Crystal was a reporter for her school’s newspaper, *The Real Story*. She liked interviewing people. She also liked getting new ideas for stories and special features. She enjoyed it so much that she wanted a career in news reporting. Every week, the kids who worked on the newspaper met with their advisor, Mr. Thorne. They put together the news stories for that week’s edition of the paper. Then, they planned the next week’s edition. During the week, the reporters would get their stories and write them up. Then, they would bring their stories to the next week’s meeting. Crystal especially liked it when the newspaper was ready for publishing and she could see how her stories and interviews fit in with everyone else’s work.

1. What does Crystal enjoy the most?
   - A playing on her school’s basketball team
   - B writing news stories and interviews
   - C playing video games
   - D going to the movies

2. Which event does not happen at the newspaper meetings?
   - A planning the next week’s paper
   - B putting together the stories for that week’s paper
   - C writing up stories
   - D sharing stories with other reporters

3. What word means a version of a newspaper?
   - A edition
   - B advisor
   - C interview
   - D idea

4. Which prefix could you add to make an antonym for the verb *liked*?
   - A *bi–*
   - B *sub–*
   - C *mega–*
   - D *dis–*

5. What is the meaning of *feature* in this text?
   - A part
   - B element
   - C trait
   - D story

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#50927—180 Days of Reading for Sixth Grade

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Read the text and then answer the questions.

Crystal really enjoyed working on The Real Story, her school's newspaper, but one day she got a story assignment she was convinced she would hate. The newspaper's advisor, Mr. Thorne, asked her to interview the school nurse, Mrs. Curtis. Crystal was positive that an interview with the nurse would be a really boring story. Who wanted to read a feature about going to the nurse's office for hearing and vision testing and to take medicine? But Mr. Thorne insisted that Crystal do the interview. He reminded her that everyone has a story to tell. “You never know what you might learn,” he told her. So, very reluctantly, Crystal agreed to do the story. She contacted Mrs. Curtis and asked if she could interview her for the school paper. Mrs. Curtis agreed willingly, and the two set up an appointment.

1. Why doesn't Crystal want to interview the nurse?
   - A She thinks the story will be boring.
   - B She does not like Mrs. Curtis.
   - C She does not know how to do an interview.
   - D She thinks the story will be too hard.

2. How does Mrs. Curtis feel about doing the interview?
   - A She is angry about it.
   - B She is nervous about it.
   - C She does not want to do it.
   - D She is happy about it.

3. Which two words are synonyms?
   - A positive and unsure
   - B convinced and certain
   - C boring and convinced
   - D really and willingly

4. What does the verb insisted tell readers about Mr. Thorne?
   - A He does not know Crystal will do the interview.
   - B He wants to do the interview.
   - C He feels strongly about Crystal doing the interview.
   - D He does not care if Crystal does the interview.

5. Which two words are antonyms?
   - A reluctantly and willingly
   - B insisted and agreed
   - C newspaper and advisor
   - D feature and interview
Crystal had been assigned to interview the school nurse, Mrs. Curtis, for her school's newspaper. Although she wasn't enthusiastic about the idea, Crystal kept the appointment for the interview. After the two greeted each other, Crystal thanked Mrs. Curtis for being willing to do the interview. Mrs. Curtis responded, “Oh, it's no problem at all. I remember doing some stories for the newspaper years ago when I was a student here.”

That got Crystal's interest immediately, and she asked in surprise, “You were a student here?”

“Sure was,” Mrs. Curtis answered proudly. “In fact,” she lowered her voice and continued, “did you ever hear about the secret basement here at the school?”

Now, Crystal was really interested. Who knew what might be stashed in a secret basement? This was going to be a real story!

1. Where does this text take place?
   - A the supermarket
   - B the mall
   - C Crystal’s home
   - D the nurse’s office

2. What does Mrs. Curtis tell Crystal?
   - A The school has a secret basement.
   - B The school is 300 years old.
   - C The school is about to be closed.
   - D The school is about to get a new set of computers.

3. Which word is an antonym for enthusiastic?
   - A willing
   - B proud
   - C reluctant
   - D secret

4. What part of speech is the word greeted?
   - A verb
   - B noun
   - C adverb
   - D adjective

5. What is the tone of the story?
   - A informative
   - B silly
   - C engaging
   - D serious
CRYSTAL GETS THE SCOOP

Crystal was a reporter for her school's newspaper, *The Real Story*. She'd done several different kinds of stories before, but never anything like the story she was about to do. During an interview, the school nurse, Mrs. Curtis, had told Crystal that the school had a secret basement. Crystal couldn't resist the opportunity to find out what was in the basement. It could be just about anything! So on the day she turned in her interview with Mrs. Curtis, Crystal asked the newspaper's advisor, Mr. Thorne, if she could do a feature on the school's basement. He agreed with her that the basement might be a fascinating story, especially since a lot of people weren't even aware that it existed.

Crystal got permission from the principal to go down into the basement as long as some teachers went with her. So Mr. Thorne and Mrs. Curtis accompanied Crystal when she went to explore the basement. The janitor unlocked the basement door, and Crystal and the two teachers slowly descended the narrow staircase. When they reached the bottom of the stairs, Mrs. Curtis turned on the light, and she, Mr. Thorne, and Crystal began to look around.

Crystal soon discovered a large set of bookshelves with a collection of old dusty books on them. "What are those?" she wondered aloud. Neither of the two teachers knew, so Crystal made her way over to look more closely at the books. They turned out to be yearbooks from every year since the school opened. For almost an hour, Crystal, Mr. Thorne, and Mrs. Curtis paged slowly through the yearbooks. They joked about the old-fashioned clothes and hair in the oldest books, and they commented on some of the people they recognized. All of a sudden, Crystal knew the next feature she wanted to write. These books were the school's story just waiting to be told.
Read “Crystal Gets the Scoop” and then answer the questions.

1. Which prediction based on the title of the text is most accurate?
   - A This text is about ice cream.
   - B This text is about picking something up.
   - C This text is about a famous journalist.
   - D This text is about a reporter getting a story.

2. What do context clues indicate about the relevant meaning of the word descended?
   - A went down
   - B sloped
   - C was related to
   - D arrived suddenly

3. Which statement is likely true about the yearbooks?
   - A They are sold in bookstores.
   - B They are very popular.
   - C They are brand-new.
   - D They have been there for a long time.

4. Which word describes Crystal?
   - A timid
   - B curious
   - C disrespectful
   - D athletic

5. Why do Mr. Thorne and Mrs. Curtis go to the basement with Crystal?
   - A They want to stop Crystal from going.
   - B They are afraid to go alone.
   - C Crystal is too afraid to go by herself.
   - D The principal says that some teachers must go to the basement with Crystal.

6. What can you infer about the basement?
   - A It is not used very often.
   - B Everyone goes there.
   - C It is the largest room in the building.
   - D Many groups hold meetings there.

7. How does Crystal feel about her experience?
   - A happy and inspired
   - B upset and nervous
   - C afraid
   - D jealous and unhappy

8. Why does Crystal want her next story to be about the old yearbooks?
   - A She wants to tell the school about old friends.
   - B Mr. Thorne wants her to write about the yearbooks.
   - C She believes the old yearbooks have stories that should be told.
   - D She is tired of the stories she usually writes.
What story would you want to write about your school? Explain the story you would write about.

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Reread “Crystal Gets the Scoop.” Then, read the prompt and respond on the lines below.