

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

The Spelling Test

by Suzy Kline

Characters

NARRATOR

HERBIE JONES

MISS PINKHAM

MR. JONES

OLIVIA JONES

ANNABELLE LOUISA HODGEKISS

1 [Settings: Miss Pinkham's third-grade classroom; Herbie's house.]

2 [Time: One week in March.]

3 **MISS PINKHAM:** As a special bonus this week, I have a challenge for the *whole* class. If you can learn to spell your name, address, town, state and zip code correctly, I will mail you a postcard saying congratulations.

4 **HERBIE:** Hmmmmmm, I know I usually don't study my spelling words, but . . . gee, that postcard would be good news for Dad to find in the mail.

5 **NARRATOR:** Herbie's dad works the night shift at an airplane factory, and the first thing he does when he gets up around 2:00 P.M. is look in the mailbox.

6 **HERBIE:** I can hear him now . . .

7 **MR. JONES:** Bills! Bills! Bills! There's nothing but bills!

8 **HERBIE:** I can do something about that.

9 **NARRATOR:** As soon as Herbie got home that afternoon, he practiced writing his spelling words on the dusty coffee table. His sister Olivia was shocked.

10 **OLIVIA:** What *are* you doing?

11 **HERBIE:** Studying.

12 **OLIVIA:** Studying? Since when?

- 13 **HERBIE:** Since I got my spelling list. How do you study spelling?
- 14 **OLIVIA:** You're asking *my* advice about something?
- 15 **HERBIE:** Well, you do make better grades than I do.
- 16 **OLIVIA:** Well, Herbie, I write the words down . . .
- 17 **HERBIE:** Yeah?
- 18 **OLIVIA:** . . . and I say them to myself. That's about it. No biggie.
- 19 **HERBIE:** What if you have a tough word like Laurel? I keep getting the a and u mixed up, and I never remember which one comes first. The same thing happens with the o and u in pound.
- 20 **OLIVIA:** Oh! In that case you think of something like APES USE RADISHES for the a-u-r in Laurel, and OH UNICORN for the o-u in pound.
- 21 **HERBIE:** APES USE RADISHES! OH UNICORN! Why didn't I think of that?
- 22 **NARRATOR:** That week, Herbie carried his spelling list with him wherever he went. He practiced writing his words on paper, on frosty car windows, on his mother's meatloaf—before it went in the oven—and in the gravel on the school playground. At 11:00 A.M. on Friday, Miss Pinkham passed out the white lined paper.
- 23 **MISS PINKHAM:** Put your name and date on the first highway.
- 24 **NARRATOR:** Miss Pinkham always referred to the blue lines on the paper as highways. When Annabelle Louisa Hodgekiss finished writing her name and date neatly, she sat back in her chair.
- 25 **ANNABELLE:** I didn't even have to study—these words are a cinch.
- 26 **MISS PINKHAM:** Boys and girls, those of you who want to try for the spelling bonus may do so now. Write your full name, address, town, state and zip code.
- 27 **NARRATOR:** Very carefully, Herbie printed his street address. When he came to his zip code, Herbie was in trouble.
- 28 **HERBIE:** 0 . . . 6 . . . 7 . . . 9 . . . What is that last number of my zip code?
- 29 **MISS PINKHAM:** Pass your papers in, please.

- 30 **HERBIE:** What *is* that number?
- 31 **MISS PINKHAM:** Herbie! You are keeping the entire class.
- 32 **HERBIE:** 0 . . . 6 . . . 7 . . . 9 . . . ?
- 33 **MISS PINKHAM:** Herbie Jones, if you don't hand me your paper by the time I count to three . . .
- 34 **HERBIE:** THREE! That's it!
- 35 **NARRATOR:** Annabelle raised her hand.
- 36 **ANNABELLE:** Miss Pinkham, I can't wait to get my postcard in the mail tomorrow. Can't you tell us *now* who got one hundred percent?
- 37 **MISS PINKHAM:** Looking through this stack of papers, I wonder if *anyone* got one hundred percent.
- 38 **NARRATOR:** Saturday afternoon Herbie sat on his porch and waited. And watched . . . for the mail.
- 39 **HERBIE:** Is that him coming around the corner? It is! It's the mailman!
- 40 **NARRATOR:** Herbie raced into the house and grabbed a book off the coffee table. It was *Ten Days to Slimmer Thighs*. Mr. Jones, who had just shaved, walked toward the door. Herbie looked up and noticed he still had some soap around his ears.
- 41 **HERBIE:** Morning, Dad.
- 42 **MR. JONES:** Morning, Herbie. Nice to see you reading. Guess I better check on the mail. [*Starts to groan.*] Let's see, what's in this mess . . . Whistleman's Department Store, Occupant. HEY, HERBIE!
- 43 **HERBIE:** [*Hopeful.*] Yeah?
- 44 **MR. JONES:** You got a postcard. Your teacher said *you* were the *only* student to get a hundred percent on your spelling bonus.
- 45 **HERBIE:** YAHOO!
- 46 **MR. JONES:** That's the best news I've found in the mail in a long time.
- 47 **NARRATOR:** Monday morning right after the Pledge of Allegiance, Miss Pinkham asked . . .

- 48 **MISS PINKHAM:** Will the one person who received the ONLY postcard please rise?
- 49 **NARRATOR:** Everyone looked at Annabelle.
- 50 **ANNABELLE:** I . . . I forgot to capitalize Connecticut.
- 51 **ALL:** *Who* got the postcard?
- 52 **HERBIE:** [*Stands up and raises hand.*] Me.
- 53 **ALL:** HERBIE JONES?
- 54 **MISS PINKHAM:** Herbie's paper Friday was outstanding. I think we should give him a big round of applause for his achievement.
- 55 **ALL:** [*Clap.*]

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10 What lesson does Herbie learn in this play?

- F** Finding humor in a difficult task makes it more enjoyable.
 - G** Depending on help from others is often challenging.
 - H** Performing well all the time is impossible.
 - J** Success is possible through hard work.
-

11 Annabelle asks Miss Pinkham about the grades immediately after the test because Annabelle —

- A** thinks everyone in the class should know she did well on the test
 - B** believes that she made a perfect score on the test
 - C** wants Miss Pinkham to recognize how much she studied for the test
 - D** knows that her address is the most difficult to spell
-

12 The word cinch in paragraph 25 refers to something that is —

- F** easy
- G** unusual
- H** similar
- J** interesting

13 The stage directions in paragraphs 42 and 43 are included to help —

- A** make the play humorous
 - B** create suspense
 - C** show a new problem
 - D** introduce a new character
-

14 Herbie's reaction when he learns about Olivia's study method shows that he is —

- F** certain that Olivia is making fun of the way he studies
 - G** jealous that Olivia always makes better grades than he does
 - H** surprised to learn that the plan is very simple
 - J** eager to demonstrate some of his own study habits
-

15 Why does the playwright include a narrator in this play?

- A** To make the main character's conflict seem more suspenseful
- B** To help the audience understand what the characters are thinking
- C** To assist the main characters in figuring out how to solve a problem
- D** To give the audience details about the characters' actions in the scene

16 Read the dictionary entry for the word keep.

<p>keep \ˈkēp\ <i>verb</i> 1. to take care of 2. to save 3. to hold back 4. to control</p>

Which definition best fits the way the word keeping is used in paragraph 31?

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

17 The narrator's lines in paragraph 9 are important to the play because they —

- A** show that Herbie is serious about studying for his spelling test
- B** describe Herbie's favorite method of studying for spelling tests
- C** explain why Olivia is surprised to see Herbie studying for a spelling test
- D** show that Olivia wants to help Herbie do well on his spelling test