

## Sample Items 1–5

Read the story and answer questions 1 through 5.

### Doctor Dolittle

by Hugh Lofting

ONCE upon a time, many years ago when our grandfathers were little children—there was a doctor; and his name was Dolittle—John Dolittle, M.D. “M.D.” means that he was a proper doctor and knew a whole lot.

He lived in a little town called, Puddleby-on-the-Marsh. All the folks, young and old, knew him well by sight. And whenever he walked down the street in his high hat everyone would say, “There goes the Doctor!—He’s a clever man.” And the dogs and the children would all run up and follow behind him; and even the crows that lived in the church tower would caw and nod their heads.

The house he lived in, on the edge of the town, was quite small; but his garden was very large and had a wide lawn and stone seats and weeping-willows hanging over. His sister, Sarah Dolittle, was housekeeper for him; but the Doctor looked after the garden himself.

He was very fond of animals and kept many kinds of pets. Besides the goldfish in the pond at the bottom of his garden, he had rabbits in the pantry, white mice in his piano, a squirrel in the linen closet and a hedgehog in the cellar. He had a cow with a calf too, and an old lame horse—twenty-five years of age—and chickens, and pigeons, and two lambs, and many other animals. But his favorite pets were Dab-Dab the duck, Jip the dog, Gub-Gub the baby pig, Polynesia the parrot, and the owl Too-Too.

His sister used to grumble about all these animals and said they made the house untidy. And one day when an old lady with rheumatism came to see the Doctor, she sat on the hedgehog who was sleeping on the sofa and never came to see him anymore, but drove every Saturday all the way to Oxenthorpe, another town ten miles off, to see a different doctor.

Then his sister, Sarah Dolittle, came to him and said, “John, how can you expect sick people to come and see you when you keep all these animals in the house? It’s a fine doctor who would have his parlor full of hedgehogs and mice! That’s the fourth personage these animals have driven away. Squire Jenkins and the Parson say they wouldn’t come near your house again—no matter how sick they are. We are getting poorer every day. If you go on like this, none of the best people will have you for a doctor.”

“But I like the animals better than the ‘best people,’” said the Doctor.

“You are ridiculous,” said his sister, and walked out of the room.

So, as time went on, the Doctor got more and more animals; and the people who came to see him got less and less. Till at last he had no one left—except the Cat’s-meat Man, who didn’t mind any kind of animals. But the Cat’s-meat Man wasn’t very rich and he only got sick once a year—at Christmas-time, when he used to give the Doctor sixpence for a bottle of medicine.

Sixpence a year wasn’t enough to live on—even in those days, long ago; and if the Doctor hadn’t had some money saved up in his money-box, no one knows what would have happened.

And he kept on getting still more pets; and of course it cost a lot to feed them. And the money he had saved up grew littler and littler.

Then he sold his piano, and let the mice live in a bureau-drawer. But the money he got for that too began to go, so he sold the brown suit he wore on Sundays and went on becoming poorer and poorer.

And now, when he walked down the street in his high hat, people would say to one another, "There goes John Dolittle, M.D.! There was a time when he was the best known doctor in the West Country—Look at him now—He hasn't any money and his stockings are full of holes!"

But the dogs and the cats and the children still ran up and followed him through the town—the same as they had done when he was rich.

## Item 1

### Selected-Response

Read the paragraphs from the story.

Then his sister, Sarah Dolittle, came to him and said, "John, how can you expect sick people to come and see you when you keep all these animals in the house? It's a fine doctor who would have his parlor full of hedgehogs and mice! That's the fourth personage these animals have driven away. Squire Jenkins and the Parson say they wouldn't come near your house again—no matter how sick they are. We are getting poorer every day. If you go on like this, none of the best people will have you for a doctor."

"But I like the animals better than the 'best people,'" said the Doctor.

Based on the paragraphs, which sentence **BEST** describes Doctor Dolittle?

- A. He does not like the people who live in his small town.
- B. He feels more appreciated by animals than patients.
- C. He is happier being around animals than people.
- D. He resents his sister for not taking his side.

**Item 2**

**Selected-Response**

**Read the sentence from the story.**

**“You are ridiculous,” said his sister, and walked out of the room.**

**Why does Sarah MOST LIKELY say this to Doctor Dolittle?**

- A. to reveal her disinterest in his work
- B. to express her dislike for his choices
- C. to share her thoughts about his hygiene
- D. to convey her concern for his garden

**Item 3**

**Evidence-Based Selected-Response Technology-Enhanced**

**This question has two parts. Answer Part A, and then answer Part B.**

**Part A**

**Which word BEST describes how Sarah Dolittle feels about her brother?**

- A. proud
- B. annoyed
- C. confident
- D. suspicious

**Part B**

**Which sentence from the story BEST supports the answer in Part A?**

- A. The house he lived in, on the edge of the town, was quite small; but his garden was very large and had a wide lawn and stone seats and weeping-willows hanging over.
- B. His sister, Sarah Dolittle, was housekeeper for him; but the Doctor looked after the garden himself.
- C. His sister used to grumble about all these animals and said they made the house untidy.
- D. And the money he had saved up grew littler and littler.

## Item 4


## Drag-and-Drop Technology-Enhanced

Finish summarizing the story by moving the **THREE MOST** important events into the chart in the order they happen.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Event 1 | Dr. Dollie was a well-known and successful doctor who saw patients in his house in a little town. |
| Event 2 |   |
| Event 3 |   |
| Event 4 | Dollie had to sell things in his house to feed all the animals.                                   |
| Event 5 |   |

Dollie kept a growing number of animals in the house he shared with his sister. Even though Dollie was poor, animals and children continued to appreciate him. Dollie decided to get a larger house so he could get more animals. Eventually, because of the animals, no more patients would come to his house. Dollie's sister was worried they would run out of food for the animals.

*Click To Respond*

-  Due to the size of the response area, this item has a "Click To Respond" button on the screen. Clicking this button will bring up the response area at full size.

**Go on to the next page to finish item 4.**



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## Sample Items 6–8

Read the article and answer questions 6 through 8.

### Are You Ready for a Pet?

- 1 There are many factors to consider when adding a pet to your family. First, you need to be sure that you are able to care for the animal for life. Many people think they want a pet, but they don't realize the work it takes. Puppies, for instance, need lots of attention. They need activities to burn off extra energy. They also need training.
- 2 It is not fair to bring an animal into your home only to ignore it or fail to take care of it. Like humans, animals require not only food and shelter but also love and attention. Owners will also need to pay for various expenses. Pets need regular visits to their doctors. They need special food, the cost of which ranges from reasonable to pricy. Collars and leashes are important too. Some pets need training. Make sure that your budget can stretch to meet the needs of a pet.
- 3 When you are confident that you want a pet and are able to care for it forever, you must choose an animal whose needs work with your lifestyle. For instance, someone who is away from home all day and unable to let a dog outside might want to consider a cat, turtle, or bird. Similarly, if you don't have time to walk your pet, opt for a smaller breed of dog. Often, they do not require as much activity as large dogs. Bored dogs develop undesirable habits like chewing shoes and destroying furniture.
- 4 Pets are not the only ones who benefit from living with humans. Research shows that just interacting with their pets can make people happier and healthier. Petting a dog provides unexpected benefits. For example, it can improve a person's ability to resist disease. It can also lower high blood pressure. There are even some chemical benefits, including lowered stress. Of course, pets also tend to make their owners feel happier.
- 5 Consider adopting from an animal shelter. So many animals have been abandoned and neglected and need a forever home. Many of these pets are turned over to shelters because their families can no longer afford them. Some are left behind when their families move to housing that does not allow pets. Some families simply don't want the responsibility of a pet anymore.
- 6 Animal shelters have pets of all ages and needs. This means there is an ideal animal for every home. If you don't have time to train a puppy, you might prefer an adult or senior dog. Some breeds have excess energy and need to run. Others prefer to sit in your lap and relax.
- 7 There are several factors to consider before adding a pet to your family. Remember that pets need as much love and care as any other family member. Be sure you are able to provide these needs before inviting an animal into your home.

**Item 6**

**Selected-Response**

**Which sentences BEST state two main ideas of the article?**

- A. It is important to consider the different responsibilities of pet ownership before getting a pet. Owning a pet can be positive for both the owners and the pets.
- B. Busy families should consider cats or other animals that do not need much care. Sometimes bored dogs develop bad habits and destroy household items.
- C. Animal shelters provide a range of animals to choose from. Animals are left at shelters for various reasons, such as owners moving or no longer being able to care for their pets.
- D. Pets can help lower human stress levels. There is research showing that pet ownership can have a number of other health benefits as well.

**Item 7**

**Selected-Response**

**Based on paragraph 2, what is the meaning of *various*?**

**Owners will also need to pay for various expenses.**

- A. large
- B. many
- C. unnecessary
- D. unplanned



### So-Called “Healthier” School Lunches

Dear Editor,

I was so excited to hear that our local schools would finally be serving more healthy lunches. For years I have felt guilty for allowing my kids to eat the processed foods offered by the school lunch program. Sadly, it seems that the new guidelines have not made much of a difference. Children are still eating chicken nuggets, fish sticks, and pizza every month. Some of the fruits and vegetables that are supposed to be so healthy come from cans. They are not the fresh and healthy produce I was expecting.

Another problem with the new guidelines is the portion sizes. Children are given a calorie maximum based on their age, without taking into account their different sizes and needs. A 220-pound high school football player doing two-a-day practices is getting the same amount of food as smaller children or children who are not as active. That hardly seems fair.

Both of my children have told me that they are hungry all day. One of my children has lunch at 10:45 a.m. And that is supposed to last until school is over at 3:15 p.m.? My children hunt for junk food every day right after school. I know that many schools are struggling to meet these guidelines, but they have to do better than this.

I have no choice but to send my children to school with packed lunches. This way I can control the portions myself. I can also be sure that they have fresh, not processed, fruits and vegetables every day.

Frustrated with food,

Palmer Ross

### **Bravo for Making Students Healthier**

Dear Editor,

Before retiring ten years ago, I had been an elementary school teacher for thirty-seven years. During my first year, students were filled with energy. They ran around all during recess. Then they would come back in the classroom and complete their lessons.

At the start of my career, students ate in the classroom. Their parents packed them fairly healthy lunches. They often consisted of leftover home-cooked meals rather than processed foods. I often saw vegetables that seemed to have come straight from the garden.

Over the years, students seemed to become less energetic. I noticed more students sitting and talking during recess. Many were eating non-nutritional snacks. Fewer were playing and burning off extra energy. When they returned to class, their minds wandered. They struggled to focus.

Prepared lunches at school did not help. In fact, they added to the problem. Students received regular servings of pizza, burgers, and mashed potatoes from a box. Many students loved it, but it didn't seem right to me. Our students deserved better. They deserved healthy foods to nourish their brains and bodies.

Now, students are finally getting more healthy foods at schools. Our country recently revealed a change in school lunches. No more processed chicken fingers, pizza, and sugary chocolate milk. Students now enjoy more healthy baked options, fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy products. These options are offered at every meal. Students can fill up on brain-healthy foods.

I have also heard that school leaders plan to change vending machine options. They will swap sugary snacks for more healthy whole-grain options. Hats off to health!

There are so many distractions like the Internet, video games, and smartphones. Real foods like vegetables and fruits will help students focus in class. It will help them feel healthier and have more energy to be active.

Sincerely,

Tyra Watts

**Item 9****Selected-Response**

**Which statement expresses one way the letter writers BOTH support their ideas?**

- A. Both list questions about the healthiness of school lunches.
- B. Both include information about children they have known.
- C. Both include interviews with principals of schools.
- D. Both discuss their personal experiences when they were children.

**Item 10****Selected-Response**

**Which sentence BEST states a point of view shared by BOTH letter writers?**

- A. They agree that school lunches are the best option for kids.
- B. They both are doubtful that school lunches have improved over time.
- C. They agree that school lunches are more important than recess.
- D. They both are critical of processed foods in school lunches.

**Item 11****Selected-Response**

**Which choice BEST describes the text structure of “So-Called ‘Healthier’ School Lunches” and “Bravo for Making Students Healthier”?**

- A. “So-Called ‘Healthier’ School Lunches” compares what kids like to eat with what they are served at school and concludes that school lunches are better than lunches from home. “Bravo for Making Students Healthier” compares eating healthy food with exercising regularly and concludes that kids need more exercise.
- B. “So-Called ‘Healthier’ School Lunches” compares current school lunches with previous ones and concludes that the author will send his children with lunches from home. “Bravo for Making Students Healthier” compares how past and recent school lunches affect kids and concludes that new changes are positive.
- C. “So-Called ‘Healthier’ School Lunches” compares how well kids do in school and the time of day when they eat their lunch and concludes that early lunch times are better. “Bravo for Making Students Healthier” compares how well kids focus and how they are eating and concludes that current school lunches need improvement.
- D. “So-Called ‘Healthier’ School Lunches” compares lunches brought from home with school lunches and concludes that both offer benefits. “Bravo for Making Students Healthier” compares how much recess time kids get and how that affects their eating habits and concludes that kids need longer recesses.

**Item 12**

**Constructed-Response**

**Explain one idea that the author of “So-Called ‘Healthier’ School Lunches” and the author of “Bravo for Making Students Healthier” agree on regarding school lunches.**

**Use details from BOTH passages to support your answer. Write your answer on the lines on your answer document.**

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**Item 13****Extended Writing-Response****WRITING TASK**

There is an ongoing discussion about the new school lunch guidelines.

Think about BOTH sides of the discussion. Then write an **opinion essay** in your own words supporting either side of the discussion. Are the new school lunch guidelines helping students?

Be sure to use information from BOTH passages in your **opinion essay**.

**Writer's Checklist****Be sure to:**

- Introduce your opinion.
- Support your opinion with reasons and details from the passages.
- Give your reasons and details in a clear order.
- Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the passages.
- Identify the passages by title or number when using details or facts directly from the passages.
- Use linking words, phrases, and clauses to connect reasons.
- Use clear language and vocabulary.
- Have a strong conclusion that supports your opinion.
- Check your work for correct usage, grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

**Now write your opinion essay on your answer document. Refer to the Writer's Checklist as you write and proofread your essay.**

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