

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.

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South Bend Tribune

## Pucker-up Time in Eau Claire

*by Lou Mumford*

- 1 EAU CLAIRE—Apparently, spitting tart cherry pits, an activity that began at Eau Claire’s Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm as a neighborhood get-together and evolved into an international competition, is a difficult habit to break.
- 2 Don’t believe it? The orchard at 9351 E. Eureka Road on Saturday will host its 40th annual pit spit.
- 3 With every such event, it seems, there has been suspense and even shock as contestants let the pits fly across the 100-foot asphalt court. Usually, it’s Rick “Pellet Gun” Krause, a 15-time tournament champion, or members of his pit-spitting family who are responsible for the shock and awe.
- 4 Take, for example, Brian “Young Gun” Krause’s spit in 2003 that traveled, with the roll—yes, rolls count—an incredible 93 feet, 6 1/2 inches. Spits like that are the reason a Krause usually walks off as tournament champion.
- 5 But the consecutive 10-year-plus Krause family reign came to a screeching halt in 2012 when unemployed Chicago truck driver Ronn Matt, 46, blew away the competition with a 69-foot spit. Surprisingly, he said he had never before spat a cherry pit, although he admitted spitting larger peach pits at the Glad Peach Festival in Coloma where he’s a two-time champion.
- 6 Asked about his technique, Matt said he doesn’t have one.
- 7 “I just wing it,” he said.
- 8 Teichman<sup>1</sup> said he’s expecting Rick Krause, who lives in Arizona, to return Saturday for another shot at the title. Expected, too, are Brian Krause and another Krause offspring, Matt, who finished third last year with a spit that traveled just shy of 54 feet. Rick Krause was the runner-up with a spit of 61 feet, 2 inches.

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<sup>1</sup>Herb Teichman is the contest founder and the owner of the Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm.

- 9 Teichman said that while last year's frosts resulted in relatively few cherries for the competitors, the harvest this season has been such that cherries are abundant. Given the event's 40th anniversary, there will be more activities Saturday as well, including prizes for all qualifying children contestants and several surprise award presentations.
- 10 Qualifying rounds run from 10 A.M. to noon. At 1 P.M., a dignitaries' competition is on tap, followed at 1:30 P.M. by youth competitions for age groups 5 and younger, 6 to 8, and 9 to 12. Women will compete at 1:45 P.M. and the championship spit-off is set for 2 P.M.
- 11 Teichman, a self-described "pitiful pit spitter" whose best spit covered a little more than 27 feet, said competition could be intense with the expected appearance of a competitor from California who won a similar tournament in that state.
- 12 As for Rick Krause, he no doubt will be ready to roll.
- 13 "He's probably behind a tree right now, practicing," Teichman said.

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# Cherry Very

by Heidi Mordhorst

Be sneaky, be cheeky  
Pinch from the kitchen  
The reddest, the roundest there are

A bowl full of cherries  
5 A bowl of the very  
Most cherriest bombs by far

Backbone straight  
Step up to the plate  
Puff up your chest and lungs

10 Swallow the fruit  
Ready to shoot  
Put the pit in the groove of your tongue

One more tip:  
Round your lips  
15 To launch it without a hitch

Don't get tense  
Aim for the fence  
Wind up like you're fixing to pitch

Now blast it hard  
20 Across the yard  
Kissing that missile good-bye

It's over the fence!  
It's out of the park!  
It's a letloose cherryjuice  
25 noschool slobberdrool  
spitwhistle summerfun home run!

Use "Pucker-up Time in Eau Claire" (pp. 8–9) to answer questions 7–10.  
Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

- 7 According to the article, the annual event began when —
- A a local family wanted to prove they could win an award
  - B neighbors gathered at a local fruit farm
  - C a frost ruined a crop of cherries at a local fruit farm
  - D people came to the town to seek employment
- 

- 8 Look at the dictionary entry.

**shot** \ˈshät\ *noun*  
**1.** a throw in an effort to score points in a game **2.** a small amount applied at once **3.** a try or attempt **4.** an effective remark

Which definition best matches the way the word shot is used in paragraph 8?

- F Definition 1
- G Definition 2
- H Definition 3
- J Definition 4

**9** Which sentence best states the main idea of the article?

- A** A truck driver from Chicago was the champion of the pit spit in Eau Claire in 2012.
  - B** The pit spit, which features many eager participants, will be taking place again at the Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm in Eau Claire.
  - C** Although last year's cold weather kept the cherry harvest small, this year the harvest will be ideal for the pit spit.
  - D** Many members of the Krause family will be participating again this year at the pit spit.
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**10** Based on the information in the article, what can the reader infer about the contest?

- F** Some people travel from places outside the city to participate in the event.
- G** The contestants are required to grow the cherries that are used in the event.
- H** The contestants need to have participated in a similar event in the past.
- J** People from the town enjoyed the event only when it was a small neighborhood gathering.

**Use "Cherry Very" (p. 10) to answer questions 11–14. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 11** The reader can tell that the speaker is experienced at spitting cherry pits because she —
- A** provides several suggestions about the best way to prepare for the activity
  - B** identifies the number of times she has practiced over the summer
  - C** reveals that there is a bowl of cherries in her kitchen
  - D** states that she has spit a pit in her yard
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- 12** What is one important effect of the rhyme scheme of the poem?
- F** It focuses the reader on the most important words in the poem.
  - G** It helps the reader visualize the problem the speaker experiences.
  - H** It creates a rhythm that emphasizes the quick actions in the poem.
  - J** It helps explain what spitting a cherry pit sounds like.

**13** Which line from the poem best helps the reader understand the meaning of launch?

- A** Backbone straight
  - B** One more tip:
  - C** Round your lips
  - D** Aim for the fence
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**14** What is most likely the reason the poet compares spitting cherry pits to playing baseball?

- F** To show that spitting cherry pits is just as much a team sport as baseball
- G** To help the reader relate a well-known activity to an activity that might be unfamiliar
- H** To explain that less time is required for spitting cherry pits than for playing baseball
- J** To show the reader that some activities are more interesting than others

**Use "Pucker-up Time in Eau Claire" and "Cherry Very" to answer questions 15–18. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 15** Which message is expressed by **both** the article and the poem?
- A** Some activities can be appreciated simply for the fun of them.
  - B** Even if you do not succeed right away, you must keep on trying.
  - C** A great talent is often shared by family members.
  - D** It is important to be a polite and kindhearted winner.
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- 16** What is one main **difference** between the event the author describes in the article and the event the speaker describes in the poem?
- F** The type of cherry pit that is used
  - G** The setting
  - H** The excitement people feel
  - J** The rules that are followed

- 17** Which of the following describes a **difference** between the article and the poem?
- A** The article provides details of an event related to spitting cherry pits, while the poem describes the process of spitting cherry pits.
  - B** The article provides information about activities that occur before a contest, while the poem describes the results of a contest.
  - C** The article focuses mainly on the people who spit cherry pits, while the poem features those who observe the activity.
  - D** The article explains how to organize a local competition, while the poem highlights how to get involved in one.
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- 18** Which idea is expressed in **both** the article and the poem?
- F** Spitting cherry pits is a difficult activity to plan and organize.
  - G** Spitting a cherry pit as far as possible can be fun.
  - H** The process of spitting a cherry pit is exciting to describe.
  - J** Recording the distance a cherry pit traveled is difficult.