

Read the passage. Then answer each question.

## AN HONESTLY FUN CAMP

Will couldn't wait for September when school would start. It was early August, and he was at the same summer camp he had been going to for the last five years. His dad went to the camp when he was a boy and loved it, so Will didn't want to disappoint his dad by telling him that he didn't even like it.

By the middle of August, Will had had more than enough. He had had enough of the horses, enough of the baseball games, enough of the canoeing and enough of the lousy camp food.

He wrote to his mom and asked her if she would pick him up early, but he didn't want his mom to tell his dad. She responded in a letter which said, "I can't do that. I am always honest with your dad. If you really want to leave, I will talk to him about it."

Will was still too worried about disappointing his dad, so he wrote back to his mom that he would stay for the last two weeks and try to make the best of it. He asked his mom if she would make his favorite meal when he got home.

During that last week, Will was looking so forward to the meal his mom would be making that every time he ate a camp meal he imagined he was eating his mom's cooking. All of a sudden, the food didn't taste as bad.

Will decided to be honest with his camp counselors. He told the head horseback counselor that he wasn't comfortable with the horse he had been assigned. The counselor asked Will which horse he might feel better riding. Will was then assigned to Misty for the last week, and he started to like horseback riding.

Will never liked playing baseball because he didn't like playing 1st base. He told the baseball counselor, and the counselor switched him to play catcher. Will started to actually like baseball.

As for canoeing, Will always ended up sitting in the bow of the canoe. He told his counselor that he would like to try sitting in the stern. Once he was able to take on the role of the stern paddler, he started to enjoy canoeing because he liked steering the canoe.

When Will's parents came to pick him up from camp, he said to them in all honesty, "This was the best summer at camp ever." He then added that he couldn't wait for next year's camp, and he might even want to stay for an extra week or two.

**Answer the Questions:**

1. Why would Will's dad want Will to go to the same camp he went to as a young boy?

2. Why did Will think his dad would be disappointed if he learned that Will didn't like the camp?

3. Why do you think the food started to taste better when Will thought about his mom's cooking?

4. Which horse did Will think he would feel better riding?

5. Which end of a canoe is the stern, front or rear?

6. What was the turning point that helped Will start to like camp?

Read the passage. Then answer each question.

## Emma's Favorite Restaurant

When Emma and her family go out to dinner, they always go to their favorite restaurant. Their favorite restaurant is an Italian restaurant, and they usually go once a week. Emma always gets ravioli, and her little brother Josh always gets spaghetti with meat balls. Their parents like to try different things.

One week when they were getting ready to go out to dinner, Emma's father suggested they try the new restaurant in town. Emma and Josh both moaned and groaned. The new restaurant was Lebanese. All Emma and Josh knew about Lebanese food was that it often revolved around chick peas and grape leaves.

"You might actually end up liking it if you give it a try," said their mom.

Their dad added, "Let's try it once, and if you don't like it, we will go back to our tried and true spot next week."

Emma and Josh got into the backseat of the car and rolled their eyes at each other.

Josh asked, "If we don't like it, can we get a pizza on the way home so we don't go hungry?"

"I highly doubt you will go hungry, but if it makes you feel better, we will grab a pizza on the way home."

When they arrived at the restaurant, a host met them at the door and greeted them with enthusiasm. He led them to a table and said, “We are very happy that you are trying our new restaurant. If you have any questions about the menu or need any help choosing a menu item, your server will be with you shortly.

The restaurant was pretty cool looking, and the host was super nice. Emma and Josh began to relax a little bit. They actually started to think it would be cool to try something new.

When the server came over, he told them what some of his favorite meals were. Emma and Josh were surprised to learn that the restaurant served something similar to ravioli, and it served a meatball dish.

Emma ordered *manti*, dumplings filled with spiced lamb and covered in tomato sauce. Josh ordered *kibbeh*, meatballs made with wheat and spiced ground lamb and served with garlic sauce.

After Emma and Josh took the first bites of their dishes, they paused before saying anything. Emma was thinking that the manti tasted different than ravioli, but she didn’t think it was bad. Josh was thinking his meatballs looked very similar to the meatballs that come with spaghetti, but the sauce was white, not red like he was used to. He kind of liked the kibbeh though.

They each took a few more bites, and then they both declared, “You were right, Mom. This food is pretty tasty.”

When the meal was over, Emma said, “I think I have another favorite restaurant. Now I have a favorite Italian restaurant and a favorite Lebanese restaurant.”

Josh agreed and asked, “Can we switch between the two restaurants for our weekly dinners out?”

“I think that is a great idea,” said Emma and Josh’s mom and dad.

“Maybe we can even try the Thai restaurant sometime soon,” said Emma

**Answer the Questions:**

1. Why would Emma and Josh have moaned and groaned about trying a new restaurant?

2. What do you think the phrase “tried and true” means?

3. Why would Emma and her family need help choosing a menu item?

4. Which dish was similar to ravioli?

5. What do you think the moral of the story is?

6. Why would Emma want to try the Thai restaurant sometime soon?

Read the passage. Then answer each question.

## Liza's First Spelling Bee

Liza has loved words for as long as she can remember. She loves the sounds words make, the shapes of words, and the way letters are arranged in words. Some of her favorite words are lollipop, balloon and purple. When Liza has free time at school, she likes to write down words and doodle on the letters to create fun drawings. Sometimes she takes the drawings home to her parents, and sometimes her teacher pins them to the classroom bulletin board.

One day, Liza's art teacher, Mr. Jordan, walked into her classroom and noticed one of Liza's recent pieces of word art. He was very impressed with her creativity and her word choice. After all, not many fourth graders know the word *sanctuary* and how to spell it, let alone know what it means.

Liza's word art turned the word *sanctuary* into a beautiful image with birds, rabbits and butterflies in a natural, undisturbed setting with trees and a pond.

Mr. Jordan waited until the class went to recess, and then talked to Liza's teacher, Mrs. Roberts, about Liza's talent. Mrs. Roberts said, "She is a very good artist, and she is also quite talented at spelling."

"I'm sure the fact that she turns the letters of words into characters and images to form her artistic pieces helps her remember the spellings. She could do very well in a spelling bee, and her doodling would help her

study,” said Mr. Jordan. “I could help her too by creating word art with her,” he added.

“That’s a great idea. I will ask Liza if she is interested in entering the spelling bee,” Mrs. Roberts replied. “It is only three weeks away, so she would have to study pretty hard,” she added.

Later that day Mrs. Roberts asked Liza if she could stay for a couple of minutes after class dismissal. Liza asked Mrs. Roberts if she was in trouble, and Mrs. Roberts replied, “Quite the contrary.”

Liza was still nervous, but she stayed to see what her teacher wanted. When Liza found out Mrs. Roberts wanted her to enter the spelling bee, she was thrilled and honored. Usually only fifth graders enter the spelling bee. Liza was even more excited when she heard that Mr. Jordan was going to help her study with the use of art.

Liza and Mr. Jordan met every day after school for the next three weeks. Mrs. Roberts had given them word lists to study. Liza studied hard by turning each word into a drawing. When she wasn’t sure what a word meant, Mr. Jordan would tell her and help her come up with an idea for the word art.

When the big day arrived, Liza felt well prepared, but she was still nervous. There were 26 fifth graders and 3 fourth graders in the spelling bee.

After the first three rounds, there were still 21 contestants; Liza was one of them. Liza was holding her own and continued to successfully spell difficult words including *economy*, *avenue*, *tissue* and *station* over the next several



rounds. She knew her word art was helping her succeed because she could visualize the words.

After six more rounds, there were only three contestants remaining – Liza and two fifth graders.

It was Liza's turn to spell. Her word was *migration*. She remembered drawing flying ducks for the word. She pictured her art, and spelled the word correctly. One of the fifth graders wasn't so lucky during this round, and it was now down to Liza and one other contestant, a boy named Ben.

Ben went first in this round. He was given a word that Liza knew very well, *valley*. Ben knew the word too and spelled it without a hitch.

Now Liza had to spell her word correctly to stay in the bee; otherwise, Ben would win. She listened carefully as her word was announced. The word sounded familiar, but it wasn't one of the words she had studied. The word was *tolerable*. Liza thought about words that contained similar sounds. She knew how to spell *tolerate* and *notable*. Could she use that knowledge to spell *tolerable*?

She did, and it worked. Liza made it to the next round.

Ben listened to his next word and hesitated for quite a while. He took his time and eventually spelled *ceremony* correctly.

Liza's next word was *deception*. This too was a word she had not studied. She thought and thought about the word and listened to the sounds, but in the end, she was one letter off in her spelling. Liza was slightly sad she didn't win, but at the same time she was proud of herself for making it this

far in her first spelling bee. Plus she knew she could come back next year and try again.

**Answer the Questions:**

1. What are some similarities in Liza's favorite words?
2. What do you think the word *sanctuary* might mean based on Liza's word art?
3. Why would turning letters into characters and images help Liza remember how to spell words?
4. How many students didn't make it past the first three rounds?
5. Which word best defines the phrase *without a hitch*?  
A. quickly B. effortlessly C. slowly D. smoothly
6. Which letter do you think Liza missed on her final word and what letter might she have used in its place?