

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
2 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

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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*

| Selection Title | Question Number | Correct Answer | Category | Thinking Skill | Objective Number |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Every Time I Climb a Tree | 1 | B | Critical Stance | Analyzing | 2.04 |
| Every Time I Climb a Tree | 2 | D | Interpretation | Analyzing | 3.01 |
| Every Time I Climb a Tree | 3 | D | Interpretation | Generating | 2.05 |
| Every Time I Climb a Tree | 4 | A | Interpretation | Analyzing | 3.01 |
| Every Time I Climb a Tree | 5 | C | Interpretation | Analyzing | 3.01 |