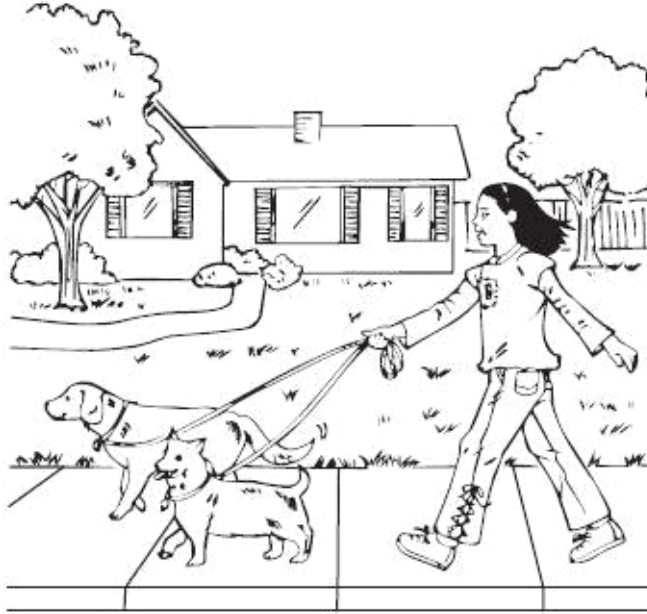


Read the following passage and answer questions 1 through 8.

A Job for Maria



- 1 Maria stared through the window at the book on display and sighed. It cost more money than she had, and Mom said she would have to earn the money herself to buy such an expensive book. Walking quickly, she set off to find a job around the neighborhood. It couldn't be that hard, could it?
- 2 It could! Her first thought was to mow lawns. Everyone she asked told her, "Sorry, but Marcus Jones mows our lawn."
- 3 Her next idea was babysitting. Her mother reminded her that a fourth-grader would probably not be able to get a job babysitting. Most parents asked a high school girl in their neighborhood to care for their children.
- 4 Disappointed but still determined, Maria next thought about collecting cans for recycling. Unfortunately for Maria, the local Girl Scout troop already collected cans in the neighborhood every week.
- 5 Maria sat at the kitchen table with her chin in her hands. Her mom came in and asked, "How's the job hunt going?"
- 6 Maria sighed and said, "Not good—there's nothing left for me to do."
- 7 Her mom smiled as she explained, "Well, I have an idea. You know Ms. Branson down the street?"

- 8 Maria nodded slowly. Everyone knew Ms. Branson. She lived alone with her dogs. Kids said she was at least one hundred years old and that she yelled at anyone knocking on her door. Even the Girl Scouts didn't ask her for cans.
- 9 Mom continued, "Well, she's broken her hip and can't walk much. She has a nurse stay with her during the day, but she needs someone to walk her dogs in the morning and again in the evening. I know you like animals. I told her you might be interested in the job."
- 10 Maria didn't just like dogs, she adored dogs, but walking into Ms. Branson's house would be scary. She wanted a job, but could she work for a person like Ms. Branson? Her mom sensed she was uneasy and added, "I'll come with you the first time."
- 11 Feeling relieved that her mom was coming, Maria agreed to give it a try. That evening, Ms. Branson didn't yell once. In fact, she had a plate of cookies set out for her! Ms. Branson's dogs were well-behaved and excited to see Maria.
- 12 Maria took the dogs for their first walk. When Maria brought the dogs back, they licked her cheeks. She laughed and knew she had finally found the right job.

1 **Which of these is the *best* summary for this story?**

- A Maria decides to walk dogs for Ms. Branson.
- B Maria's mother always knows what is best for Maria.
- C Maria earns money to buy a book by working for Ms. Branson.
- D Maria's mother finds Maria a job.

2 **If the author included information about where Maria took the dogs for a walk, in which paragraph would it *best* fit?**

- F 10
- G 12
- H 11
- J 9

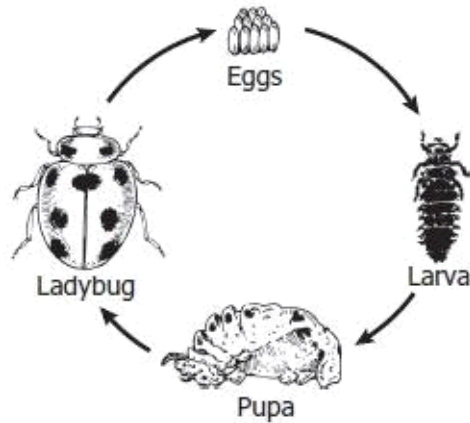
3 **In paragraph 8, Ms. Branson is described as —**

- A ashamed
- B uneasy
- C curious
- D mean

- 4 **When Maria sighs in paragraph 6, she is feeling —**
- F pleased
 - G certain
 - H disappointed
 - J bored
- 5 **As it is used in paragraph 11, what does the word relieved mean?**
- A corrected
 - B rested
 - C rushed
 - D comforted
- 6 **In paragraph 11, what does Maria discover about Ms. Branson?**
- F She is as loud as everyone says.
 - G She is as mean as everyone says.
 - H She is wise and peaceful.
 - J She is kind and thoughtful.
- 7 **After the story, what will Maria do next?**
- A Collect cans in the neighborhood
 - B Help Marcus Jones mow lawns
 - C Take Ms. Branson to the store
 - D Buy the book in the window
- 8 **In paragraph 10, why does Maria's mom offer to go with her to Ms. Branson's house?**
- F She worries Maria is too young.
 - G She feels Maria is uncomfortable.
 - H She thinks Maria is afraid of dogs.
 - J She knows Maria will get lost.

Read the following passage and answer questions 9 through 17.

Ladybug to the Rescue



- 1 A hundred years ago, harmful insects were killing fruit trees in California. The farmers tried to get rid of the pests, but nothing seemed to work. They were ready to give up when a scientist visiting Australia noticed that ladybugs ate damaging bugs. The scientist sent the farmers a few hundred ladybugs. The ladybugs ate all the pests. The farmers' lime, orange, and peach trees were saved.
- 2 Farmers still use ladybugs today to help guard their crops from being eaten by harmful insects. A ladybug has a very big appetite. One ladybug can eat five thousand pests during its lifetime.

Life Begins

- 3 A ladybug begins as a tiny egg. A mother ladybug can lay about one thousand eggs under a leaf. When the eggs hatch, the larvae are thin and bumpy. They are black with red spots. A larva spends most of its time eating. Before long, the growing larva finds a quiet spot. Its skin becomes dry and hard, protecting it like a cocoon, in the pupa stage.
- 4 In the pupa, the larva changes from a thin, bumpy insect to a round one with wings and a bright-colored shell. Many ladybugs are red, although some are orange, yellow, or pink. Most ladybugs have spots. Some can have stripes, while others may have no spots or stripes!

Survival Tricks

- 5 The ladybug's bright color also helps it survive. When birds see these bright red bugs, they stay away because they know ladybugs taste bad. Ladybugs know another survival trick too. If a snake passes by, a ladybug will roll over onto its back. It pretends to be dead!
- 6 In the fall, ladybugs crawl under leaves to hibernate. Sometimes large groups of ladybugs gather together. They sleep through the winter.
- 7 In the spring, the hungry ladybugs wake up. They fly away to hunt for harmful bugs. Ladybugs fly to our rescue again!

- 9 **The author *most* likely wrote this article to —**
- A report why ladybugs eat so much
 - B describe the colors of ladybugs
 - C tell how ladybugs are born
 - D explain how ladybugs help people
- 10 **Which question does paragraph 6 answer?**
- F In which month do ladybugs wake up?
 - G When do ladybugs sleep a long time?
 - H What colors can ladybugs be?
 - J How many eggs does a ladybug lay?
- 11 **Which sentence is an *opinion* about ladybugs?**
- A Larvae are thin and bumpy.
 - B Some farmers use ladybugs to keep fruit trees safe.
 - C Ladybugs have beautifully colored shells.
 - D Ladybugs eat insects that destroy crops.
- 12 **Which question is answered under the heading “Survival Tricks”?**
- F Are ladybugs born with wings and spots?
 - G How many pests can a ladybug eat?
 - H Do all ladybugs have red shells with black spots?
 - J Why will birds not eat ladybugs?
- 13 **If the author added information about the kinds of pests ladybugs eat, in which paragraph would it *best* fit?**
- A 7
 - B 6
 - C 2
 - D 3
- 14 **When the ladybug leaves the pupa, it will —**
- F go to lime trees
 - G be thin and bumpy
 - H have wings and a shell
 - J hide from snakes

15 Which resource would *best* be used to find the definition of “pupa”?

- A A thesaurus
- B A magazine
- C An atlas
- D A glossary

16 Another word for damaging as it is used in paragraph 1 is —

- F surviving
- G harmful
- H hunting
- J difficult

17 This article would *most* likely be found in a —

- A letter to parents
- B book of funny stories
- C children’s science magazine
- D travel section of a newspaper