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Reading

► Read the selection and answer each question.

Anansi's New Trick

- 1 Anansi the spider came down the path one day. He saw Mole Rat's burrow and stuck his little face in.
- 2 "Mole Rat!" Anansi said. "I have discovered something!"
- 3 "What is it, Anansi? You're always discovering something," Mole Rat answered, blinking at the bright sun outside his burrow.
- 4 "But this time it's something amazing!" Anansi cried. "I have discovered that the weak are very strong!"
- 5 "But I am weak. I am not strong!" Mole Rat said.
- 6 "Yes, you are, if you know how to trick others," said Anansi. "I was sunning myself, and Hunting Dog came down the path. Hunting Dog, who is so much bigger than me! I hid behind a leaf and said, 'Hunting Dog—I am Flea!' So Hunting Dog got scared and ran away!"
- 7 Anansi laughed and continued with another story. "I was crossing my web, and Eagle flew near. Eagle, who is so much bigger than me! I hid beneath a branch and said, 'Eagle—I am the little snake with the bad poison!' So Eagle got scared and flew away!"
- 8 Before Mole Rat could say a word, Anansi went on with yet another story. "I was climbing a tree, and Elephant came along. Elephant, who is SO much bigger than me! I hid behind a rock and said, 'Elephant—I am Man.' So Elephant got scared and ran away."
- 9 After Anansi left, Mole Rat was bothered by the spider's bragging and his impolite words and actions toward others. When the sun went behind some clouds, Mole Rat looked up into the sky and called to Nyame, the Sky God. "Great Nyame, Anansi is bragging that he is the strongest through his weakness, because he plays tricks on others. You must strike him with your lightning!"

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¹⁰ Nyame looked down at Mole Rat and said, “Don’t worry, Little One. We will teach Anansi a lesson. But I don’t like to hurt my creatures. Anansi is very smart—we will use HIS way of doing things.”

¹¹ “How will you do it, then?” asked Mole Rat.

¹² “Oh,” Nyame said, “he will learn. When a creature tells too many lies, sometimes he forgets who he is.”

¹³ That day, Anansi went down to the lake to drink. When he looked into the water, he saw—a spider! Now it was Anansi’s turn to get scared and run away!

1 What is the problem in the story?

- Ⓐ Anansi is too busy.
- Ⓑ Anansi is very small.
- Ⓒ Anansi needs a new web.
- Ⓓ Anansi tricks other animals.

2 Who are the **two** major characters in the story?

- Ⓐ Eagle
- Ⓑ Anansi
- Ⓒ Nyame
- Ⓓ Elephant
- Ⓔ Mole Rat

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3 Read the sentence from paragraph 9.

After Anansi left, Mole Rat was bothered by the spider's bragging and his impolite words and actions toward others.

What does the word impolite mean?

- (A) not polite
 - (B) too polite
 - (C) being polite again
 - (D) trying to be polite
- 4 How does Mole Rat affect the plot in the story?
- (A) He tells Anansi to stop lying.
 - (B) He invites Anansi into his burrow.
 - (C) He gets Nyame to teach Anansi a lesson.
 - (D) He gets Nyame to strike Anansi with lightning.
- 5 What is the main theme in the story?
- (A) It is best to be strong.
 - (B) It is good to ask for help.
 - (C) It is best to tell the truth.
 - (D) It is good to have many friends.
- 6 What is the author's purpose in the story? Use details from the story to support your answer.

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Writing

► Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Pete wrote a story about his new journal. Read his story and look for any changes he should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

My New Journal

(1) Yesterday was a special day. (2) I wrote on the very last page of my old journal.
(3) It was time for a new one.

(4) My mom took me to the store. (5) I looked at the journals and thought about
whitch one would be best. (6) I picked out a thick journal with a bright orange cover.

(7) We came home, and I telled my mom I wanted to spend some time writing.
(8) I sat at my desk with my new journal and wrote a story about some of the people
in my life who are important to me.

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- 1 What change should be made in sentence 5?
- Ⓐ Change *thought* to *thouht*.
 - Ⓑ Change *whitch* to *which*.
 - Ⓒ Change *would* to *woud*.
 - Ⓓ No change is needed.
- 2 What change should be made in sentence 7?
- Ⓐ Change *telled* to *told*.
 - Ⓑ Change *telled* to *teld*.
 - Ⓒ Change *telled* to *telld*.
 - Ⓓ No change is needed.

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3 What change should be made in sentence 8?

- Ⓐ Change *people* to *peep*.
- Ⓑ Change *people* to *peopls*.
- Ⓒ Change *people* to *persones*.
- Ⓓ No change is needed.