At dinner one night, Jeff’s parents gave him the good news. “We’re taking a week-long vacation at the beach,” his dad said. Jeff was very excited. He liked swimming and snorkeling and the family hadn’t been to the beach in a while. He immediately started making plans.

“When are we leaving?” he wanted to know.

“We’ll be leaving August 10th,” his mom answered.

August 10th was eight weeks away; it seemed more like forever. Jeff couldn’t imagine waiting that long, but then he realized something. Eight weeks would give him enough time to save up money to take with him on the trip, and that was a good thing. Jeff decided to be patient and make the most of the time he had—he would find a summer job.
Jeff was trying to save up money for a vacation his family was planning to take. He decided to find a summer job. It took several days of thinking. But finally, Jeff thought of an idea. It was a hot, dusty summer, and people's cars would be getting dirty. He would offer to wash cars. The first step in setting up his business was to decide what supplies he would need. He was definitely going to require soap, wax, brushes, buckets, and towels. Jeff's dad gave him permission to use the garden hose if he was careful. By the time Jeff was ready to open for business, he had spent $25.00. If he charged $5.00 for each car wash, he would have to wash more than five cars to make money. Jeff and his friends posted signs everywhere in the neighborhood. When people learned about Jeff's business, many came to have their cars washed. In a few weeks, Jeff had earned $100.00.

1. Which would be a good title for this text?
   A. Jeff’s New Business
   B. How to Start Your Own Business
   C. The Best Way to Wash Cars
   D. Jeff Makes a New Friend

2. Why does Jeff want to earn money?
   A. He wants to wash cars.
   B. He wants money to spend when his family goes on vacation.
   C. He wants to buy a bike.
   D. He wants to buy a garden hose.

3. Which definition of posted is used in this text?
   A. mailed
   B. built
   C. displayed
   D. worked at

4. Which is a synonym for require?
   A. ask
   B. buy
   C. reject
   D. need

5. Which word describes the tone of this text?
   A. mean
   B. silly
   C. sad
   D. inspirational
Jeff had worked hard for weeks to earn money for his family’s vacation. He had washed thirty cars. Each person paid $5.00. He had made $150.00. But he had to deduct the money spent on supplies. Jeff spent $25.00 on supplies. He had earned $125.00. He was thrilled about the vacation and was happy that he had accumulated so much. Now he was ready to make a budget. He estimated that he would want at least $75.00 for a sweatshirt for himself and presents for his friends. He didn’t know if there would be arcades at the beach, but in case there were, he wanted $25.00 for games. That left $25.00 for snacks or small souvenirs.

1. Which title would tell a reader more about this text?
   - A. Snacks and Things
   - B. The Arcade
   - C. Making a Budget
   - D. Jeff’s Allowance

2. How does Jeff earn his extra money?
   - A. babysitting
   - B. washing dogs
   - C. washing cars
   - D. raking leaves

3. Which word means a plan for spending money?
   - A. budget
   - B. souvenir
   - C. minimum
   - D. money

4. What does accumulate mean?
   - A. to bring
   - B. to buy
   - C. to donate
   - D. to collect

5. Which simile could describe Jeff and his skills with money?
   - A. as wise as an owl
   - B. as swift as a bird
   - C. as dishonest as a thief
   - D. as mean as a snake
Jeff and his family had been looking forward to their vacation for eight weeks. Jeff's mom and dad had rented a beach cottage, and the family would stay there for a whole week. Jeff had earned extra money by washing cars; now he was ready for a break! So the whole family was happy when they got to their beach cottage.

Jeff's mom had packed several bags of groceries in the car, so the first thing the family did when they arrived at the cottage was put the groceries in the refrigerator. They didn't want the food to spoil. Next, everyone brought in suitcases and bags. After that, it was time to unpack everything. Finally, they were ready for their first vacation dinner. Jeff's dad suggested they go to a nearby seafood restaurant, and everyone agreed that was a good idea.

The next day, the family went to the beach. Jeff had brought his snorkeling gear. He spent a few hours looking for interesting fish. At lunchtime, the family found a hamburger stand right by the beach and ate there. After lunch, it was back into the water for more swimming. Jeff's dad had brought his surfboard, and he let Jeff use it for a short while. That night, everyone was too tired to go anywhere, so they fixed sandwiches at their cottage.

On the third day, Jeff finally got the chance to look around the small beachside town. There were all sorts of interesting shops; there was even a video arcade. Jeff was glad he had brought extra money with him. He was able to get a sweatshirt for himself, presents for his friends, and tokens for the video games.

The rest of the vacation was just as enjoyable. Everyone got the chance to swim, shop, relax, and rest in the sand. When the week was over, everyone agreed it had been the best vacation they had ever had.
Read “The Best Vacation Ever!” and then answer the questions.

1. Why does the family put the groceries away first?
   - A. Jeff’s dad is going to cook dinner.
   - B. The groceries are very heavy.
   - C. There is no room for their suitcases.
   - D. They do not want the food to spoil.

2. Which prediction is most likely?
   - A. The family will never go to the beach.
   - B. The family will go to the beach cottage again.
   - C. The family will tell their friends they had a terrible time.
   - D. The family will be glad to leave the beach cottage.

3. Which purpose for reading is most appropriate?
   - A. I want advice on planning a vacation.
   - B. I want to find out what the best vacation was for the characters.
   - C. I want to study maps showing vacation areas.
   - D. I want to read about how to save money for vacation.

4. What is the second thing the family does after they get to the cottage?
   - A. They put the groceries away.
   - B. They go out to dinner.
   - C. They go to the beach.
   - D. They bring in their bags.

5. When does the family go to the beach?
   - A. after the vacation is over
   - B. after Jeff goes to the arcade
   - C. after Jeff goes snorkeling
   - D. on the second day

6. Which of these is an opinion?
   - A. The family went to the beach.
   - B. Next, everyone brought in suitcases and bags.
   - C. Finally, they were ready for their first vacation dinner.
   - D. The rest of the vacation was just as enjoyable.

7. What does Jeff learn?
   - A. Saving money allows you to buy special things.
   - B. Going on vacation is not always fun.
   - C. Surfing is a very difficult sport.
   - D. Snorkeling is only for adults to try.

8. Which statement reflects a reader’s connection to another text?
   - A. This reminds me of reading about my favorite fish.
   - B. This reminds me of a story about a family that has a good time camping.
   - C. This reminds me of an invitation to a new arcade opening in town.
   - D. This reminds me of a nonfiction book about how to wash cars.
Write about the best vacation you have ever had. Where did you go? What did you do? What made it special?

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Reread the text “The Best Vacation Ever!” Then, read the prompt and respond on the lines below.