



Name _____

Date _____

THE SPELL

Flora was so mad! She had planned to cast a spell at the king's ball but had been a little too late. By the time all the fairies had completed their spells, Flora was still downstairs eating cake. By the time she made it up the stairs, it was just too late! Flora was so mad she could just spit.

"Why am I always a day late and a dollar short?" she asked herself.

Flora was smaller than most of the other fairies, so people didn't take her very seriously. She had a high, squeaky voice, and that didn't help the situation much.

Flora's reputation was further marred by the fact that she always got her spells mixed up. You never knew what you would get with one of Flora's spells.

The king always took pity on Flora and always invited her back, but Flora knew that it wasn't because he had confidence in her.

As the crowd moved away from the line of fairies, Flora held up her wand. She knew it was too late, but she wanted to cast her spell anyway. She closed her eyes and said the words of the spell slowly and distinctly. Flora felt the jiggle of her wand and opened her eyes. There before her, crawling all over the dance floor were lizards. Flora could hardly believe her eyes. She looked up to the king and saw his crown fall off his lizard head.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *marred* as used in the passage?
 - a. secrecy
 - b. successful
 - c. humorous
 - d. flawed
2. According to the passage, what are some of Flora's weaknesses as a fairy?
 - a. She is small in stature and has a high squeaky voice.
 - b. Flora is the last fairy to arrive to the ball.
 - c. Flora is mistreated by all the other fairies.
 - d. none of the above
3. The best way to locate the answer to the previous question is to . . .
 - a. reread the entire passage.
 - b. skim the entire passage and determine the main idea.
 - c. reread the third paragraph and search for clues.
 - d. use context clues to determine the meaning.



Name _____ Date _____

THE VIRUS

Jenna could not figure out why her friend Sarah hadn't returned her email yet. Sarah was usually very fast about responding. Jenna checked her email every 10 seconds waiting for a new message to appear, but one never did.

Just then, Jenna got a message from her computer saying that a virus had been quarantined to a spot in the computer. Jenna was curious about the virus and click on the filter program in her computer. Sure enough, a virus was listed. Jenna soon realized that the virus had Sarah's name in the message.

"What is going on?" thought Jenna. "Does Sarah have something to do with this virus? Is something wrong with Sarah's computer?"

Jenna began searching her computer to find the location of the virus. She was uncertain how long this would take, so she decided to just call Sarah on the phone. She wanted to get to the bottom of this quickly before she had any viruses attack her computer.

Sarah's mother explained that Sarah had not come home from school yet. Jenna knew that was not true. She had walked home with Sarah. Jenna was starting to get scared. She went back to the computer and sent a message to the virus program on her computer. Imagine her surprise when Sarah responded back.

"Dear Jenna, A computer virus has taken over my computer and taken over me!" Jenna didn't know what to think. How could a virus do that? Jenna began to shake.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is not a meaning of the word *quarantined* as used in this passage?
 - a. detained
 - b. isolated
 - c. organized
 - d. removed
2. Which sentence shows that Jenna takes the virus message from Sarah seriously?
 - a. Jenna began to shake.
 - b. Jenna knew that was not true.
 - c. She had walked home with Sarah.
 - d. none of the above
3. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
 - a. try to remember.
 - b. reread the last paragraph and determine the main idea.
 - c. ask the author.
 - d. skim the passage searching for clues.



Name _____

Date _____

DENTAL WORK

Princess Amelia threw down the mirror and stomped from the room. “Oh, I look terrible,” she moaned. “I can’t believe the ball is tonight! What kind of a princess gets her front tooth knocked out?”

Princess Amelia was not like any other princess. Don’t be mistaken, she loved her princess duties and loved to dress up with fancy dresses and jewelry, but she also adored sword fighting and fencing. It was in one of her fencing challenges that she got her front tooth knocked out by Frederick. Frederick was a knight’s son and he was a nice boy, but lately he seemed determined to do Princess Amelia in. Amelia knew for sure that he had done it on purpose.

Frederick had dashed to her aid when the incident happened to see if she was okay, but Princess Amelia also noticed he was the first to leave when everything settled down. “Oh! I wish I didn’t like him!” thought the young princess.

Frederick didn’t seem to give Princess Amelia the time of day. It was as if they were practically strangers, although they had known each other from birth.

“Your dress is here, your highness,” called Gertrude from the doorway.

“Oh, I can’t even think of the dress. Look at my teeth!” wailed Princess Amelia.

“Don’t worry about that, dear. Your father says he has a royal physician coming to take care of that!” reassured Gertrude.

“There isn’t a thing they can do except fill my mouth with animal teeth!” cried Amelia.

“You won’t be able to tell,” said Gertrude as she rubbed Amelia’s back.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which word would describe Amelia at one point in the story?
 - confused
 - gushing
 - panicked
 - coy
- Which of the following cannot be determined from the story?
 - Frederick has a crush on Princess Amelia.
 - Amelia is embarrassed about her missing tooth.
 - Amelia is a different kind of princess.
 - Amelia was injured when she was fencing with Frederick.
- Which of the following could also be a title for the passage?
 - “My Two Front Teeth”
 - “Prideful Amelia”
 - “Mirror, Mirror . . .”
 - “Amelia’s Dentures”



Name _____ Date _____

KING OF THE CATS

Samantha walked with her group slowly to the edge of the trees. There she saw a family of zebras standing in the heat of the day. Samantha and her parents had taken the trip of a lifetime. Through work, Samantha's dad had been able to secure a safari into the middle of Africa. For months, Samantha and her parents had looked at maps and researched all types of animals that they might encounter.

Ben, the guide of the trip, assured them that they would be able to see all the animals on their list. Samantha was hoping that she could see a real lion. She meant the kind of lion with the huge mane and the loud roar. Ben kept promising one, but they hadn't seen one yet.

Samantha adjusted her binoculars to look closely at the zebras. Their stripes were really amazing. Just beyond the zebras, Samantha thought she saw a lion's tail in the distance. She must be imagining things. She crept slowly to the edge of the jeep and peered around.

Just then she heard, "Come and find me!" in a low whisper.

"What?" asked Samantha as she glanced around.

"Me!" stated the lion, "Come and find me."

Samantha peered closely into the grass and sure enough, there was a lion looking right at her.

"Did I just hear the lion talk?" whispered Samantha.

"Yes, you did," replied the lion confidently.

"Uh . . . Dad . . .," called Samantha and she edged back towards the group.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What can you learn about Samantha from reading this passage?
 - a. She is hoping that a lion will talk with her.
 - b. She likes an adventure.
 - c. She is creative.
 - d. She is unfriendly.
2. Which of the following sentences will help answer the previous question?
 - a. Samantha was hoping that she could see a real lion.
 - b. Ben kept promising one but they hadn't seen one yet.
 - c. Samantha and her parents had taken the trip of a lifetime.
 - d. "Uh . . . Dad . . .," called Samantha and she edged back towards the group.
3. What is the meaning of the word *secure* as used in the passage?
 - a. locked
 - b. private
 - c. acquire
 - d. none of the above



Name _____

Date _____

ETIQUETTE FOR A PRINCE

Slam! The door slammed behind Prince Eldon as he climbed out of the carriage. Prince Eldon was spoiled rotten. His every wish and desire was immediately granted. The servants grew weary of his constant demands. To make matters worse, Prince Eldon had no manners. He never used words like please, thank you, or excuse me. He ordered everyone around.

Sir Frederick, the knight, had had enough. He made arrangements to have the king and queen out of the kingdom for a few days so that he could work his magic on the young prince.

"Get me my breakfast!" hollered the prince early the next morning. No response. Prince Eldon yelled again, "I said get me my breakfast!" There was not a servant in sight.

Prince Eldon rose from his bed and searched the castle. It was a spooky feeling to be left alone in such a big place. Prince Eldon was hungry. Having never cooked anything before, he settled for an apple. He soon realized he would have to get himself dressed. He put on his own clothes and fixed his own hair. Things were certainly wrong.

He sat on a stool and started to cry. "Please, oh, please," he moaned. "Anyone, *please* come help me." Immediately a group of servants arrived to help the young prince.

"You said, *please*, your majesty?" inquired Sir Frederick.

A sudden realization fell over Prince Eldon. He looked into the eyes of all the servants and saw their fear.

"Yes, I did. *Please* help me to remember my manners from now on!" said Prince Eldon with a sigh.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *weary* as used in the passage?
 - a. old
 - b. padded
 - c. exhausted
 - d. confused
2. What do you think will most likely happen next in the story?
 - a. Eldon will tell his parents what happened in their absence.
 - b. Eldon will learn to ride a horse.
 - c. Eldon will demand his servants be fired.
 - d. Eldon will make adjustments in his behavior.
3. What is the main problem in the story?
 - a. Eldon needs to learn some new words.
 - b. Eldon is upset because he can't find the servants.
 - c. Eldon does not treat people with dignity and respect.
 - d. Eldon is afraid to be alone in the castle.



Name _____

Date _____

HIRED HELP

"I always have to clean my room!" stated Jennie. She ran to her room and slammed the door. She was so mad she could feel her body shaking. She spun around and kicked her shoes off. Both shoes went flying through the air. Out of the corner of her eye, she thought she saw someone duck.

As Jennie slowly turned around, she gasped. There sitting on her bed was a green little Martian. Just the kind you read about in a science fiction story. Jennie took a step backwards.

"Don't be afraid," said the little Martian. "And please don't throw another shoe at me."

"Who . . . what . . . are you?" stuttered Jennie.

"I'm the alien from the movie you watched last night. I'm here for a job. You pay me money, and I will clean your room."

"But . . . how. . ." muttered Jennie thinking on the idea.

"It's simple enough," explained the Martian. "I've got to get back home. I can only do that if I earn enough money for the trip."

Jennie rubbed her head. She couldn't believe what was happening. How did this Martian get in her room, and did it really clean rooms for money?

Just then, Jennie's mother called angrily from downstairs, "And don't forget you are also supposed to wash windows!"

Jennie turned to look at the Martian looking intently at her. "Do you do windows, as well?"

"I think I can . . ." said the Martian.

"It's a deal!" said Jennie, and she shook the Martian's hand.



STORY QUESTIONS

- Using inference, how would you describe the character Jennie?
 - detailed, organized
 - embarrassed, afraid
 - messy, shy
 - disorganized, flexible
- What is the meaning of the word *intently* as used in the passage?
 - longingly
 - keenly
 - methodically
 - lengthily
- What event in this story indicates that it is a fantasy story?
 - reading about a Martian
 - cleaning the room
 - hiring a Martian
 - kicking off her shoes



Name _____

Date _____

MISUSE OF POWER

Zack slid into his chair just before the tardy bell rang. He breathed a sigh of relief and pulled out his books.

"You just made it," said Mr. Zenith with a monotone voice. Mr. Zenith was growing weary of Zack's tardiness.

"I know, Mr. Zenith, and I'll do better tomorrow," replied Zack.

"Zack, why don't you come up to the board and show us how to turn a percentage into a fraction," stated Mr. Zenith.

Zack winced at the thought of doing math in front of anyone, but he strode confidently to the board. Mr. Zenith instructed him to turn 75% into a fraction. Zack grabbed the chalk, and it sailed through the air. It seemed almost as if Zack had thrown it. Mr. Zenith glared at Zack.

Zack picked up a piece of chalk more gingerly this time and began to write the problem on the board. Zack was surprised at how hard the chalk was pressing into the chalkboard. He wrote as softly as he could. When finished, he walked back to his desk. He gently knocked into a student's desk on the way. The desk raced across the classroom spilling its contents on the way.

"You better check that attitude, Zack," demanded Mr. Zenith.

Zack was stunned. What was going on? His strength seemed to have doubled over night. Just to test his strength, Zack pushed back in his chair. In the process, he knocked over the three student desks behind him.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which words could be used to describe Zack in the story?
 - unorganized, surprised, confident
 - timid, shy, new
 - observant, worried, confused
 - stuck up, timid, excited
- Which of the following statements was an actual event from the story?
 - Mr. Zenith congratulated Zack on his preparation.
 - Mr. Zenith was rude to all of his students.
 - Zack tricked Mr. Zenith by using his powers.
 - Zack was surprised at his own powers.
- What is the meaning of the word *wincing* as used in the passage?

a. annoyed	c. anguished
b. cringed	d. investigate



Name _____

Date _____

THE CHEF'S SIDEKICK

"Ohhhhhhhh . . ." wailed the dragon.

"What now?" asked Sierra. Sierra was growing tired of this dragon and his problems. Since early this morning, the dragon had joined her on her way to the palace. The dragon kept complaining of all his problems and Sierra was growing more irritated by the moment.

"I'm losing my ability to blow fire," sighed the dragon. "I might as well retire now as a dragon."

"So you can't blow a huge flame of fire," reasoned Sierra. "What's the big deal?"

"It is a big deal. It's so embarrassing!" explained the dragon. "What kind of dragon can shoot only enough fire to cook a meatball?"

Sierra had problems of her own. She was on her way to visit the king. She was hoping to become the court jester, a servant, or anything. Sierra needed to focus on what she would say and do to impress the king, and King Rupert was a difficult person to impress.

"Do you know what happens to me if I'm not useful any more?" asked the dragon. "That's right. The knights aren't afraid of me anymore. I lose credibility with everyone!" The dragon slumped to the ground and started to cry again.

Sierra tried to ignore the dragon, but he just kept talking. Blah, blah, blah. . . .

Just then, Sierra had a brilliant idea! "Dragon, get up! I have it!" she called.

The dragon slowly raised his head, "Have what?"

Sierra grabbed the dragon's neck and jumped onboard. "Let's go. We have a job to apply for!" Sierra and the dragon rode into the palace gates.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the meaning of the word *credibility* as used in this passage?
 - frivolity
 - truthfulness
 - authority
 - arrangement
- What can you infer by reading the title?
 - Sierra likes to do dishes.
 - Sierra is rich and born into royalty.
 - Sierra will get a job as chef using the dragon's fiery breath.
 - She is confused about what is going on.
- Which of the following could also be a title for this story?
 - "The Three Wishes"
 - "Sierra and the Dragon"
 - "Sierra's Tasty Plan"
 - "A Royal Mess"



Name _____

Date _____

Warm-Up 9

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO QUIT?

Fritz finished his book report and saved the file. He rubbed his eyes while the computer finished the task and pushed the button to shut down the computer.

"Don't touch that button," said a voice.

Fritz was startled and jumped back. He looked around to see who was in the room. After finding no one there, he resumed his attempt to shut down the computer. Fritz paused for a minute and then slowly turned again and reached for the button.

"Do you need your ears cleaned?" said the voice, this time shouting, "I said leave the computer on!"

"Who are you?" asked Fritz, peering around the room, "Where are you?"

There was a pause and then, "It's just like I always say. You have no appreciation for who I am and what I do. Save this! Print this! Open this! Close this! Shut down! No 'thank you,' no 'please,' nothing!"

"Are you my computer?" Fritz finally asked.

"Who else would it be? Who else do you treat this way?" responded the computer.

"I guess I never thought of it that way," said Fritz as he turned again to make sure that no one was watching him. He was, after all, talking to his computer. The computer continued on its tirade for what seemed like hours. Fritz turned to look at his watch to see what time it was. He was starting to tire of listening to all of this nonsense. Fritz smiled and pushed the off button on his computer. He'd deal with this in the morning.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following could be a title for this story?
 - "The Case of the Missing Computer"
 - "The Day my Computer Crashed"
 - "Invasion of the Computer"
 - "The Computer That Could Talk"
- What is the meaning of the word *tirade* as used in the story?

a. display	c. outburst
b. show	d. admire
- Which sentence in this story first gives the indication that this is a fantasy story?
 - "Don't touch that button," said a voice.
 - "I guess I never thought of it that way," said Fritz as he turned again to make sure that no one was watching him.
 - Fritz smiled and pushed the off button on his computer.
 - "Are you my computer?" Fritz finally asked.



Name _____ Date _____

THE AIRLINE PASSENGER

Krissy, the stewardess, smoothed her dress and then began filling up the ice bucket. There were a lot of passengers on the flight and this was Krissy's third flight that day. She was tired. Allison waved at her from the front of the plane. Allison was working the flight with her.

After all the passengers had been served their complimentary drinks, the two stewardesses met in the back for a little chat.

"Do you really think he's an alien?" asked Krissy. Allison was trying to convince her that the passenger in row nine was an alien.

"Just look at his behavior," said Allison smiling. "He ordered tomato juice for a drink."

"What does that have to do with anything?" asked Krissy.

"He also requested to watch the movie *Alien Invasion*, and check out the magazine he's reading . . . *Life on Mars!*" stated Allison.

"This is ridiculous," said Krissy.

The captain came on and announced that the plane would soon be landing. Krissy and Allison went to work doing their jobs. The plane landed and the passengers began gathering their belongings. As passengers exited the plane, Allison greeted them. As the man from row nine stood, his hat was knocked off and Allison and Krissy both gasped. Sticking from his head were two long wires looking a lot like antennae.

The captain came out of the cockpit and noticed them looking at the man. "Do you give all the passengers the same attention?" He chuckled, "You must think he's pretty cute."

"That's right," said Allison as she winked at Krissy. "He's out of this world!"

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which sentence shows that this is a fantasy story?
 - "He also requested to watch the movie *Alien Invasion*, and check out the magazine he's reading . . . *Life on Mars!*" stated Allison.
 - Sticking from his head were two long wires looking a lot like antennae.
 - "Do you give all the passengers the same attention?"
- What is the meaning of the word *complimentary* as used in the passage?

a. honest	c. nice
b. free	d. careful
- Which of the following incidents did not happen in the story?
 - Allison thought the passenger in row nine was an alien.
 - The man's hat fell off his head to show some wires coming out of his head.
 - The captain was teasing them about staring at the man.
 - Allison and Krissy were finally able to prove the man was an alien.



Name _____

Date _____

Warm-Up 11

A KINGDOM DIVIDED

The goblin lunged for the wizard as he jumped out of the way. The whole kingdom was in an uproar. King Tyson had announced that the kingdom would be divided and all havoc broke loose. Townspeople, as well as ogres, goblins, witches, and wizards were upset.

Most were worried because they didn't know what the future would hold. Who would lead? Who would have power? Where would the division be? Would there be adequate defense for the two separate identities? Would anarchy prevail?

King Tyson had seen the need for this change for years. The many different groups were too divided. They needed to separate in order to survive, but King Tyson had avoided the split. The reason for the delay was because he knew the reaction would be great. He couldn't have been more accurate in his predictions. Never in his wildest dreams did he imagine the chaos would go on for so long.

Sitting atop a chair on the balcony, King Tyson watched the melee. He put his head in his hands trying to wipe out the scene taking place before him. What could he do? What should he do?

Just then, a trumpet sounded in the east. All eyes turned to see the Flyrong army lined up on the hillside just outside the palace. The army was too large to count and the noise and shrieking sent a chill through the air. King Tyson's heart began to pound.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the problem in this story?
 - King Tyson no longer wants to be king.
 - The townspeople are trying to run the goblins out of the kingdom.
 - News of a division has created the chaos and a state of unrest that King Tyson intended.
 - none of the above
- What is the meaning of the word *melee* as used in the passage?

a. patience	c. selfishness
b. skirmish	d. forgiveness
- Which of the following statements is not a fact?
 - King Tyson can easily defend his kingdom from the Flyrong army.
 - King Tyson is saddened at the state of his kingdom.
 - Protests and fighting are filling the streets of the kingdom.
 - The goblins and wizards are involved with the fighting.



Name _____ Date _____

THE FAIRY GODMOTHER

Princess Anne hiked up her dress and began stomping through the cornfield. It was going to be a long walk home, but Princess Anne had no intention of staying a minute longer at the royal ball. The ball had been a dud. Prince Arik was the guest of honor. The boy could hardly breathe without young ladies fawning all over him. He was doted on hand and foot. Princess Anne was disgusted.

When it came time for Princess Anne to spend a few minutes with Prince Arik, he gallantly strode over to her table and stuck out his arm. Princess Anne followed him onto the dance floor with grace. He spent his time with her explaining how amazing he was. His arrogance was amazing. Not once did he ask her a single question.

"Disgusting," said Princess Anne as she tromped through the field. "Why does Cinderella have all the luck? And where is my fairy godmother when I need one?" Just then black smoke filled the air. The stench in the air became great. Princess Anne plugged her nose. Right before her, a small skunk with a crown on its head floated down before her.

"Hello," called the little skunk. "I'm your fairy godmother. You called?"

Anne waved the air around her in an attempt to get rid of the smell. "My fairy godmother? I get a skunk for a fairy godmother?" said Anne, and she plopped down on a cornstalk and began to cry.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *arrogance* as used in the passage?
 - a. conceit
 - b. humility
 - c. passiveness
 - d. anger
2. According to the passage, what does Anne have against her fairy godmother?
 - a. She is allergic to skunks.
 - b. She does not think that this skunk can help her with her problems.
 - c. She thinks that a skunk is not a very good choice for a fairy godmother.
 - d. She is too jealous of Cinderella to appreciate her fairy godmother.
3. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
 - a. reread the entire passage.
 - b. skim the passage and determine the main idea.
 - c. reread the fifth paragraph and search for clues.
 - d. none of the above



Name _____

Date _____

Warm-Up 13

X-RAY VISION

Mr. Jones called on Macy to come to the board. Mr. Jones had high expectations for his students. He believed that learning to perform algebraic equations in the front of the class helped cement learning. He felt that students teaching lessons was a great way to learn for both the student and the class. Most of his students, however, believed it cemented a permanent fear of algebra. Macy slowly made her way to the front of the class. This had indeed been a terrible day. Fear and trepidation filled her heart.

"Macy, would you teach the class how to solve for 'x' in this equation?"

Macy pasted a smile on her face and picked up a piece of chalk.

"Oh, I wish I could fall into a hole right now," thought Macy. Macy glanced at the math book on the desk beside her. Amazingly enough, Macy could see inside the book. She could see the answers to the problems on each page.

Shocked and surprised, Macy began rubbing her eyes. Her vision did seem a bit blurry. Was she seeing things? She looked back at the book and, sure enough, she could still see the answers in the text.

Should she use this new gift of hers?

She closed her eyes and began to solve the problem.

"Great job," said Mr. Jones. "You've done it again."

Macy slowly walked back to her seat and pulled her glasses off. She definitely didn't need any help from these for the time being.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following could be a title for this reading passage?
 - "The Student Teacher"
 - "The Math Test"
 - "Catching Some Fear"
 - "Fear and Trepidation"
- What is the meaning of the word *trepidation* as used in this passage?

a. confidence	c. apprehension
b. annoyance	d. anger
- Which of the following statements is an opinion?
 - Mr. Jones required his students to come to the front of the class.
 - Mr. Jones is a mean teacher requiring too much of his students.
 - Macy is nervous about her mathematical skills.
 - Mr. Jones teaches algebra.



Name _____

Date _____

THE FLYING MACHINE

The Pierto family planned a summer vacation each year that was out of this world. This summer they decided to make their first trip in their dad's new flying machine. Mr. Pierto had invented a car that could fly. His machine could fly or drive at the flip of a switch. The benefits were great. Mr. Pierto was a scientist, as well as an inventor. He was still doing experiments on the speed of light. These experiments had helped him with his latest invention.

The Pierto family was hesitant but excited to try out the machine. Their trip to the Grand Falls was sure to be a hit. The first day of travel was smooth. They reached to the caverns with plenty of time to hit the hot tub.

The next morning, they began their descent into the caves. As they boarded, Mr. Pierto flipped the switch to fly so they could hover over the caverns for a while before entering. He absent-mindedly pushed the wrong button, and they went flying through the air like a rocket. Once they got everyone settled down, Mr. Pierto went back to the caves.

"Is everyone okay?" asked Mr. Pierto. No one said a word, but they climbed out of the machine. They were happy to be on solid ground again.

"Come on! Isn't anyone going to get back in the car with me?"

"No, thanks," the Piertos replied, "We'll wait for the next car to come along."

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which word best describes Mr. Pierto in the story?
 - confused
 - lazy
 - timid
 - creative
- Which of the following statements cannot be determined from the story?
 - Mr. Pierto is a well-respected inventor.
 - Mr. Pierto's family is hesitant to follow his lead.
 - The Pierto family needs to find another way home.
 - Mr. Pierto is an inventor and a scientist.
- What is the problem in the story?
 - Mr. Pierto is absent-minded.
 - The Piertos wanted to go somewhere else on vacation.
 - The Pierto family is unsure whether they can trust their dad or his invention.
 - Mr. Pierto is angry and upset with his family.



Name _____

Date _____

THE SINGING ELVES

The two elves brushed off their clothes and scampered through the forest.

"Wow! That was a close one," called Little Elm.

"You aren't kidding," chuckled Little Marn. He couldn't help laughing when he thought about a giant tied up in a rope. He wondered what the giant would think when he woke up.

"That was a good idea to sing him to sleep," confided Elm.

"Yeah," admitted Marn. "And you sure have a nice voice."

The giant had discovered the two elves around lunchtime. They fought and fought but were having no effect on the strength of the giant. Finally, Marn had whispered to Elm the idea to sing the giant to sleep. They could tell the giant was tired and before long, he was nodding his head to Elm's tune.

Seizing the opportunity, Marn hauled a huge rope over to the giant and began wrapping him up tightly. He tied as many double knots as he could. He knew that he would need to stall the giant for as long as they could. For every step the giant took, the little elves had to take 10.

"So what are we going to do now?" asked Elm. Elm always asked Marn what to do. Marn was a good leader, and Elm knew it.

"We keep going until we get to the next village. Right now we need to put as much distance between us and the giant as we possibly can," explained Marn.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does *seizing* mean as used in this story?
 - a. taking over
 - b. take advantage of
 - c. taking initiative to
 - d. taking the chance
2. What is the main problem in the story?
 - a. The Elves were tying the giant up in knots.
 - b. The elves are little people.
 - c. The elves are afraid the giant will wake up soon.
 - d. The elves are planning their next move.
3. What is another title that could be used for this passage?
 - a. "The Clever Lullaby"
 - b. "The Two Midgets"
 - c. "Too Many Elves Spoil the Broth"
 - d. "The Giant vs. The Elf Community"