

Story 4: Read the poem before looking at the numbered notes. Then read the notes. Do the notes help make sense of the poem, or more confusing? There is no correct answer.

What in the world does “transmogrification” mean? Give at least two alternatives.

Story 5: In some books there are “star-crossed lovers.” What does that mean?

Father works for Sun Rise, Inc. The explanation in the story for how the sun rises and sets seems plausible. Poke holes in this silly account.

Look at that map of Nebraska. Can you find the Nebraska Sea?

Find the Czech Republic on a map, a very new map. What was it called before becoming a republic?

Who are Paul Bunyan and Babe?

Give the Royal Purple Python a name.

Are you afraid of snakes? You shouldn't be. What feature should you look for to determine if a snake is poisonous or not?

Story 6: Find the meaning of “thyme” and “furry.”

The word “inchoate” (in-KO-8) has several definitions. The scientific one helps to explain how snow flakes fall, and which way the wind will blow a minute from now. Look into it; it is quite mysterious.

“Has-been actor,” when said by the folks in England comes out, “has-bean actor.”

You would probably say, “has-bin.” Find three other word that the English say one way and we another.

Is “bibelots” a real or made-up word?

Story 7: The story is full of words starting with capital letters and ending with a funny little circle with a letter in it. Sometimes the letter is R, C, T, or TM. Find out what these letters mean; are all the words in the story labeled correctly? Hmm.

Did you know that whales are mammals, just as we are, and must come to the surface of the sea for air? In fact many millions of years ago they lived on the land and had legs. They are distant relatives of the hippopotamus. The sea was shallow and krill, a small crustacean, and fish were plentiful for the early whales to eat. The sea receded and the krill and fish were farther out to sea. Only the animals that could swim far could get their food. Over a long period, these lost the need for legs. The rear legs atrophied, and the front ones became flukes, to help them swim farther and dive deeper after their food.

Can you think of a way to reduce the cooking time for the whale? Would you rather go to the Arthur Treacher's? Is there one near your home? How about a Red Lobster?

Story 8: Have you determined how King Esontneb got his name? How about Nodiesop?

What does the dolphin have in common with the whale?

Story 9: Before there were cities, humans were hunters and gatherers, following their

food from place to place. Agriculture and trade led to meeting places to store, and buy and sell things. Soon people settled in these trading posts, which became the centers of civilization. Find where the earliest cities were built.

Potatoes grow well, even in the rocky soil of northern Europe. They were easy to store and can be used in many dishes. In this area the words for potato came from the German word “kartoffal.”

Was the game fair? Did Olaf cheat the ogre, or was the ogre too dumb to ask more about gambling?

Is gambling a good thing or not?

Story 10: Look at a bird book. Where do Kirtland pine warblers live? Name other kinds of warbler. What does “to warble” mean?

Story 11: Have you heard a fairy tale where a person does a selfless deed and is rewarded? Yes, there are many. Others are about foolish people who do bad things and are punished. Which do you like better? Why are there the two types of fairy tales?

Story 12: Even his name, Farmer Grasp tells you something about the man. Do you like him in the story? Many people wish they had enough money to leave a job they don’t like.

Did the wanderer keep his end of the bargain?

Changing straw into gold can only be done by selling a lot of it at a good price. Working hard and well can lead to a better life. What might be a good rule for living a good life?

Story 13: Where in the world did the name Kaj come from? Hint: see Story 8.

How did you wake up this morning, grumpy, without concern, or happy?

Think of six things a which doctor could do for you.

Would you prefer getting a Sword of Justice or a crème puff? Explain.

The story mentions Solomon who was faced with a similar dilemma. Who is he and what was the problem he solved?

The mistress’ name is Dab Lirg. Use the trick you used in Story 8 to find her name in English.

Geometry is a branch of mathematics that studies shapes such as line, circles, and triangles. The early Egyptians used it to design the Pyramids 5000 years ago.

Today it can be used by surveyors to make property maps. Find a way to determine the area of a square, a rectangle, and a triangle. One way of solving the Dribbles’ property problem would be to divide the curious shape into four triangles. Divide the land map into the triangles. How long is “four score and seven years”? The most famous use of this expression was by a famous U.S. president. Who was he and what was the occasion?

Story 14: There are places in the world where, if you stood and looked around everything

would look flat. The oceans are like that on a calm day. As you go higher and higher, you can see that the horizon is curved.

Mrs. Vander Snoot utters the phrase, “noblesse oblige.” What does *that* mean? Have you ever seen snail forks? Have you eaten snails? They are considered a delicacy in fancy restaurants.

The word *bloody* has appeared in at least two stories and is shunned by cultured people in Britain. Find out why.

What is an A&P?

Everyone in this story seems greedy, except the two boys and their parents. What makes people want more than they have?

How do snail forks move?

Story 15: Find out about chipmunks. At one time there was a musical group named the Chipmunks. Have you heard any of their songs?

What does *anamorphic* mean (and why does the author use so many big words)?

Story 16: Mistletoe has a long history, and means different things in different cultures.

Trace its history back 2000 years.

While most bread today is made by the thousands of loaves in a factory, there are still some bakers who make and sell their bread and cakes in a shop. Sometimes they will slip an extra roll or doughnut into a bag of a dozen, just in case the customer might think one of the items is too small. It is also good business, because that customer is likely to come back to the bakery again. Is there a bakery shop in your town?

What would you call someone who pretends to make bread?

Story 17: Chipmunks and red squirrels do not get along well. They are fighting for the same territory with its food supply and places to hide when winter comes.

Where humans do not dwell, each chipmunk must also guard its territory from other chipmunks: nature gives each being (plant and animal) a set of skills. If a creature can use its skills where it lives it survives. If not, the creature dies. The coming of humans changes the territory and often provides more food and hiding places. Animals, such as chipmunks thrive in some of these places and form loose colonies. This is a major advantage when it comes to gathering more food and fighting natural enemies.

Find the technical name for chipmunks. How many varieties are there in the North American continent?

The phrase “those above” applies to our family. We built a family room with a foundation of cement blocks. There are three vents to help the air circulation.

Chipmunks can squeeze through very tiny holes and made the space under the family room floor their Palace. It has been quite an education to us seeing how the chipmunks interact with each other and the other animals and birds who visit our yard.

What would you call a chipmunk that has a knack for opening pecans?

Story 18: People who live alone are often scorned by neighbors as *hermits* or *spinsters*. In times past they were also thought to be wizards or witches. In the worst of times, they were also persecuted and killed, just because they were different. One of America's most famous "hermits" was Henry Thoreau. He wrote the book *Walden* that chronicled his life of harmony with nature on Walden Pond in Massachusetts. Look into his life and beliefs. He influenced many famous people, such as Gandhi, Tolstoy, and Martin Luther King, Jr.
What would you call someone who carves wooden toys at Christmas?

Answers to some of the Riddles & Puzzles:

1. Daylight Spending Time.
2. Flop Glops.
3. Hilarious Precarious.
4. Going to St. Ives? None, they were all in the house going no place, fast.
5. Look at the tail: nonpoisonous snakes have thin slender tails. Poisonous snakes have blunt, stubby tails. Avoid the latter.
6. The word *bibelots* is made up.
7. Reduce cooking time by removing the blubber, which is used for cooking oil, lubricants, and candles.
8. Dolphins and whales are mammals, along with seals, and sea lions. They are very intelligent.
9. Gambling is neither good nor bad. It is one thing to bet your friend a nickel that you can throw the next snowball the farther. Some people become addicted to placing large amounts of money on a card game or spin of a roulette wheel. They lose all their money and often end up in financial ruin.
10. Warbling means to have the ability to sing with trills and melody.
11. Fairy tales are very ancient and were used to teach children the difference between good and bad.
12. There are many phrases, such as "do unto others." Perhaps it can be summarized as leaving the world a better place than it was before you were born.
13. A score is twenty years, so four score and twenty would be 87. President Abraham Lincoln used the expression in his Gettysburg address, November 19, 1863.
14. At a snail's pace.
15. *Anamorphic* means any device that corrects pictures, such as a lens that can project a flat picture on a curved wall. In the story the flakes create the curved snow drift. The reason for using long words is that one can express a complicated idea with one word instead of ten or twenty. In other words, the word sounds nice.
16. A baker faker.
17. A nut cracker.
18. That has to be one of Santa's helpers.