Read this poem about climbing trees and answer the questions that follow.

Every Time I Climb a Tree

by David McCord

Every time I climb a tree
Every time I climb a tree
Every time I climb a tree
I scrape a leg
Or skin a knee
And every time I climb a tree
I find some ants
Or dodge a bee
And get the ants
All over me

And every time I climb a tree
Where have you been?
They say to me
But don’t they know that I am free
Every time I climb a tree?
I like it best
To spot a nest
That has an egg
Or maybe three

And then I skin
The other leg
But every time I climb a tree
I see a lot of things to see
Swallows rooftops and TV
And all the fields and farms there be
Every time I climb a tree
Though climbing may be good for ants
It isn’t awfully good for pants
But still it’s pretty good for me
Every time I climb a tree

1. In the poem, what is the **main** purpose in repeating the line, “Every time I climb a tree”?

   A  to show that the trees are tall
   B  to show that the speaker climbs a lot of trees
   C  to describe how the speaker climbs to the top
   D  to explain how the speaker tears his pants

2. Why might the speaker feel “free” when climbing trees?

   A  The speaker feels like an ant in a tree.
   B  The speaker can see nests and birds.
   C  Treetops are above the rooftops.
   D  Nothing stops the speaker from seeing many things.

3. In stanza 2, who **most likely** says, “Where have you been?”

   A  the bees and the ants
   B  the speaker’s teachers
   C  people who want to climb the tree also
   D  people who do not understand about climbing trees

4. In stanza 3, what is meant by “But still it’s pretty good for me”?

   A  All the things the speaker sees are worth the scrapes and tears.
   B  Every time the speaker climbs a tree, people ask where he has been.
   C  The speaker scrapes his legs when he climbs trees.
   D  When the speaker climbs trees, he sees ants and bees.

5. In stanza 3, what is shown by the statement “And then I skin / The other leg”?

   A  It is fun to climb trees.
   B  Climbing trees is good for ants.
   C  A person can get hurt climbing trees.
   D  A person can see a long way from the top of a tree.

**End of Set**

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## Answers to

### Grade 3  Reading Comprehension Sample Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Title</th>
<th>Question Number</th>
<th>Correct Answer</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Thinking Skill</th>
<th>Objective Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every Time I Climb a Tree</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Critical Stance</td>
<td>Analyzing</td>
<td>2.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Time I Climb a Tree</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>Analyzing</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Time I Climb a Tree</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>Generating</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Time I Climb a Tree</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>Analyzing</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Time I Climb a Tree</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>Analyzing</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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