

Answer Questions



Test Strategy

Author and Me

The answer is not directly stated. Think about what you have read to figure out the best answer.

After Apple Picking

by Robert Frost

My long two-pointed ladder's sticking through a tree
Toward heaven still,
And there's a barrel that I didn't fill
Beside it, and there may be two or three
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough. 5
But I am done with apple-picking now.
Essence of winter sleep is on the night,
The scent of apples: I am drowsing off.
I cannot rub the strangeness from my sight
I got from looking through a pane of glass 10
I skimmed this morning from the drinking trough
And held against the world of hoary grass.
It melted, and I let it fall and break.

But I was well
 Upon my way to sleep before it fell, 15
 And I could tell
 What form my dreaming was about to take.
 Magnified apples appear and disappear,
 Stem end and blossom end,
 And every fleck of russet showing clear. 20
 My instep arch not only keeps the ache,
 It keeps the pressure of a ladder-round.
 I feel the ladder sway as the boughs bend.
 And I keep hearing from the cellar bin
 The rumbling sound 25
 Of load on load of apples coming in.
 For I have had too much
 Of apple-picking: I am overtired
 Of the great harvest I myself desired.
 There were ten thousand thousand fruit to touch, 30
 Cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall.
 For all
 That struck the earth,
 No matter if not bruised or spiked with stubble,
 Went surely to the cider-apple heap 35
 As of no worth.
 One can see what will trouble
 This sleep of mine, whatever sleep it is.
 Were he not gone,
 The woodchuck could say whether it's like his 40
 Long sleep, as I describe its coming on,
 Or just some human sleep.





A Bump on the Head

Probably the most famous apple in history belonged to English physicist Sir Isaac Newton. His apple became the symbol for one of history's greatest scientific discoveries: the force of gravity.

However, some historians question whether or not the apple even existed. When examining history, people try to separate the fact from the fiction. And in Newton's case, his scientific work was the fact, and the story about the apple was all fiction.

Isaac Newton was born in 1642 in England. As a young man, he left home to study science at Cambridge University. One day while resting under an apple tree, an apple fell from a branch above and hit him right on the head. He looked at the apple and began to think. He thought about why the apple fell, applying some of the scientific knowledge from school.

Newton realized that forces inside Earth were always pulling objects toward its center. That's why the apple fell down and did not stay floating high up in the tree. When a person jumps, he or she does not go flying, soaring into space like a lost balloon. Gravity pulls everything toward the ground.

What's the problem with this famous and inspiring apple story? Most historians and scholars don't believe the bump on the head ever happened.

Then why did he tell this story? Today the general belief is that Newton invented that apple to make his work with gravity more memorable. Ask some people and they won't even remember why the apple fell on Sir Isaac Newton's head. Not everyone remembers the work Newton did to change the world. Much of the time, people remember the apple more than they remember him.

Would Newton live on in the minds of people without his famous story? Would we remember him at all without that apple?

What if it had been a peach?

Tip

You have to think about the entire selection to choose the best answer.

Directions: Answer the questions.

- 1. Why would a scientist invent a story like Newton's falling apple?**
 - A to get people's interest
 - B to explain why apples grow on trees
 - C to help the cause of medicine
 - D to make the audience laugh

- 2. Why is history filled with both fact and fiction?**
 - A to confuse people
 - B to make major events and abstract ideas more understandable
 - C so we can make up characters
 - D so we can decide for ourselves what is true

- 3. In the poem, the poet is trying to show that**
 - A an apple a day keeps the doctor away.
 - B picking apples is good exercise.
 - C nature's seasons are like the stages in a person's life.
 - D picking apples is like picking oranges.

- 4. Explain how the speaker in the poem "After Apple Picking" has a different experience with apples from the one Newton does.**

- 5. Explain why Robert Frost's poem "After Apple Picking" is a metaphor for life. Write at least one paragraph. Include examples from the poem in your answer.**

Writing Prompt

Think of a time when an ordinary experience caused you to learn something new. Write a speech about the experience and reflect on what you learned from it. Your speech should be at least three paragraphs long.

