the vehicle looked like Al Parker's car. Of course, the driver agreed and said that Al was his good friend. Al Parker decided it was time to bring the story to a rapid end. He leaped forward toward the driver and pointed to his own name on the police officer's nameplate. The amazed and speechless car thief then got a chance to ride in Al Parker's other car—the one with the siren and the flashing red lights.

1. Al Parker first followed the car
  - (a) because it was stolen.
  - (b) to stop it for speeding.
  - (c) to check on the headlights.
  - (d) to make it speed up.
2. It is NOT true that
  - (a) there was a high-speed chase.
  - (b) the car belonged to the driver.
  - (c) the car was a stolen one.
  - (d) police cars have sirens.
3. If something is familiar,
  - (a) you have never seen it.
  - (b) you think it looks funny.
  - (c) someone forgets about it.
  - (d) you have seen it before.
4. The driver of the car
  - (a) got a ticket.
  - (b) knew Al Parker.
  - (c) punched the deputy.
  - (d) was a thief.
5. Al knew the car was stolen because
  - (a) the car was dark blue.
  - (b) the driver had no license.
  - (c) the car had been speeding.
  - (d) it was his own car.
6. Another word for pursuit is
  - (a) chase.
  - (b) finish.
  - (c) car.
  - (d) money.
7. The last thing Al did was to
  - (a) chase a speeder.
  - (b) show his nameplate.
  - (c) radio police headquarters.
  - (d) take the thief in.
8. Al Parker's "other car" was
  - (a) brown and white.
  - (b) a police car.
  - (c) parked in the garage.
  - (d) red with a new stereo.

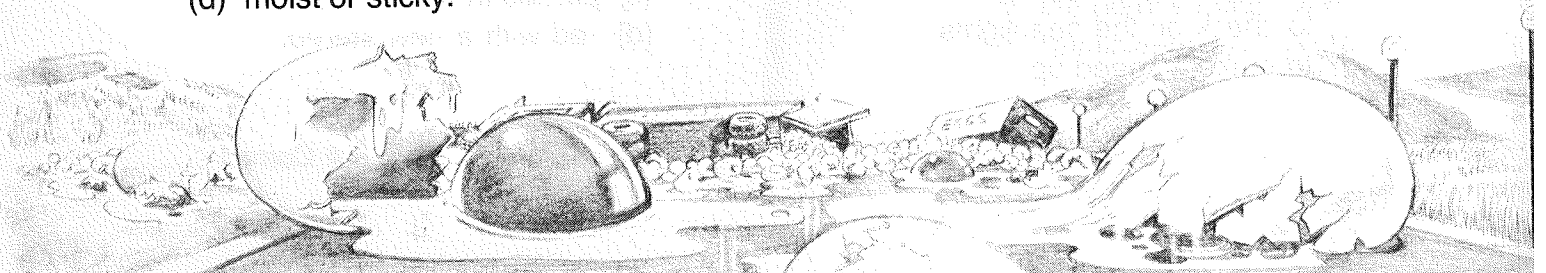
Accidents on major highways in the United States are a common happening. Some of them are serious and result in injury to property or people. These are no laughing matter. Sometimes, however, an accident does have a humorous side. One such accident happened on an important truck route in the state of Michigan. The result of this accident was so amusing that even the usually solemn highway police officers were seen and heard to laugh loudly.

A huge trailer truck overturned on the roadway. This was not the first time a large truck had turned over on that road. It probably won't be the last time. What made this accident both comical and unusual was the contents of the truck which spilled all over the road. What the truck had been carrying was a cargo of 93,000 eggs. After the accident, not one of the thousands of eggs was unbroken. Every egg that had been in the truck was cracked and spilling out onto the road.

The road had to be closed for a while to permit clean-up crews to dispose of what one police officer referred to as the "biggest omelet in the world."

1. This story took place in
  - (a) Michigan.
  - (b) Minnesota.
  - (c) Montana.
  - (d) Missouri.
2. Another word for humorous is
  - (a) difficult.
  - (b) accidental.
  - (c) funny.
  - (d) moist or sticky.
3. The accident in this story
  - (a) damaged several cars.
  - (b) involved a truckload of eggs.
  - (c) hurt two police officers.
  - (d) closed the road for a week.
4. People probably looked at this accident because
  - (a) they had nothing else to do.
  - (b) police made them stop.
  - (c) they were hungry for eggs.
  - (d) it was such an odd sight.
5. A very large omelet contains
  - (a) butter and milk.
  - (b) the remains of a truck.
  - (c) nothing to eat.
  - (d) lots of eggs.
6. After the accident was cleaned up,
  - (a) some of the eggs were sold.
  - (b) none of the cargo could be used.
  - (c) police officers got new brooms.
  - (d) the truck driver ate an egg.
7. Someone who's usually solemn
  - (a) obeys the law.
  - (b) can't be found.
  - (c) drives a large truck.
  - (d) doesn't smile often.
8. Which happened first?
  - (a) The eggs were cleaned up.
  - (b) Police officers laughed.
  - (c) Every egg broke.
  - (d) A truck overturned.

Time \_\_\_\_\_ # Correct \_\_\_\_\_



Myrtle and Snaggletooth had to move out for a while, and so did all their friends. It was not a small move, and it was not the slightest bit easy. Where were they moving? Were they going from Atlanta to Los Angeles, from London to Paris, from Mexico City to Washington? No, they weren't moving that far. They were just moving upstairs.

What's so interesting about a move upstairs? What could be difficult about something like that? Keep on reading and you'll find out.

Myrtle is a turtle who weighs 462 pounds. Snaggletooth is a nine-and-one-half-foot-long sand shark. They live with 282 of their friends. So even though they were not moving very far, the move was a big one. It took lots of planning, and it wasn't easy.

These animals were all residents of the New England Aquarium when a window on the giant aquarium tank broke. They had to move out until the window was fixed. While workers repaired the broken window, all the animals were kept in a special holding tank.

Two weeks later, they were all moved again, this time back to their regular home. In nets, on stretchers, in people's arms, they went back by elevator to their home. There they could swim as much as they wanted, and tourists could visit them as before.

1. Myrtle and Snaggletooth
  - (a) live in water.
  - (b) don't ever move.
  - (c) are quite small.
  - (d) are both turtles.
2. Residents of a place
  - (a) rent their rooms.
  - (b) never leave that place.
  - (c) live there.
  - (d) know how to swim.
3. The animals had to move because
  - (a) their house burned down.
  - (b) they didn't pay the rent.
  - (c) some glass broke.
  - (d) the floor cracked.
4. While the aquarium was being fixed,
  - (a) people took the fish home.
  - (b) animals lived in a holding tank.
  - (c) the animals had no water.
  - (d) broken glass was everywhere.
5. This story is mainly about moving
  - (a) through the water.
  - (b) animals in little boats.
  - (c) from an aquarium and back.
  - (d) turtles in an elevator.
6. Which happened first?
  - (a) The animals all moved back.
  - (b) A window broke in the tank.
  - (c) Workers fixed the window.
  - (d) People moved the animals.
7. Snaggletooth probably got its name
  - (a) from the fin on its back.
  - (b) to frighten the visitors.
  - (c) from its parents.
  - (d) because of its teeth and jaws.
8. This story suggests that people
  - (a) are afraid of sharks.
  - (b) like to visit an aquarium.
  - (c) shouldn't break glass.
  - (d) complain about turtles.

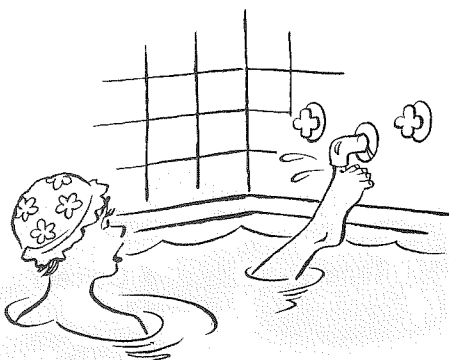
Every day the news is full of stories of people being rescued from burning buildings, car accidents, or sinking ships. Some of these rescues are more daring than others, but in most cases the people involved are happy to be saved. You've probably heard or read about some of these rescues yourself. But have you ever heard of someone being rescued from a bathtub? A woman in England once needed such a rescue.

After a tiring day, the woman decided that a warm, soothing bath would be pleasant. She lowered herself into the tub, closed her eyes, and stretched out. Without thinking, she stretched a little too far and somehow placed her big toe in the cold water faucet.

The bath water grew cool and the woman's toe was still caught! She pulled and tugged and then began to yell for help. A member of her family decided to call the fire department.

When the fire fighters arrived, the poor woman's toe had become swollen and was even more tightly jammed in the faucet. One clever fire fighter thought of a solution—shampoo! The woman spread shampoo around her toe, which then became slippery enough to pull out of the tap. The woman was delighted to get free.

- This story took place in
  - a fire house.
  - a Boston bathtub.
  - Ireland.
  - England.



- Something soothing helps a person
  - get angry.
  - relax.
  - clean off.
  - get clean.
- In the faucet, the woman
  - found enough water.
  - got her toe stuck.
  - located the shampoo.
  - caught an insect.
- Something swollen
  - breaks in pieces.
  - bleeds heavily.
  - keeps warm.
  - increases in size.
- The fire fighters arrived to
  - put out a fire.
  - see what the smoke was.
  - rescue a woman in trouble.
  - break down the door.
- Pulling and tugging probably
  - made a lot of noise.
  - caused the faucet to cool.
  - used up the shampoo.
  - caused the toe to swell.
- The shampoo helped because it
  - made the toe slippery.
  - cleaned off the faucet.
  - soothed the upset woman.
  - entertained the fire fighters.
- It's likely that the woman will
  - never take a bath again.
  - go to the dry cleaners.
  - be more careful in the future.
  - move to a larger bathtub.



Don Pape, age 68, of Redwood City, California, felt sure he would never see his mother again. He sincerely believed that she had died many years earlier.

Don hadn't seen his mother since 1929, when she sent him to live with his father's parents. At that time, Don's mother went to Alaska to take a job as a cook. In 1936, Don made an effort to locate his mother by writing to the police department in the Alaska town where he knew she had worked. He got an answer to his letter, but it wasn't what he wanted to hear. The letter said that his mother had been killed in an avalanche. Avalanches were not uncommon in the snowy mountains of Alaska, so Don had no reason to doubt the news that he received.

In the fall of 1982, Don found out that a person named E.O. Onge was trying to contact him. He didn't recognize the name. Because he was unaware that his mother still lived and had married again, he never suspected that the person might be his own mother. The name meant nothing to him, but he followed the matter up and sent a note to this mysterious person whom he felt sure he wouldn't know.

Don Pape and his 91-year-old mother, Eva Onge, had a happy meeting just before Christmas in 1982. Mrs. Onge, who lived in a retirement community in Canada, said she had been searching for her son for many years. She knew nothing about any avalanche or why the police department would have said that she had died. She did know that she and her son were going to have the best Christmas yet.

1. Don's mother went to Alaska
  - (a) on a long vacation.
  - (b) to work as a cook.
  - (c) to get away from her son.
  - (d) because she liked the cold.
2. Don gave up looking for his mother because
  - (a) he didn't want to find her.
  - (b) she told him to go away.
  - (c) no one would help him.
  - (d) he thought she was dead.
3. An avalanche is a
  - (a) snow or mud slide.
  - (b) police department.
  - (c) serious illness from the cold.
  - (d) job in a restaurant.
4. Which came first?
  - (a) Don's mother looked for him.
  - (b) Don saw his mother again.
  - (c) The police said she had died.
  - (d) Don's mother went to Alaska.
5. Don didn't know his mother's name
  - (a) until she got a new job.
  - (b) after she married again.
  - (c) because he wasn't very smart.
  - (d) because he didn't want to.
6. Don and his mother had a good Christmas because they
  - (a) got lots of gifts.
  - (b) had so much money.
  - (c) traveled to Alaska.
  - (d) were together again.
7. A retirement community has
  - (a) many young children.
  - (b) mostly elderly residents.
  - (c) many places to work.
  - (d) its own snowy mountains.
8. To be unaware means
  - (a) to find a job.
  - (b) to help the elderly.
  - (c) not to know.
  - (d) to be silly.

Does a child's position in the family make a difference? Is it better to be the oldest, the youngest, or the middle child? Some children would consider being the youngest child somewhat of an ordeal. This story, however, is about someone who found that being the youngest was not a hardship but an advantage.

A young woman whom we'll call Lisa was presented with an award at her high school graduation. The prize was for twelve years of perfect attendance. Upon receiving the award, Lisa sincerely thanked her older brother for his help in enabling her to achieve her goal of perfect school attendance.

"Why thank your brother?" asked the curious principal. "What did he do to help?"

"My brother gave me everything before I came to school," replied the girl. "It really was a big help."

"Oh, I know you had his books and things to study before you came to school. But how did that lead to perfect attendance?" the principal asked.

"Oh no, it wasn't his books or anything like that," said Lisa. "What he gave me was the mumps, the measles, and the chicken pox before I was five years old. So I never had to miss school because of them."

1. Lisa won an award for
  - (a) the highest marks.
  - (b) perfect timing.
  - (c) doing all her work.
  - (d) perfect school attendance.



2. Lisa had several childhood diseases
  - (a) during her school years.
  - (b) when she was six.
  - (c) before she was five.
  - (d) at the same time.
3. This story is mainly about
  - (a) Lisa's favorite subjects.
  - (b) why Lisa thanked her brother.
  - (c) going home from school.
  - (d) the high school principal.
4. Lisa got sick because
  - (a) she stayed out in the rain.
  - (b) her friends were sick.
  - (c) no one took care of her.
  - (d) her brother was sick.
5. Which happened first?
  - (a) Lisa was born.
  - (b) Lisa's brother was born.
  - (c) Lisa went to school.
  - (d) Lisa had measles.
6. An advantage is something which
  - (a) puts someone ahead.
  - (b) costs too much money.
  - (c) is entertaining.
  - (d) causes hardship.
7. An ordeal is
  - (a) a bet with a friend.
  - (b) eaten before dinner.
  - (c) a large audience.
  - (d) a hardship or difficulty.
8. If she had been older than her brother, Lisa probably would
  - (a) never have been sick at all.
  - (b) not have done well in school.
  - (c) have missed some school days.
  - (d) have graduated later.