Read

Read the poem. Then answer the questions that follow.



- Grey squirrel Small beast
 Storing up a winter's feast, Hides a hundred nuts at least.
- Nook and cranny stocked with seed Tucked away for winter's need.
 Acorns stuck in hole and crack.
 Will he ever get them back?
- When the snow is piled up highAnd the year is at December,Can he really still rememberWhere 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.



Think

1 This question has two parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

How does the poet use the word "feast" in the first stanza of the poem?

- A to describe a large amount of food
- **B** to describe a special kind of nut
- **C** to describe how the nuts are safely stored
- **D** to describe where the nuts are stored

Part B

Which phrase from the poem **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A "Small beast"
- B "Storing up"
- C "a hundred nuts"
- **D** "Nook and cranny"
- 2 Read these lines from the poem.

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

Why does the poet use the words "Tucked away"?

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

Which **best** describes the speaker's point of view about 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.

In each empty box in the chart, write the sentence from the box below that **best** describes what happens in three of the poem's stanzas. Not all of the sentences will be used.

Stanza	Sentence that Describes the Stanza
Stanza 1	
Stanza 3	
Stanza 4	

The speaker wonders if the squirrel will find the acorns later.

The squirrel hides food for winter.

The snow begins to fall and starts to cover the squirrel's food.

The speaker watches the squirrel find his food.

5 Which sentence **best** explains how stanza 4 answers the questions the speaker asks in stanzas 2 and 3?

- **A** The squirrel can't find the acorns.
- **B** The squirrel knows where he hid the acorns.
- **C** The acorns are not hidden.
- **D** The squirrel finds seeds instead of acorns.



Genre: Play

Read the play. Then answer the questions that follow.



Characters

Bear Raccoon Bobcat

Act I, Scene 1

(**Bear**, **Raccoon**, and **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 loudly, 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.)



Think

6 Read this line from Scene 2.

Bear: Well, if that don't beat all!

What does this line tell about Bear?

- **A** He is surprised.
- **B** He wants to fight.
- **C** He hears a tapping sound.
- **D** He suddenly feels very tired.

2 Use the dictionary entry to answer the question.

sway (swā) v. **1**. to try to get others to see things a certain way **2**. to move slowly from side to side **3**. to keep changing one's opinion **4**. to rule or control something or someone

Which meaning matches how "sway" is used in this sentence?

The animals lean on each other, eyes closed, and begin to slowly sway back and forth to the music.

- A meaning 1
- **B** meaning 2
- C meaning 3
- **D** meaning 4

⁸ Read these lines from Scene 2 of the play.

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

What does "rolls her eyes" show about Bobcat in these lines?

- **A** Bobcat is unhappy that the meat is burning.
- **B** Bobcat is curious to know why the humans are ruining their dinner.
- **C** Bobcat thinks the humans are doing something dangerous.
- **D** Bobcat thinks that burning meat is strange and funny.

- 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? Choose **two** answers.
 - **A** They eat with forks.
 - **B** They eat too many nuts.
 - **C** They cook their food.
 - **D** They do a dance.
 - **E** They sleep in tents.

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

- **A** They think the humans are too silly.
- **B** They think the humans are too noisy.
- **C** They think that some things the humans do are funny, but also frightening.
- **D** They think that some things the humans do are strange, but also nice.

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Write

Writing Prompt 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 details from the play to support your answer.

Your writing will be scored based on the development of ideas and the language conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics.