The Ants and the Grasshopper
From "Aesop's Fables"

One bright day in late autumn a family of Ants was bustling about in the warm sunshine, drying out the grain they had stored up during the summer, when a starving Grasshopper, his fiddle under his arm, came up and humbly begged for a bite to eat.

"What!" cried the Ants in surprise. "Haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper. "I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

The Ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust.

"Making music, were you?" they cried. "Very well; now dance!" And they turned their backs on the Grasshopper and went on with their work.

There's a time for work and a time for play.
1. What did the Grasshopper beg the family of Ants for?
   A. water to drink  
   B. a bite to eat  
   C. a place to sleep  
   D. help fixing his fiddle

2. What motivates the Grasshopper to talk to the Ants?
   A. The Grasshopper is starving, and the Ants have food.  
   B. The Grasshopper has food, and the Ants are starving.  
   C. The Grasshopper is thirsty, and the Ants have water.  
   D. The Grasshopper has water, and the Ants are thirsty.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

   "What!" cried the Ants in surprise. "Haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

   "I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper; "I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

Based on the information in the text, what is the best time to store food?

   A. the winter  
   B. the spring  
   C. the summer  
   D. the autumn
4. Read these sentences from the text.

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The Ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust.

"Making music, were you?" they cried. "Very well; now dance!" And they turned their backs on the Grasshopper and went on with their work.

Based on the information in the text, what do the Ants think about how the Grasshopper spent the summer?

A. The Ants think the Grasshopper spent his summer well by making music instead of storing food.
B. The Ants think the Grasshopper should have invited them to make music with him.
C. The Ants think the Grasshopper should have spent the summer storing food for them so that they could have made music.
D. The Ants think the Grasshopper should have spent his summer storing food instead of making music.

5. What is the moral of this text?

A. There's a time for work and a time for play.
B. It's more fun to play than work.
C. Others will help you if you don't do your work.
D. Hard workers have more fun than those who don't do their work.
6. Read these sentences from the text.

"I didn't have time to store up any food," whined the Grasshopper. "I was so busy making music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

Why might the author have used the word "whined" to describe the way the Grasshopper was speaking?

A. to suggest that the Grasshopper is complaining in an annoying way
B. to suggest that the Grasshopper's voice has gotten louder
C. to suggest that the Grasshopper is explaining himself in a polite way
D. to suggest that the Grasshopper's voice has gotten quieter

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence:

The Grasshopper didn't have time to store up food for the winter __________ he was too busy making music.

A. like
B. so
C. because
D. but

8. What was the Grasshopper busy doing all last summer?

9. How did the Ants spend their summer?

10. Using evidence from the text, explain why the Ants did not give the Grasshopper a bite to eat.