

Read the following passage and answer questions 1 through 5.

The Secret Ingredient



- 1 Every summer, Ryan spends a couple of weeks at his grandma's house in Georgia. It is his favorite part about summer. There is always an adventure awaiting him when he arrives at Grandma Nellie's house. She makes every visit exciting and interesting.
- 2 Early in the morning, Ryan and his parents begin the long journey to his grandma's house. They end up sharing stories about Grandma Nellie for most of the trip. "Your grandma is a very special person. Don't let her trick you though. She may be 75, but she has the heart of a 10-year-old," Ryan's mom laughs at her own comment. Everyone agrees that Grandma Nellie is not a typical grandma. If her grandchildren are climbing trees, she will climb with them. If they are dressing up like a princess, she will dress up too. She will do anything and most everything with them.
- 3 "Grandma is a lot of fun! She is also a really good cook," Ryan chimes in on the conversation. He loved his grandma's cooking. Everything she makes tastes delicious.
- 4 Ryan and his family finally arrive at Grandma Nellie's house. She greets them outside with her checkered apron on and flour splattered on her smiling face. "Glad you made it here safely! Come on in and rest," his grandma says as she gives Ryan a big bear hug.
- 5 For a couple of hours, they sit and talk about the recent events happening in their lives. Then, Ryan's parents leave to visit some close friends. Ryan is excited to be alone with his grandma and have all of her attention. Also, he can't wait to see what she has planned for the both of them.
- 6 "How do you feel about helping me make a peach pie?" asks Grandma Nellie as she bustles around in the kitchen. "Once the bread is done, we can begin," she announces.
- 7 His grandma's peach pie is his favorite dessert. He can't wait to take a bite of her

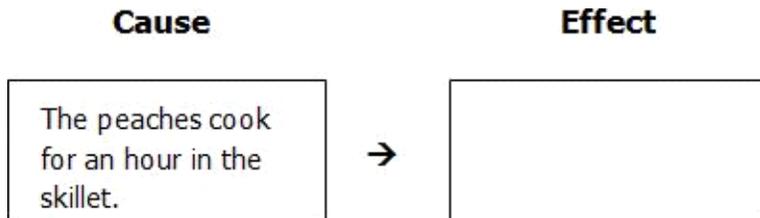
scrumptious, tasty pie. Having no idea what all is in it or how to make it, he agrees to help make the exquisite dessert.

- 8 "Okay, let's start by getting some peaches," Grandma Nellie grabs her purse and car keys. Ryan follows behind her. Instead of a quick stop at the grocery store, his grandma goes to the nearby peach orchard. Ryan is confused, and his grandma can see that Ryan is wondering why they are there.
- 9 "We are making a peach pie, right? Well, we need to get some peaches. This is the secret ingredient to the recipe," Grandma Nellie says with a grin.
- 10 After a couple of hours picking the perfect peaches, they head back home. Then, they start their creation. Before they begin putting the ingredients together, the peaches have to boil in hot water. This helps the thick skin of the peaches peel off easily. After they are peeled, it is time to cook them in a skillet with water, corn starch, and sugar. The ripe peaches become soft as they simmer in their juices for an hour.
- 11 "Now, it is time for the pie crust," Grandma Nellie mentions as she clears a spot on her messy kitchen counter.
- 12 "Oh, I know where that is," Ryan says as he walks over to the refrigerator to get the ready-made pie crust that his grandma normally uses. While he rummages through the food items, his grandma has already taken out the flour, oil, and salt.
- 13 "There are no short cuts to making this pie today. This pie is very special. You will taste the difference!" his grandma exclaims with excitement. "I want you to put these ingredients together in this small bowl. Then, mix it really well," his grandma instructs him. Ryan never realized how difficult it is to make the pie. Also, it is taking a lot longer than he thought it would. The long wait is tortuous since he has been craving his grandma's pie for a long time now.
- 14 Finally, the pie crust is made, the peaches are done cooking, and now they can put everything together. Grandma Nellie adds the peach concoction to the pie crust. Then, she tops the pie with the second part of the crust. She carefully makes slits in the crust and sprinkles sugar on top. As the pie bakes in the hot oven, sweet aromas fill the air.
- 15 *Ding!* The kitchen timer sounds. Ryan rushes to the oven and looks through the oven window. "Is it ready, is it ready?" Ryan anxiously asks.
- 16 Grandma Nellie grabs her hot pad and gently places the pie on a wire rack. "We are going to have to wait ten minutes for it to cool before we can eat it," Grandma Nellie says. Ryan looks at the clock and starts to count down. After the ten minutes are up, Grandma Nellie and Ryan help themselves to a piece of pie.
- 17 Ryan's taste buds explode with flavor after every bite he takes. The peaches melt like cotton candy in his mouth. This is the best pie he has ever had. It was worth the wait.

18 "This is so good, Grandma. What makes it taste so good?" asks Ryan with his mouth full of pie. He can't put the fork down for one moment.

19 "I'm glad you like it, Ryan. The fresh peaches from the orchard help make it taste the way it does, but I think that you are the new secret ingredient. We made this together, and all your patience and work paid off," his grandma says with great pride.

1 **Look at this chart.**



Based on the story, which of these belongs in the empty box?

- A The peaches become soft.
- B The peaches are used to make juice.
- C The peaches stick to the skillet.
- D The peaches need more time to cook.

2 **Why is Ryan confused when Grandma Nellie goes to the peach orchard?**

- F He thinks she misunderstood him.
- G He is used to getting food from the grocery store.
- H He does not know what a peach orchard looks like.
- J He does not realize peaches are needed to make the recipe.

3 **According to the story, the peaches are boiled because —**

- A it makes peeling them less work
- B it makes them more flavorful
- C it cooks them in their juices
- D it takes less time to cook them

4 **The next time Grandma Nellie asks Ryan to help her make a pie, he will *most likely* —**

- F choose not to help
- G make a grocery list
- H know what to expect
- J ask many questions

- 5 **Which event from the story *best* shows that Ryan enjoys spending time with Grandma Nellie?**
- A Ryan likes how Grandma Nellie always plans something for them to do.
 - B Ryan is greeted by Grandma Nellie with a big hug.
 - C Ryan and his parents have to drive a long ways to visit Grandma Nellie.
 - D Ryan likes eating Grandma Nellie's peach pie.

Read the following passage and answer questions 6 through 9.

Gentle Giants



- 1 You probably know that the African elephant is the world's largest land mammal. You might know that the saltwater crocodile is the world's largest reptile. But do you know about the world's largest fish?
- 2 Although the whale shark is our biggest fish and lives in many oceans around the world, few people have even heard of it. Scientists have not been studying whale sharks for very long. Much more needs to be learned about them.
- 3 A whale shark is sometimes called a "gentle giant." It likes to be alone and could not care less about divers or humans. The biggest whale shark that was correctly measured weighed 24,250 pounds and was nearly 40 feet long. This makes it heavier and longer than a school bus. It is a good thing whale sharks are calm and not fierce! Humans do not need to be afraid of them.
- 4 A whale shark has a very broad head with an enormous mouth at the front. The upper half of its body is dark gray with white spots, which may help it blend in with the ocean floor. The skin on its back is thicker and tougher than the skin of any other creature. The outer layer is covered in overlapping skin "scales," or tooth-like bumps. The whale shark seems to wear a suit of armor.
- 5 For such a giant fish, its eyes are small. Unlike many creatures, a whale shark has no eyelids. To close its eyes for protection, the whale shark rolls its eyes and pulls them back into its head. Scientists suspect sight must not be an important sense for the whale shark. They do know that whale sharks have special nerve endings that can locate electromagnetic fields in the water. This helps the whale shark find its food, even in the dark depths of the ocean.
- 6 Inside that enormous mouth are great numbers of very tiny teeth. To count all of them, you'll need to do some math. The whale shark's teeth are arranged in rows. There are between eleven and thirteen rows on each jaw and around three hundred teeth in each row. An average whale shark has at least three thousand teeth. Some whale sharks have even more!

7 The whale shark rarely uses its teeth, though. This fish is a filter feeder. It does not chew or bite its food. Large amounts of water are pulled into its mouth and then pushed out through the shark's gills. The gills act like a rake to filter out tiny plankton and krill, the whale shark's food.

8 It was only a few years ago that scientists discovered how whale shark babies are born. Strangely enough, a female whale shark hatches eggs inside her body. Then she gives birth to live young called pups. One whale shark was recorded as having three hundred pups!

9 For a few months every year, a group of whale sharks comes to Ningaloo Reef, off Western Australia. This gives scientists a wonderful chance to study the huge fish. Whale sharks do live in other oceans of the world, but no one knows their total population. It is possible that our biggest fish may need protecting. It is one of the reasons why scientists continue to learn all they can about these gentle giants.

6 **Which sentence about the article *best* supports the idea that whale sharks are gentle?**

- F They have special nerve endings.
- G They have small eyes.
- H They leave divers alone.
- J They give birth to live young.

7 **What happens when a whale shark needs to protect its eyes?**

- A Its skin stretches over its eyes.
- B Its eyes roll back into its head.
- C Its nerves tell the eyes to close.
- D Its eyes shrink to a smaller size.

8 **Which sentence about the article *best* supports the idea that whale sharks are gentle?**

- F They have small eyes.
- G They leave divers alone.
- H They give birth to live young.
- J They have special nerve endings.

9 **Little is known about whale sharks because scientists —**

- A are not interested in learning about them
- B find them too difficult to observe
- C do not know the best places to find them
- D have studied them for only a short time

10 **Look at the chart.**

Cause

Effect

The students recycle their paper and plastic products every day.



Empty rectangular box for the effect.

Which is most likely the effect?

- F The teachers use more paper.
- G The recycled products are later thrown away.
- H There is less pollution in the environment.
- J Many recycling centers near the school are closed.