

“Trees”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

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

Trees have three parts.

Trees have **roots**. The roots pull up water and food for the tree from underground.

Trees have a **trunk**. The trunk is the stem of the tree. It has bark on it. It helps food get to the branches.

Trees have a **crown**. The crown is at the top of the tree. Branches, leaves, seeds, and flowers are all part of the crown.



Questions:

1) What is this passage about?

- A. what trees eat
- B. how trees grow
- C. the parts of a tree

2) What part of the tree is underground?

- A. the crown
- B. the roots
- C. the trunk

3) If a tree has no roots, it

- A. cannot eat
- B. will move away
- C. can grow more branches

4) What are the three main parts of a tree?

- A. water, food, and seeds
- B. roots, trunk, and crown
- C. branches, leaves, and bark

Do you like trees? What is your favorite kind of tree? Why?

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

At the beginning, the story says, "Trees have three parts." Then the story describes the three different parts of a tree: the roots, the trunk, and the crown. Since the story begins by telling us that trees have three parts and goes on to describe the three parts, we can understand that the story is about the parts of a tree. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The story tells us that tree roots pull up water and food, but it does not tell us what the food is. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not tell us how trees grow. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

2) **B**

Near the beginning, the story says, "The roots pull up water and food for the tree from underground." Since the roots pull food and water up from underground, the roots must also be underground. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Near the end, the story says, "The crown is at the top of the tree." This means the crown is up in the air, not underground. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not provide information to support answer choice **(C)**. Therefore it is incorrect.

3) **A**

Near the beginning, the story says, "The roots pull up water and food for the tree from underground." We can understand from this information that the tree uses its roots to get food. Without food, the tree cannot eat. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The story does not provide information to support answer choices **(B)** or **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **B**

At the beginning, the story says, "Trees have three parts." Then, the story says, "Trees have roots," and we learn what the roots do. Next we learn that "trees have a trunk," and we learn what the trunk does. Finally, the story says, "Trees have a crown," and we learn what the crown is. We can understand from this that the three parts of a tree are the roots, the trunk, and the crown. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Water and food are pulled up by the roots. They are what the tree eats, so they are not part of the tree. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Branches and leaves are part of the crown and bark is part of the trunk, but branches, leaves, and bark are not the three main parts of the tree. They are smaller parts. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.