

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What is the main problem at the beginning of the story?
 - Ⓐ Rat did not take Mole to visit Otter.
 - Ⓑ Toad can't come on this adventure.
 - Ⓒ Portly has been missing for days.
 - Ⓓ Rat and Mole are tired of watching Portly.
2. How does the music Rat hears further the plot?
 - Ⓐ It gets Rat and Mole lost.
 - Ⓑ It leads Rat and Mole to Portly.
 - Ⓒ It introduces a new character.
 - Ⓓ It teaches Rat a lesson.
3. Which of the following words is the best context clue for the word **raiment** on page 8?
 - Ⓐ haunts
 - Ⓑ boat
 - Ⓒ apparel
 - Ⓓ recognised
4. Which of the following lines from the story expresses a character's opinion about Portly?
 - Ⓐ *He's always straying off and getting lost . . .*
 - Ⓑ *. . . He's so adventurous.*
 - Ⓒ *He's been missing for some days now . . .*
 - Ⓓ *Why, there he is!*
5. What causes Otter to spend the night watching by the ford?
 - Ⓐ It is where Portly agreed to meet Otter if he ever disappeared.
 - Ⓑ Otter randomly chose the ford because he doesn't know where to look.
 - Ⓒ Rat tells Otter that it is a good place to look for Portly.
 - Ⓓ It is where Otter taught Portly how to swim and he hopes Portly might return there.

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6. Based on the story, readers could conclude that _____.

- Ⓐ the river is an evil place
- Ⓑ the island is imaginary
- Ⓒ Portly is safe on the island
- Ⓓ everything that happens is a dream

7. What are **runnels**?

- Ⓐ large animals
- Ⓑ small streams
- Ⓒ pleasant songs
- Ⓓ things that glow in the dark

8. What does the powerful “august Presence” on the island symbolize?

- Ⓐ the power of nature
- Ⓑ the importance of books
- Ⓒ the power of civilization
- Ⓓ the importance of friends

9. Which of the following events is the resolution of this part of the story?

- Ⓐ Rat and Mole go in search of Portly.
- Ⓑ Rat and Mole find a mysterious island.
- Ⓒ Portly and his father are reunited at the ford.
- Ⓓ Rat hears the words of the song, but Mole cannot.

10. What causes Portly to cry after Rat and Mole find him on the island?

- Ⓐ He is afraid his father will be angry with him for running away.
- Ⓑ He doesn’t recognize Rat and Mole and thinks they are dangerous.
- Ⓒ He misses the comfortable feeling he had before Rat and Mole arrived.
- Ⓓ He is so happy to be rescued from the scary animal on the island.

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- 11. Extended Response:** What does this part of the story reveal about the author's point of view on nature? Write a response that uses details from the text to support your conclusion.
- 12. Extended Response:** Write a paragraph that explains how changes in the setting impact the characters and mood of the story.

1. Ⓒ *Problem and Solution*
2. Ⓑ *Analyze Plot*
3. Ⓒ *Vocabulary*
4. Ⓑ *Fact or Opinion*
5. Ⓓ *Analyze Character*
6. Ⓒ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
7. Ⓑ *Vocabulary*
8. Ⓐ *Story Elements: Theme*
9. Ⓒ *Analyze Plot*
10. Ⓒ *Cause and Effect*
11. Answers will vary. Sample response:
I think the author's point of view is that nature can be powerful and mysterious, and has strong influences on us. In this part of the story, the characters visit a mysterious island that is blooming with perfect Spring air and greenery. The characters are drawn forward in an almost trance, as if something else is controlling them. The author uses this setting to show the power of nature. The characters also encounter a strange presence there, and other unusual events occur, all of which supports the idea that the author finds nature to be mysterious.
12. Answers will vary. Sample response: *At the beginning of the story, the setting is familiar and homey, where the characters feel comfortable. Then the setting changes to the river when it is very dark and difficult to see. This changes the mood of the story from the familiar, which feels safe, to the unknown, which feels scary and dangerous. The setting on the island creates a mysterious and awesome mood. Rat and Mole are both enchanted by this mysterious setting, and are conditioned for their mystical meeting with Pan. Then the setting changes back to a familiar part of the river. Everyone is relieved with Portly's safe delivery, and the return to a familiar setting emphasizes that feeling.*