



DIRECTIONS

Read each passage. Then read each question about the passage. Decide which is the best answer to the question. In your answer document, mark the space for the answer you have chosen.

For some questions, you will write your answers on the lines inside the boxes provided in your answer document. Be sure to write your answers neatly. Remember to keep your writing inside the boxes. Writing outside the boxes will NOT be scored.

Party in My Closet

by
Stephanie K. Turner

There's a party in my closet,
But I don't think I'm invited
Because it's my shoes who are celebrating.
They've invited just the right number:
Everyone is paired off.
I can't tell what they're serving,
But I can hear their small-talk *chatter*
Of toes and socks and sidewalks,
And I wonder if they wonder
If people have parties too.



SAMPLE A

The word *chatter* makes the reader feel that the shoes are —

- A loud
- B like people
- C annoying
- D like socks

SAMPLE B

The speaker does not know if the shoes are —

- A in pairs
- B talking
- C in the closet
- D serving refreshments



Two Foolish Cats

A Japanese folk tale retold by Alice Leonhardt

Long ago two cats named Saru and Keigo lived in Japan. Saru was a small cat with bristly, striped fur. Keigo was a big cat with smooth, glossy fur. They lived and hunted together in the pine forest.

One day, Saru and Keigo had hunted until nightfall without catching dinner. Saru's stomach growled noisily. Keigo's mouth watered hungrily.

"If we don't find food, we will starve," Saru said to his friend.

"Let us visit the farmer's house," Keigo suggested. "Perhaps his wife will feed us." They hurried through the rice fields to the farmer's house. On the porch were two rice cakes. Saru was so hungry, he pounced on the bigger cake.

"Hey, I am the bigger cat," Keigo said. "I deserve the bigger cake."

Saru shook his head. "I am the scrawnier cat, so I should get the bigger one."

They argued so loudly, their screeching woke the farmer's wife. Waving her broom, she yelled, "Go ask the Wise Monkey to settle your argument."

Snatching up the rice cakes, the two cats raced back into the forest. They found the Wise Monkey napping in the branches of his tree. Keigo looked up at the monkey. "Who should get the bigger cake?" he asked.

The monkey crinkled his forehead in thought. Then he said, "You should both get the same. Hand me the cakes, and I will use my scales to make them equal."

The cats dropped their cakes into the monkey's paw. He put a cake on each tray of the scales, which did not balance. "This will be easy to fix," he said, taking a bite out of Saru's big cake. "Now they should be equal." The monkey weighed them, but the cakes were still not equal. "The bite was too big," he decided, eating some of Keigo's cake. Again he weighed them and again the scales did not balance.

While the cats watched, the monkey weighed and munched until he'd eaten both cakes! "The scales are now balanced!" Wise Monkey said with a satisfied grin. "The rice cakes are equally gone. Now you may stop arguing."

"Meow-w-w, we are foolish cats," Saru and Keigo cried when they realized what had happened.

Wise Monkey patted his full stomach. "Next time, you will remember to share."

The two foolish cats slunk back to their home. Working together, they caught their dinner. And from that day on, they never quarreled again.





1

Why did the cats go to the farmer's house?

- A To get something to eat
- B To spend the night
- C To see the Wise Monkey
- D To get rice from the fields

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Wise Monkey can *best* be described as —

- A stubborn
- B courageous
- C sly
- D responsible

2

This story is mainly about two cats —

- A living in a pine forest
- B getting something for dinner
- C making a farmer's wife angry
- D learning to share

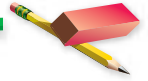
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Why do you think the author wrote this story? Use detail from the text to support your answer. Be sure to write your response in your answer document.

3

How did Wise Monkey solve the cats' problem?

- A He divided the rice cakes.
- B He ate the rice cakes.
- C He returned the rice cakes to the farmer's wife.
- D He sent the cats back to the forest.



DIRECTIONS

Write your answer in the space provided in your answer document. You may use the Prewriting Pages to help you plan your writing. Use the Final Draft pages to write your complete, final answer.

Think about a time you learned how to do something new.

Write a story about learning how to do something new.

Remember to:

- Organize your ideas so that they are clear and easy to follow
- Develop your ideas by supporting your reasons
- Include specific details to make your writing more interesting
- Stay focused on your purpose for writing
- Use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar