“The Day the Worms Moved In” Quiz

Directions: Read the story “The Day the Worms Moved In” in the October/November 2019 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Which is the setting of the story?
   A Maddie’s aunt’s house  
   B Maddie’s fifth-grade classroom  
   C Maddie’s house  
   D Maddie’s imaginary world

2. Maddie keeps her fear of worms a secret because she . . .
   A doesn’t want to anger her mother.  
   B is really excited about composting.  
   C doesn’t want to upset Billy Peppercorn.  
   D is afraid that her brothers and other kids will tease her.

3. Why are there small holes in the bottom and sides of the composting bin?
   A to let the worms out when they get too cold  
   B to put food scraps through  
   C to allow water to drain out and air to get in  
   D to take garden soil out

4. In the story, the phrase “My mind turns to trickery” means that Maddie is . . .
   A plotting to get back at Billy Peppercorn.  
   B thinking of ways to kill the worms.  
   C figuring out how to hide her worm phobia.  
   D coming up with practical jokes to play on her brothers.

5. Why does Maddie try to eat all the food on her plate after the worms arrive?
   A She wants to please her mother.  
   B She wants to avoid using the compost bin.  
   C She is trying to starve the worms.  
   D She thinks that food scraps are bad for worms.

6. Which line from the story supports the answer to question 5?
   A “Worms sure are delicate, I think.”  
   B “The worms are always on my mind anyway, though.”  
   C “I have a few tidbits of toast . . .”  
   D “. . . I can avoid being in the presence of that bin.”

7. What is Maddie’s first idea for what to do when she sees the worms on the garage floor?
   A scream for her big brother to help  
   B telephone her mother  
   C close the door and let the worms die  
   D put the worms back in their bin

8. In the phrase “hundreds of worms writhing around under the composting bin and across the floor,” writhing means ______.
   A squirming  
   B dying  
   C disappearing  
   D gardening

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the story.

9. Explain the role of worms in composting.

10. In the beginning, Maddie says she has a “severe worm phobia.” Use evidence from the text to support this statement.