New England Common Assessment Program

Released Items
2012

Grade 3
Reading

Reading

1. Which word rhymes with cheese?

   - A. sheet
   - B. sense
   - C. chess
   - D. peas

2. Which word has the same **beginning sound** as fast?

   - A. think
   - B. pant
   - C. phone
   - D. waste

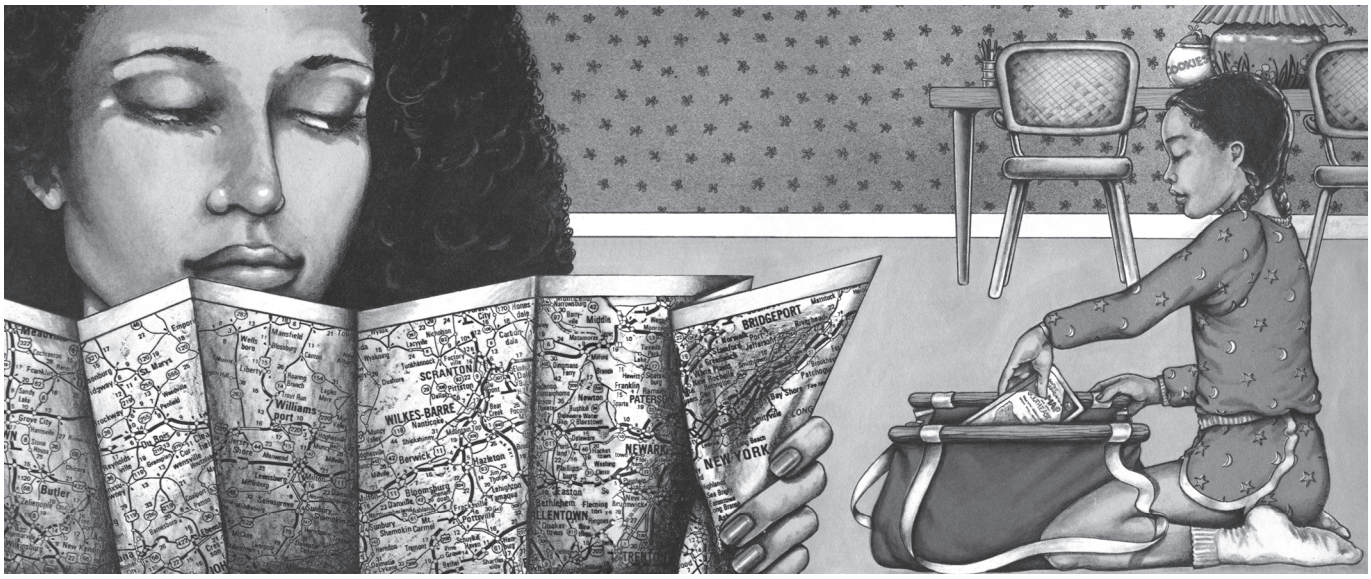
The girl in this story is going on a special trip with Aunt Martha. Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.

Just Us Women

by Jeannette Caines

Saturday morning is jump-off time. Aunt Martha and I are going to drive all the way to North Carolina in her new car. Aunt Martha says, "No boys and no men, just us women."

We made our list last week and double-checked it every night. Aunt Martha forgets things, so I'm her reminder.



She picked up two road maps just in case.

Last year she forgot the maps and our lunch on the kitchen table.

I saved two shoe boxes to pack our lunch in. One for fried chicken and bread and one for cake and napkins. We're going to wrap our food in waxed paper like Aunt Martha did when she was little.

We'll stop at all the roadside markets and buy all the junk we like.

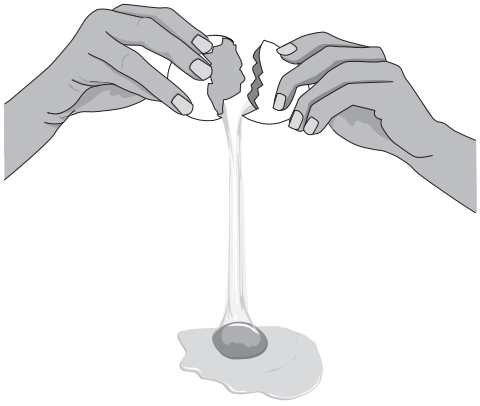
And there won't be anybody saying, "We can't stop, we got to make it there before suppertime," or "Oh no! We're not stopping again!"

If it rains we'll get out of the car and walk. We'll say we walked in the rain in New Jersey or Pennsylvania. Last year we walked in Delaware and Maryland.

We'll mosey down the back roads and talk to the farmers and buy their fruits. And if the peaches are ripe we might get a bushel and eat peaches from Virginia to North Carolina.

We'll stop and take pictures in front of all the famous statues, and when our chicken runs out, we'll stop at a fancy restaurant.

Aunt Martha says when it's warm and wet the mushrooms are just right, but we have to be careful not to pick the poisonous ones. We'll eat a mushroom omelette for dinner, with coffee and tea.



We'll turn the day around and have our breakfast at night.

When we arrive, they'll all be waiting at the front door, saying, "What took you so long?"

3 In the first sentence, jump-off time is the time when Aunt Martha and the girl plan to

- A. walk in the rain.
- B. have a picnic.
- C. leave on a trip.
- D. arrive in Virginia.

4 What is **true** about Aunt Martha?

- A. She is forgetful.
- B. She does not like peaches.
- C. She is a fast driver.
- D. She does not like to walk.

5 What do Aunt Martha and the girl pack for the trip?

- A. peaches
- B. pie
- C. mushrooms
- D. chicken

6 How will Aunt Martha and the girl "turn the day around"?

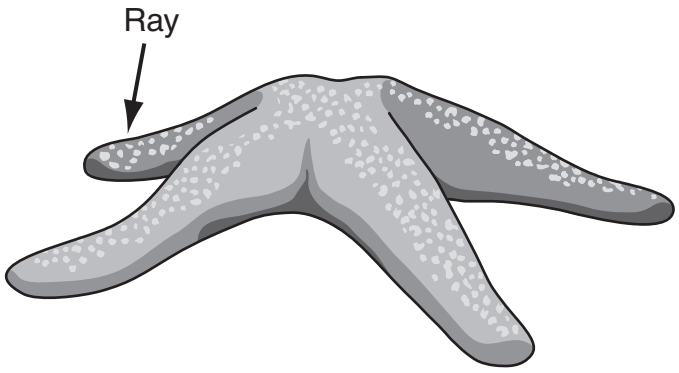
- A. They will drive back home.
- B. They will eat eggs for dinner.
- C. They will sleep all day.
- D. They will travel very slowly.

❼ Explain why Aunt Martha and the girl will most likely enjoy their trip. Use details from the story.

Starfish, also called sea stars, are not like other animals that live in the sea. Read this passage to learn more about starfish. Then answer the questions that follow.

Starfish

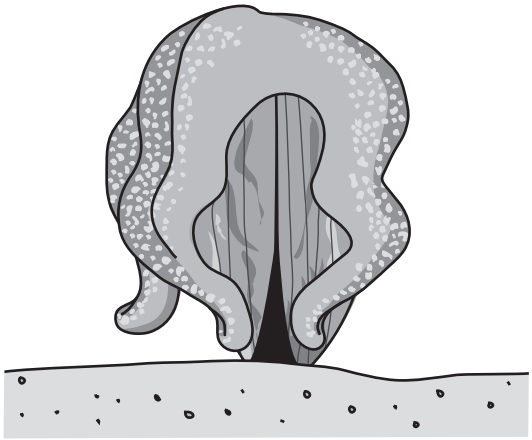
by Edith Thacher Hurd



A starfish has no eyes. A starfish has no ears or nose. Its tiny mouth is on its underside. When a starfish is hungry, it slides and it glides on its tiny tube feet.

It hunts for mussels and oysters and clams. It feels for the mussels. It feels for the oysters. It feels for the clams. It feels for something to eat.

The starfish crawls over a clam. Its rays go over it. Its rays go under it. Its rays go all over the clam. The starfish pulls and pulls. It pulls the shells open. It eats the clam inside.



A starfish opening a clam

Sometimes a starfish loses a ray. A crab may pull it off. A rock may fall on it. But this does not hurt. It does not bother the starfish. The starfish just grows another ray.

In the spring when the sun shines warm, and the sea grows warm, starfish lay eggs. Starfish lay eggs in the water. They lay many, many, many tiny eggs. The eggs look like sand in the sea. The tiny eggs float in the water. They float up and down. They move with the waves and the tide, up and down, up and down.

The tiny eggs change and grow. They float in the water. They move with the waves, back and forth, back and forth. Then they sink to the bottom and they grow into tiny starfish. The tiny starfish grow scratchy and hard. They grow little rays. They grow tiny tube feet to crawl on.

Baby starfish eat and eat and EAT. First they eat tiny things that float in the sea. Then they eat mussels and oysters and clams. They eat and they eat. They grow and they grow.

There are many different starfish. Some are fat. Some are thin. Some are prickly. Some are prickly and pink. Some are prickly and gray. Some are just a tangle.

Look on the rocks by the sea. Look in the pools by the sea.

Look for starfish, the stars of the sea.

8 A starfish's feet look like

- A. shells.
- B. tubes.
- C. rocks.
- D. eggs.

9 Which sense does a starfish use to find food?

- A. sight
- B. smell
- C. hearing
- D. touch

10 What is one reason starfish lay eggs in the spring?

- A. The warm water in the spring helps the eggs to grow.
- B. The soft sand in the spring protects the eggs.
- C. There are many waves in the spring.
- D. There are very high tides in the spring.

11 Read the words in the chart.

Compound Words
starfish something

Which word belongs with the words in the chart?

- A. hungry
- B. underside
- C. scratchy
- D. bottom

⓬ Explain why the rays of a starfish are important. Use information from the passage.

Acknowledgments

The New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Maine Departments of Education wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the reading portion of the *New England Common Assessment Program*—2012.

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