



Read the poem. Then answer the questions that follow.

Squirrel

by Mary Ann Hoberman, *A Little Book of Little Beasts*



- 1 Grey squirrel
Small beast
Storing up a winter's feast,
Hides a hundred nuts at least.
- 2 Nook and cranny stocked with seed
Tucked away for winter's need.
Acorns stuck in hole and crack.
Will he ever get them back?
- 3 When the snow is piled up high
And the year is at December,
Can he really still remember
Where he hid them in September?
- 4 I have watched him from my window
And he always seems to know
Where the food he hid is waiting
Buried deep beneath the snow.
- 5 And I wonder
(Do you wonder?)
How he knows where he must go.



1 Answer Parts A and B below.

Part A

What is one main idea of "Squirrel"?

- A** A person carefully watches a squirrel through the window.
- B** A squirrel prepares for winter by hiding nuts and seeds.
- C** It is amazing that squirrels can find all the food they have hidden.
- D** Squirrels may not remember all the places they must look for food.

Part B

Which lines from the poem **best** support the answer to Part A?

- A** "And he always seems to know / Where the food he hid is waiting"
- B** "Can he really still remember / Where he hid them in September?"
- C** "Nook and cranny stocked with seed / Tucked away for winter's need."
- D** "Acorns stuck in hole and crack. / Will he ever get them back?"

Answer Form

1A (A) (B) (C) (D)

1B (A) (B) (C) (D)

2 (A) (B) (C) (D)

3 (A) (B) (C) (D)

5 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Number
Correct

5

2 Read the following lines from stanza 2 of the poem.

Nook and cranny stocked with seed
Tucked away for winter's need.

The author uses the words "Tucked away" to show that

- A** the seeds are warm in the nooks and crannies
- B** the seeds will fall off the tree into the winter snow
- C** the seeds are safely put away, to eat in the winter
- D** the seeds will grow in the nooks and crannies



3 Read the following lines from stanza 3 of the poem.

Can he really still remember
Where he hid them in September?

Which words in stanza 4 answer this question?

- A "watched him from my window"
- B "he always seems to know"
- C "the food he hid"
- D "Buried deep"

4 Read the last stanza of the poem.

And I wonder
(Do you wonder?)
How he knows where he must go.

Based on the stanzas that come before this last stanza, what is the speaker wondering about? Use **two** details from the poem to support your answer.

5 Which **best** describes the speaker's point of view on the squirrel?

- A She thinks the squirrel is clever.
- B She thinks the squirrel is annoying.
- C She thinks the squirrel is silly.
- D She thinks the squirrel is selfish.



Read the play. Then answer the questions that follow.

Campfire Songs

by Bernie Paw

Characters

BEAR

RACCOON

BOBCAT

Act I, Scene 1

(Three animals—a raccoon, a bear, and a bobcat are walking through the forest looking for something to do.)

BEAR: Well, now that we've all had our dinner, what are we going to do for fun?
(He looks bored, walking slowly with head down)

RACCOON: I've had all the nuts I need for a week. What else is there to do around here?
(He kicks a stone and sends it flying)

BOBCAT: I'm full of meat! It sure is a boring night in the forest.

RACCOON: Hey, what's happening over there in the clearing? *(He looks curious, his whiskers shaking)* Ah, some humans. They're sitting around a fire. It might be fun to watch them and see what they do. Humans can do some strange things!

BOBCAT: *(Shaking her head and smiling)* What are they eating? *(She looks through some bushes)* What kind of food is that? *(She laughs)*

Act I, Scene 2

(The campsite is growing darker except for a campfire that is burning brightly like a candle. The animals are hidden behind some large bushes, watching with interest.)

BEAR: *(Staring through bushes, scratching his head)* Well, look at that, what are those weird puffy little white squares the boy is putting on a stick into the fire? Why do you suppose they would do that?

RACCOON: I don't know. Why are they using little odd-shaped sticks with five pointy ends to eat their food? Why don't they just use their paws like us? *(He makes a disgusted face at the people.)*



BEAR: Well, if that don't beat all! The man is putting his fresh fish over the fire on some kind of a flat rock. Why do you suppose they need to burn perfectly fresh fish on a fire? *(He seems confused, shaking his head side to side)*

BOBCAT: *(Rolls her eyes)* Look at the meat, it's on top of the fire and they're burning that, too! *(She laughs crazily, rolling on the ground holding her sides)*

Act I, Scene 3

(The animals continue to watch the humans and then see another odd thing in the camp.)

BEAR: *(Lays down on his belly and pushes more bushes out of his way)* Look, look there! What's that funny box the woman is holding in her hands with strings? Can you hear those sounds she is making when she touches it?

The campers start to sing along with the guitar music. At first, bear, bobcat, and raccoon look startled. Their eyes are opened wide, big as saucers. They continue to listen to the music and singing. As they listen, they begin to smile.

RACCOON: Hmm. This is starting to sound kind of nice. Almost as pretty as Owl's hoot and Wolf's howl.

(The animals lean on each other, eyes closed, and begin to slowly sway back and forth to the music. All three begin to yawn.)

BOBCAT: *(Sleepily)* Well, humans sure are strange, but they can make the sweetest sounds.

BEAR: *(Almost asleep, but still swaying to the music)* Hm. Hmm.

RACCOON: And here we thought there would be nothing interesting to do tonight.

(One by one, Bear, Bobcat, and Raccoon curl up next to each other and fall asleep to the music.)





Answer Form

6 (A) (B) (C) (D)
8 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Number
Correct

2

6 Read the following sentence from Scene 3 of the play.

Their eyes are opened wide, big as saucers.

The author uses the words “big as saucers” to show that

- A the animals are very tired
- B the animals are very surprised
- C the animals can't see in the dark
- D the animals' eyes look round and hard

7 In Scene 1, the animals think it will be fun to watch the humans because “humans can do some strange things.” In Scene 2, what do the animals discover about humans that they think is strange? Use **two** details from the play to support your answer.

8 What is the animals' point of view on the humans by the end of the play?

- A They think that the humans are too silly.
- B They think that the humans are too noisy.
- C They think that the humans are funny, but also frightening.
- D They think that the humans are strange, but also interesting.



Performance Task—Extended Response

9

At the beginning of the play, the animals feel bored. However, their feelings change during the play. Tell how the animals feel in Scene 1, Scene 2, and Scene 3 to show how their feelings change. Use at least **three** details from the play to support your answer.

In your answer, be sure to

- tell how the animals feel in Scene 1, Scene 2, and Scene 3
- explain why their feelings change during the play
- use **three** details from the play to support your answer

Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

Use the space below to plan your essay.

SCORING GUIDE AND ANSWER ANALYSIS

Literature Passage Answer Analysis

1A A B C D5 A B C D1B A B C D6 A B C D2 A B C D8 A B C D3 A B C D

- 1 Part A:** Choice C is correct. This sentence combines the description of the squirrel's hidden food and the speaker's wonder at watching it. Choice A is incorrect because it focuses mostly on the person watching, which appears only in the last two stanzas. Choice B is incorrect because most of the poem takes place after the squirrel has hidden its nuts and seeds. Choice D is not supported by the poem, which states that the squirrel does find its hidden food supplies. **(RL.3.5; DOK 2)**

Part B: Choice A is correct. The poet sees the squirrel's food gathering with wonder. Choices B and D are wrong because they question, not marvel at, the squirrel's ability. Choice C describes the hidden food, not the squirrel finding it. **(RL.3.5; DOK 2)**

- 2** Choice C is correct. The seeds are "Tucked away," or put away and stored safely, until the squirrel needs them in the winter. Choice A is incorrect because "Tucked away" does not suggest that the seeds are warm when they are safely stored in nooks and crannies. Choice B is incorrect because "Tucked away" suggests that the seeds will be safe where the squirrel put them, not that the seeds will fall from the tree into the snow. Choice D is incorrect because there is no suggestion that the seeds will grow in the nooks and crannies where the squirrel put them. **(RL.3.4; DOK 2)**
- 3** Choice B is correct. The words "he always seems to know" in stanza 4 tell the reader that the squirrel will eventually find the hidden seeds, answering the speaker's question in stanza 3. Choice A suggests that the speaker sees the squirrel hide the food but these words don't answer the question in stanza 3. Choice C suggests what the squirrel hides but does not answer the speaker's question about how the squirrel remembers his hiding places. Choice D suggests how the squirrel has hidden the food by burying it but does not tell

if he remembers where he hid the acorns. **(RL.3.5; DOK 2)**

- 5** Choice A is correct. The speaker admires how the clever squirrel gathers and hides acorns in the fall and is curious about how the squirrel seems to know in the winter "Where the food he hid is waiting." Choice B is incorrect because the poem does not suggest the squirrel annoys the speaker. Choice C is incorrect because the poem does not suggest the speaker believes the squirrel is silly. Choice D is incorrect because the poem does not suggest that the speaker feels the squirrel is selfish. **(RL.3.6; DOK 3)**
- 6** Choice B is correct. The sentence before this one in Scene 3 tells the reader that the animals "look startled." The animals' eyes "are opened wide," and they are as big as saucers, or the dishes on which cups are placed. In other words, the animals' eyes look round and large because they are surprised. Choice A is incorrect because "big as saucers" does not suggest that the animals are tired. Choice C is incorrect because "big as saucers" does not suggest anything about whether the animals can see in the dark but instead describes the size and shape of their eyes. Choice D is incorrect because "big as saucers" does not suggest the animals' eyes are hard but only that their eyes look round. **(RL.3.4; DOK 3)**
- 8** Choice D is correct. In Scene 3, Bobcat says sleepily "Well, humans sure are strange, but they can make the sweetest sounds." At the end of the play, the animals still believe the humans are strange but also find them interesting because of the way they play music and eat food. Choice A is incorrect because at the end of the play Raccoon says that the music is "kind of nice" and nearly "as pretty as Owl's hoot and Wolf's howl." Even though the animals laugh at the way humans cook and eat their food, the animals don't act as if the humans are too silly at the end of the play. Choice B is incorrect because there is nothing to suggest that the animals find the singing and guitar playing too noisy. Instead, they enjoy the music and fall asleep to it. Choice C is incorrect because the animals don't view the humans as frightening. In Scene 3, the animals begin to sway to the music, are relaxed by it, and then fall asleep. They would not do this if they were frightened. **(RL.3.6; DOK 2)**

SAMPLE RESPONSES

Short Response

- 4 In the last stanza of the poem, the speaker wonders how the squirrel knows where to go to find his hidden food. According to the first stanza, the squirrel “hides a hundred nuts” in the fall. When the squirrel goes back to look for his food in December, he “always seems to know” where to find it even though it has been “Buried deep beneath the snow” for many months. **(RL.3.5; DOK 3)**
- 7 In Scene 2, the animals discover that the humans use forks, or “odd-shaped sticks with five pointy ends,” to eat their food. Also, the animals discover that the humans do strange things to their food. For example, the animals are confused when the humans “burn perfectly fresh fish on a fire” to cook it. **(RL.3.5; DOK 3)**

Performance Task

- 9 In Scene 1, the animals feel bored. They have all eaten and are looking for something to do. Bobcat says, “It sure is a boring night in the forest.” In Scene 2, the animals watch the humans. The animals think the humans are silly and make fun of them, but the animals also watch them “with interest.” Bear asks, “Why do you suppose they need to burn perfectly fresh fish on a fire?” The animals’ feelings begin to change from being bored to being curious. In Scene 3, the animals listen to the humans’ music. The animals think it is pretty and sweet. Raccoon says, “This is starting to sound kind of nice.” The animals sway to the music and fall asleep. They are no longer bored but feel happy and content. **(RL.3.5; DOK 3)**

SCORING RUBRICS

Short-Response Rubric

- 2 points** The response is accurate, complete, and fulfills all requirements of the task. Text-based support and examples are included. Any information that goes beyond the text is relevant to the task.
- 1 point** The response is partially accurate and fulfills some requirements of the task. Some information may be inaccurate, too general, or confused. Support and examples may be insufficient or not text-based.
- 0 points** The response is inaccurate, poorly organized, or does not respond to the task.

Performance Task Rubric

- 3 points** The response
- Fulfills the requirements of the task
 - May use varied sentence types and some challenging vocabulary
 - Includes relevant and accurate details from the text
 - Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the text
 - Maintains a clear focus
 - Is fluent and may demonstrate a clear sense of engagement or voice
 - Uses correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation in a manner that does not hinder understanding
- 2 points** The response
- Fulfills some requirements of the task
 - Uses simple sentences, some fragments, and grade-level vocabulary
 - Includes some relevant and accurate details from the text
 - Demonstrates some misunderstandings or gaps in understanding of the text
 - Attempts to maintain a clear focus and organization
 - Is difficult to read, includes some inaccuracies, and demonstrates little or no sense of voice
 - Contains some inaccurate spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation that may hinder understanding
- 1 point** The response
- Fulfills few requirements of the task
 - Uses sentence fragments and below-grade-level vocabulary
 - Includes no details or irrelevant details to support the response
 - Demonstrates very little understanding of the text
 - Does not establish a clear focus or organization
 - Is difficult to read, contains many inaccuracies, and demonstrates no sense of voice
 - Uses incorrect spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation to an extent that impedes understanding
- 0 points** The response is irrelevant, poorly organized, or illegible.