

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Sing Softer, Maggie

Sing Softer, Maggie

By Carolyn Short

1 Maggie loved to sing. She sang when she rode the bus. All the passengers would smile, except Mrs. Ellis, who worked all night at a cafe. She would sigh. Then Maggie's mother would say, "Sing softer, Maggie."

2 Maggie sang in the supermarket. All the shoppers would smile, except Ned the produce man. He would just roll his eyes. Then Maggie's mother would say, "Sing softer, Maggie."

3 One day, Mother brought Maggie to the nursing home to visit Great-Grandma. They walked into a big, bright room filled with other great-grandmas and great-grandpas. Maggie looked for her Great-Grandma. When she saw her, she skipped across the room and hugged her.

4 After Maggie's mother hugged Great-Grandma, Maggie asked, "May I sing her a song?" Maggie's mother nodded.

Softly, very softly, Maggie sang a song. Great-Grandma leaned forward. She cupped her hand behind her ear. She frowned, shook her head, and tapped Maggie on the shoulder. Great-Grandma murmured something, but Maggie couldn't hear her. Maggie leaned in closer, so Great-Grandma could whisper in her ear.



5 Then Maggie stood tall, took a deep breath, and opened her mouth. Her song burst out. It flew and floated and soared. And when the last note landed, everyone clapped and cheered. Mother and Great-Grandma clapped the loudest. Maggie grinned and took a bow.

6 What do you think Great-Grandma whispered in Maggie's ear?

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Sing Softer, Maggie".

1 Which sentence from the story best shows that Maggie is pleased with herself.

- A. Then Maggie stood tall, took a deep breath, and opened her mouth.
- B. Her song burst out.
- C. It flew and floated and soared.
- D. And when the last note landed, everyone clapped and cheered
- E. Mother and great-grandma clapped the loudest.
- F. Maggie grinned and took a bow.

2 Which choice best explains why Maggie sings softly in the story?

- A. Maggie is very shy.
- B. Maggie's mother was embarrassed that she was singing loudly in public.
- C. Maggie does not want to hurt great grandma's ears.
- D. She is upst that great grandma frowned at her.

3 What do you think Great-Grandma whispered to Maggie? Use text evidence to support your answer.

4 What inference can be made about the Great-Grandma's feelings towards Maggie's singing in this paragraph?

Softly, very softly, Maggie sang a song. Great-Grandma leaned forward. She cupped her hand behind her ear. She frowned, shook her head, and tapped Maggie on the shoulder. Great-Grandma murmured something, but Maggie couldn't hear.

- A. Great-Grandma wanted Maggie to stop singing.
- B. Great-Grandma thought she sang soft and beautiful.
- C. Great-Grandma was not happy that Maggie was singing so softly.
- D. Great-Grandma felt like Maggie was not listening to her.

5 What inference can be made about what the Great-Grandma whispered in Maggie's ear?

- A. Great-Grandma said she needs to be quieter
- B. Great-Grandma said she needs to sing another song
- C. Great-Grandma said she should be proud and sing louder
- D. Great-Grandma said she needs to take a deep breath

6 How was Maggie feeling at the end of the story?

- A. Nervous
- B. Proud
- C. Frustrated
- D. Surprised

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Sing Softer, Maggie".

- 7 The reader can conclude that Maggie feels happy about seeing her Great-Grandma.

Which detail from the passage best supports this conclusion?

- A. When Maggie saw her she skipped across the room and hugged her.
- B. Maggie grinned and took a bow.
- C. Maggie asked her mom if she could sing Great-Grandma a song.
- D. Maggie leaned in closer, so Great-Grandma could whisper in her ear.

- 8 Read this inference based on the text.

People did not like it when Maggie sang loudly in public.

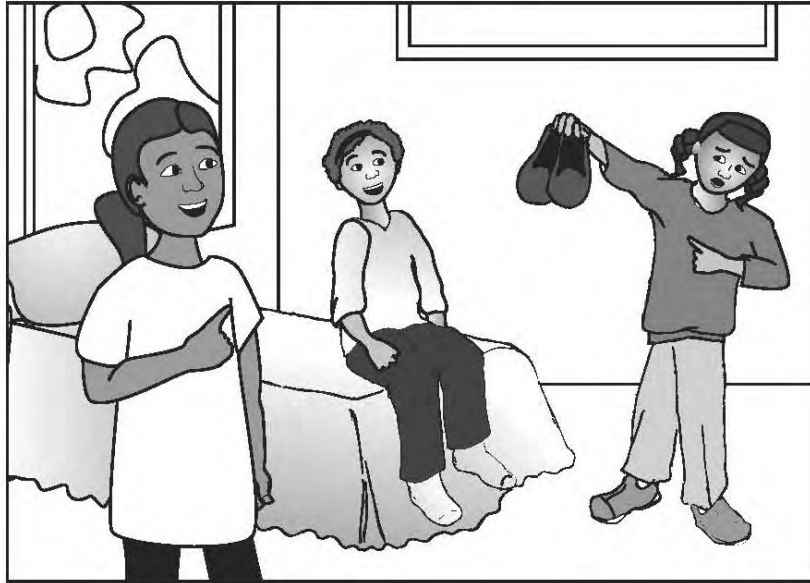
Which details from the passage best support this inference. Choose TWO answers.

- A. Mrs. Ellis sighed.
- B. Great-Grandma shook her head.
- C. Ned rolled his eyes.
- D. Maggie's mother nodded.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

The Private I's and the Case of the Big Stink

by Wendi Silvano



- 1 Inez brushed some brown hairs from her bedspread. Ivy fluffed up the pink pillow on her bed. Then she picked up the green pillow.
- 2 “Ack!” said Ivy. “This pillow smells!”
- 3 Inez took a whiff. “You’re right!”
- 4 Izzy came into the bedroom. “Hey,” she said, “who rolled my slippers in garbage?”
- 5 Ivy and Inez laughed.
- 6 “I’m not joking,” said Izzy. “Smell them!”
- 7 Ivy smelled the slippers. “Yuck! That smells just like my pillow.”
- 8 “What’s going on?” said Inez.
- 9 “Something smelly is going on,” said Izzy.
- 10 “But what would make my pillow and your slippers stink?” said Ivy.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

- 11 “This must be a case for the Private I’s,” said Izzy.
- 12 “I’ll get my notebook,” said Inez.
- 13 She wrote: *The Case of the Big Stink*.
- 14 “Any ideas?” she asked.
- 15 “Let’s see if anything else smells the same,” said Ivy.
- 16 “Great idea!” said Izzy.
- 17 Inez wrote: *Plan 1: Sniff out the stink*.
- 18 The Private I’s went to the kitchen. They sniffed the counter. They sniffed the table. They sniffed the garbage can.
- 19 “The garbage can stinks,” said Ivy, “but not in the way my pillow does.”
- 20 “Let’s try the living room,” said Izzy.
- 21 They sniffed the curtains. They sniffed the lamps. They sniffed the sofa.
- 22 “Yuck!” said Ivy. “That’s the stink, all right.”
- 23 Inez wrote: *The sofa has the big stink*.
- 24 “What do Ivy’s pillow, my slippers, and the sofa have in common?” said Izzy.
- 25 “They all stink,” said Ivy.
- 26 “Ha, ha,” said Izzy.
- 27 “Hey! Wait a minute,” said Inez. “All of those things are soft and cushy.”
- 28 “That’s an important clue,” said Izzy.
- 29 Inez wrote: *Everything with the big stink is soft and cushy*.
- 30 “My pillow is the cushiest,” said Ivy. “That’s why I like to lie on it.”
- 31 “Hmm,” said Izzy. “The pillow and the sofa are things people lie on.”
- 32 “What about the slippers?” said Inez. “People don’t lie on slippers.”
- 33 “But Baxter does,” said Ivy. “He sleeps on anything soft.”
- 34 “And look—brown hairs on my slippers!” said Izzy. “I suspect Baxter rolled in something stinky.”
- 35 “How can we check?” said Inez. “He’s gone with Mom.”
- 36 “Let’s smell his bed,” said Ivy.
- 37 “Brilliant!” said Izzy.
- 38 They all went to sniff Baxter’s bed.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

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- 39 “Yuck!”
- 40 Inez wrote: *Baxter is spreading the big stink.*
- 41 “But what is he rolling in?” asked Izzy.
- 42 “Let’s follow the smell,” said Ivy.
- 43 “Great idea,” said Izzy.
- 44 So Izzy, Inez, and Ivy went outside. They walked around the yard, sniffing.
- 45 “Check out the area behind these bushes,” said Izzy.
- 46 “That’s Baxter’s favorite napping spot,” said Inez. “The ground there is covered with soft moss.”
- 47 She took a whiff. “It’s got the stink, all right.”
- 48 Ivy peeked under the bushes. “There are two rotting eggs under here. They must be leftovers from our Easter-egg hunt. They’re all crushed from Baxter rolling in them.”
- 49 Just then, Mom came home with Baxter.
- 50 “Someone has to give this dog a bath!” said Mom. “He stinks.”
- 51 Izzy, Inez, and Ivy laughed.
- 52 “Come on, Baxter,” said Izzy. “Let’s get you un-stinked.”
- 53 Inez wrote: *The Case of the Big Stink: Solved.*

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "The Private I's and the Case of the Big Stink".

- 9 Which items did Baxter lay on?
- A. The ones that are important
 - B. The ones that smell like food
 - C. The ones that are the cushiest
 - D. The ones in his favorite napping spot
- 10 Why do the girls most likely call themselves the "Private I's"?
- A. because they want to keep a big secret
 - B. because they keep their information in a notebook
 - C. because they are all important and because of their ideas
 - D. because they are solving a mystery and because of their names
- 11 In paragraphs 27 and 28, why does Izzy think the clue is important?
- A. It shows why the smelly things are in the house.
 - B. It shows a way to connect all of the smelly things.
 - C. It shows that the girls need to look for more things that smell the same.
 - D. It shows that the girls have become good at finding the things that smell.
- 12 In the story which two items smell the same?
- A. the curtains and the garbage can
 - B. the slippers and the counter
 - C. the table and the lamps
 - D. the sofa and the pillow