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“Nature Knows Its Math” Quiz

Directions: Read the poem “Nature Knows Its Math” in the February/March 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. Which season is this poem mainly about?

- a. winter
- b. spring
- c. summer
- d. fall

2. What non-mathematical word would be the BEST substitution for “subtract” in the phrase “subtract the snow”?

- a. plow
- b. melt
- c. pile
- d. eat

3. What does the phrase “a whispering behind trees” probably refer to?

- a. people telling secrets
- b. animals running around
- c. a gentle wind
- d. leaves falling

4. From the term “rain-scrubbed sky,” you can infer that

- a. it rains a lot in spring.
- b. there is a drought.
- c. the poet dislikes rain.
- d. clouds resemble scrub brushes.

5. The title “Nature Knows Its Math” implies that, like a person, nature knows how to do math. This is called a

- a. metaphor.
- b. simile.
- c. hyperbole.
- d. personification.

6. What are poppies?

- a. a kind of flower
- b. a kind of fruit
- c. a kind of animal
- d. a kind of tree

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“The Curse of the Hope Diamond” Quiz

Directions: Read the nonfiction article “The Curse of the Hope Diamond” in the February/March 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. Why did many Americans feel ungrateful for the donation of the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian Institution?

- a. It wasn't really worth much.
- b. It wasn't pretty enough.
- c. They believed it was cursed.
- d. Many hoped to buy it themselves.

2. According to legend, how did Jean Tavernier first get the Hope Diamond?

- a. He stole it from a Hindu statue.
- b. He bought it from a diamond merchant.
- c. He borrowed it from the King of France.
- d. He smuggled it out of a jewelry store.

3. Around what year did the Hope Diamond legend first get Americans' attention?

- a. 1700
- b. 1870
- c. 1920
- d. 1958

4. What is an archaeologist?

- a. an explorer
- b. a person who studies methods of digging
- c. a person who studies the past by finding ancient remains
- d. a person who studies curses

5. Although Pierre Cartier described the Hope Diamond's history to Evalyn McLean, she believed that the jewel would be

- a. worthless.
- b. lucky.
- c. ugly.
- d. artificial.

6. What happened that made people believe King Tutenkhamen's tomb was cursed?

- a. Howard Carter went broke.
- b. Warnings were painted on the tomb's walls.
- c. Mosquitoes swarmed around the mummy.
- d. Eleven people died during its discovery.

7. Whom does “the Bambino” refer to in “The Curse of the Bambino”?

- a. Lord Carnarvon
- b. the manager of the Red Sox
- c. Babe Ruth
- d. Mickey Mantle

8. What does the author show by including stories of other curses?

- a. Curses are real.
- b. People like stories about curses.
- c. The Smithsonian Institution should get rid of the Hope Diamond.
- d. People will believe anything.

9. In reality, which person faced misfortunes described in the article after owning the Hope Diamond?

- a. Jean Tavernier
- b. Evalyn McLean
- c. Pierre Cartier
- d. Harry Winston

10. Which of the following could be an alternate title for this article?

- a. “Glamour Gals of the 1920s”
- b. “Rich but Cursed: Owners of the Hope Diamond”
- c. “Treasures of the Smithsonian Institution”
- d. “Curses! The Hope Diamond and Other Fun Stories”

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“No Carnations for Ray Fink” Quiz

Directions: Read the story “No Carnations for Ray Fink” in the February/March 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. Which line best describes Ray Fink’s main problem in the story’s beginning?

- a. “Ray hadn’t made the travel basketball team.”
- b. “Ray wouldn’t buy a flower because he suddenly had no friends.”
- c. “Not that Ray was obsessed with Valentine’s Day, not usually.”
- d. “Ray looked across the cafeteria, where the class officers were sitting at a big table.”

2. What does Ray think is the difference between himself and his heroes?

- a. They are all adults.
- b. They lived a long time ago.
- c. They are good basketball players.
- d. They have lots of syllables in their names.

3. You can infer that Ray finds his job in his dad’s dry cleaning business

- a. boring.
- b. challenging.
- c. lonely.
- d. interesting.

4. Who is Emily Dickinson?

- a. a 19th century poet
- b. Ray’s classmate
- c. a dry-cleaning customer
- d. one of the class officers

5. Ray probably finds Beth Till

- a. annoying.
- b. silly.
- c. cute.
- d. too quiet.

6. To what does Ray compare the note he finds in the blazer’s pocket?

- a. a message in a bottle
- b. a Valentine carnation
- c. a brook in your heart
- d. a floating leaf

7. Why does Mr. Ross’s note weigh Ray down?

- a. Mr. Ross wrote it on a rock.
- b. Mr. Ross wrote about being sick.
- c. Ray is afraid his dad won’t answer it.
- d. Ray doesn’t like Mr. Ross.

8. Ray feels connected to Mr. Ross because he realizes they would both like

- a. to get a Valentine.
- b. to have a friend.
- c. to write poetry.
- d. to get healthy.

9. How does writing the note to Mr. Ross make Ray feel?

- a. depressed
- b. witty
- c. confident
- d. nervous

10. What big idea can you take away from this story?

- a. Valentine’s Day is a bad holiday.
- b. You have the power to reach out to people.
- c. Writing notes is fun.
- d. It doesn’t matter how long your name is.

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“Yesterday & Today” Quiz

Directions: Read the “Yesterday & Today” article in the February/March 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. When Wilma Rudolph was a child, why would it have seemed unlikely that she would become a track star?

- a. She wore leg braces.
- b. She faced racism.
- c. She grew up in poverty.
- d. All of the above.

2. What does the word “persistence” mean in the sentence, “It was only with great persistence that she became the success story we know today”?

- a. training
- b. cheating
- c. refusing to give up
- d. caring

3. Wilma Rudolph received support from all of the following EXCEPT

- a. her family.
- b. the basketball coach.
- c. Ed Temple.
- d. Tennessee State University.

4. Which best describes the neighborhood where Serena Williams grew up?

- a. wealthy and exclusive
- b. a small-town community
- c. mostly poor
- d. racially diverse

5. Why did Mr. Williams move his family to Florida?

- a. so his daughters could play in tennis tournaments
- b. to live in a better neighborhood
- c. to find a more competitive environment
- d. so Venus and Serena could attend a famous tennis school

6. What did Serena and her family worry that she might face in tennis tournaments?

- a. racism
- b. tough opponents
- c. long-distance travel
- d. wild fans

7. What advantage did both Wilma Rudolph and Serena Williams have?

- a. rich parents
- b. top equipment
- c. people who believed in them
- d. strong public-school athletic programs

8. Both Wilma Rudolph and Serena Williams can be an inspiration to

- a. girls.
- b. African-Americans.
- c. boys.
- d. everyone.

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“Bridge to Terabithia” Quiz

Directions: Read the play “Bridge to Terabithia” in the February/March 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. What can you conclude about Jess’s family from the opening scene, when Jess has to wear his sister’s pink sneakers?

- a. Clothes aren’t important to them.
- b. They don’t believe in “boys’ colors” and “girls’ colors.”
- c. They like to play tricks on Jess.
- d. They don’t have a lot of money.

2. Which of the following events happens first in the story?

- a. Leslie admires Jess’s artwork.
- b. Jess listens attentively to Leslie’s essay.
- c. Leslie beats all the boys in a race.
- d. Jess’s father seems disappointed in his son.

3. You can infer that Jess’s father would like him to be more

- a. artistic.
- b. athletic.
- c. intelligent.
- d. organized.

4. Which words BEST describe Leslie?

- a. smart and quiet
- b. clumsy and foolish
- c. sweet and sad
- d. imaginative and daring

5. For Jess and Leslie, Terabithia is all of the following EXCEPT

- a. boring.
- b. magical.
- c. beautiful.
- d. private.

6. Which of the following is an opinion?

- a. It rained all day Saturday.
- b. Jess should’ve invited Leslie to the museum.
- c. Ms. Edmunds explains things about art to Jess.
- d. The rope broke when Leslie was swinging on it.

7. Why doesn’t Jess cry about Leslie’s death at first?

- a. Boys aren’t supposed to cry.
- b. He thinks Leslie is playing a trick on him.
- c. He doesn’t want to believe that Leslie is dead.
- d. He would rather eat pancakes.

8. Why does Jess finally build a bridge to Terabithia?

- a. because he likes bridges
- b. to prove he knows how to build
- c. because he likes the smell of wood
- d. so he can share his magical world with others

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“If I Were an Egg” Quiz

Directions: Read the poem “If I Were an Egg” in the February/March 2007 issue of *Storyworks*. Then, fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question.

1. You can tell that the narrator of the poem would feel _____ to be an emperor penguin egg.

- a. disappointed
- b. satisfied
- c. proud
- d. scared

2. Which words in the poem describe the egg?

- a. Big Daddy
- b. round and fat
- c. folds of fluff
- d. cold and snow

3. How would the egg feel under the Daddy penguin’s belly?

- a. protected
- b. cold
- c. smothered
- d. endangered

4. How could you describe the relationship between the Daddy penguin and the penguin-to-be?

- a. strict and serious
- b. carefree
- c. full of anger
- d. warm and close

5. What scientific fact can you learn from this poem?

- a. Penguins live at the South Pole.
- b. Wind and snow are harmful to penguins.
- c. Emperor penguin fathers help incubate their eggs.
- d. Young penguins can talk.

6. The tone of the poem suggests that it is probably told by

- a. a father.
- b. a child.
- c. a mother.
- d. an older person.