

Peter Possum's Playful Trick

by Margaret Chaplin Campbell

Peter Possum* opened one eye. The sun was setting. "Time to get up," said Peter Possum. He opened both eyes and gazed about. Everything looked upside down. That was because Peter Possum sometimes hung upside down. He would wrap his long tail around a tree branch and let his head hang down.

Peter Possum pulled himself up to the branch and unwrapped his tail. He was right side up again. Now everything looked just right.

He climbed down the tree trunk. "I'm hungry," he said. "What do I want today? Not eggs. Not insects. I feel in the mood for some garbage."

Off he started toward the Lacey's garbage can. Mrs. Lacey was a good cook. Her table scraps were delicious. "Watch out for Old Dog Tiger," Peter told himself.

"Watch out for Peter Possum," Old Dog Tiger was saying to himself. "Protect the garbage can from Peter Possum."

Old Dog Tiger hid behind the garbage can and waited as Peter Possum came hurrying along as fast as he could. "I'm in the mood for a ham sandwich," said Peter Possum.

Old Dog Tiger watched and waited. "I'm in the mood for a possum sandwich," thought Old Dog Tiger.

Rattle, rattle. Peter Possum started pushing the lid from the can. Old Dog Tiger leaped out. "Snarl! Ruff! Growl!"

"Oh! Oh!" yelled Peter Possum. "What can I do? Old Dog Tiger is too close. I cannot run. I cannot hide. I cannot even climb."

PLOP! Peter Possum flopped over on the ground. He lay very still. He did not move when Old Dog Tiger sniffed him. He did not open his eyes. He did not make a single sound.

"Look what I've done," said Old Dog Tiger. "I scared that possum to death. I'll get my master. He will be proud of me." Off he ran.

Peter Possum opened his eyes. Old Dog Tiger was gone. Peter Possum laughed.

"I fooled him with my playful trick," he said. "I pretended to be dead. That's called 'playing possum.' I am very good at it."

Away he trotted, safe and sound and very much alive.



***possum**: same as opossum

1. What is the **main** purpose of this selection?
- A to give the reader scientific information
 - B to persuade the reader to give food to possums
 - C to teach the reader how to protect garbage cans from possums
 - D to entertain the reader with an enjoyable story about a possum
2. What is this selection **mostly** about?
- A Peter Possum going to the garbage can looking for food
 - B Peter Possum saving himself from Old Dog Tiger by tricking him
 - C Old Dog Tiger hiding behind the garbage can waiting for Peter Possum
 - D Old Dog Tiger running home to tell his master that he scared Peter Possum to death
3. Which statement lets the reader know that this is a make-believe story?
- A Peter Possum climbed down the tree trunk.
 - B Peter Possum said, "I'm hungry. What do I want today?"
 - C Peter Possum started pushing the lid from the can.
 - D Peter Possum lay very still on the ground.

4. How would Peter Possum most likely describe himself when he pretends to be dead?
- A angry
 - B careless
 - C clever
 - D sad

5. Which word **best** describes Old Dog Tiger as he runs to tell his master that he scared the possum to death?
- A angry
 - B curious
 - C happy
 - D lonely

End of Set

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EOG Grade 3 Reading Sample Items

Selection Title	Question Number	Correct Answer	Thinking Skill	Objective Number
Peter Possum's Playful Trick	1	D	Analyzing	2.04
Peter Possum's Playful Trick	2	B	Analyzing	2.04
Peter Possum's Playful Trick	3	B	Analyzing	3.01
Peter Possum's Playful Trick	4	C	Organizing	3.01
Peter Possum's Playful Trick	5	C	Organizing	3.01