

“Green Grass”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

Plants need sunlight and water to make their own food.

You can do an **experiment** to test if this is true.

Place a bucket over a patch of green grass.

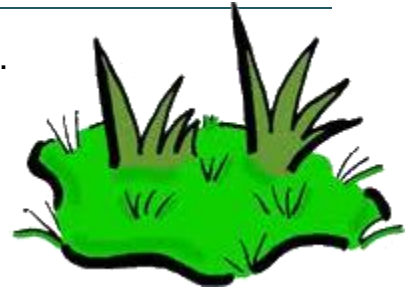
After a few days, lift the bucket.

You will see that the grass is not as green anymore.

If you leave the bucket in place for a week, the grass will become very **dull**.

This happens because the grass cannot make food in the dark.

Remove the bucket. In a few days, the grass will start turning green again.



Questions:

1) What is the main point of this passage?

- A. Buckets are bad.
- B. Plants need sunlight.
- C. Grass is not pretty when it is dull.

2) What is an **experiment**?

- A. a way to grow grass
- B. a way to test an idea
- C. a way to use a bucket

3) What happens after a few days?

- A. The grass turns brown.
- B. The grass gets very dull
- C. The grass is not as green

4) What is the opposite of **dull**?

- A. bright
- B. brown
- C. sunlight

5) According to the passage, how long does it take for the grass to become dull?

- A. a month
- B. a week
- C. a few days

6) What might happen if the bucket stays on the grass for a very long time?

- A. The grass might die.
- B. Flowers might start to bloom.
- C. The grass might start growing again.

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

In paragraph 1 we learn that “plants need sunlight” (**B**). The passage describes what happens when plants do not get sunlight. The main idea of the passage is the fact that plants need sunlight. Therefore (**B**) is correct.

Although the bucket keeps the grass from staying green, it is not the bucket itself but the lack of sunlight which is bad. Therefore (**A**) is incorrect. Grass may not be as pretty when it is dull, but that opinion is never stated in the passage and therefore cannot be the main idea. Therefore (**C**) is incorrect.

2) **B**

In paragraph 2 we learn that an experiment will “test if this is true.” We know that “this” means the idea from the previous sentence that “plants need sunlight.” An experiment is a way to test this idea. Therefore (**B**) is correct. The experiment is not a way to grow grass but a way to hurt grass. Therefore (**A**) is incorrect. Although the experiment does use a bucket, you could test this idea using something other than a bucket. Also, you could do another experiment to test a different idea. Therefore (**C**) is incorrect.

3) **C**

In paragraphs 4 and 5, we learn that after a few days, you can lift the bucket and see the “grass is not as green anymore.” Therefore (**C**) is correct. The passage does not ever say that the grass turns brown. Therefore (**A**) is incorrect. Paragraph 6 does say that the grass “will become very dull,” but only after “a week,” not a few days. Therefore (**B**) is incorrect.

4) **A**

dull (*adjective*): lacking brilliance or brightness.

After a few days, the grass is “not as green anymore.” This is the same thing as say the grass is not as bright green. Bright is the opposite of dull. Therefore (**A**) is the correct answer.

When the grass gets “dull,” it gets less green and, we can understand, more brown. Brown is similar to dull, not opposite. Therefore (**B**) is incorrect. Sunlight is an example of something bright, but it is a thing, not a description, so it cannot be the opposite of dull. Therefore (**C**) is incorrect.

5) **B**

In paragraph 6 we learn that after “a week, the grass will become very dull.” Therefore (**B**) is the correct answer. The story does not contain information to support choices (**A**), (**C**) and (**D**). Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **A**

If “plants need sunlight” and “the grass cannot make food in the dark,” then the grass might die if the bucket stays on a very long time, because grass needs sunlight and food to live. Therefore (**A**) is the correct answer. Flowers will not start to bloom because flowers are plants, and plants all need sunlight. Therefore (**B**) is incorrect. Likewise, the grass will not start growing again if it does not have food and sunlight. Therefore (**C**) is incorrect.