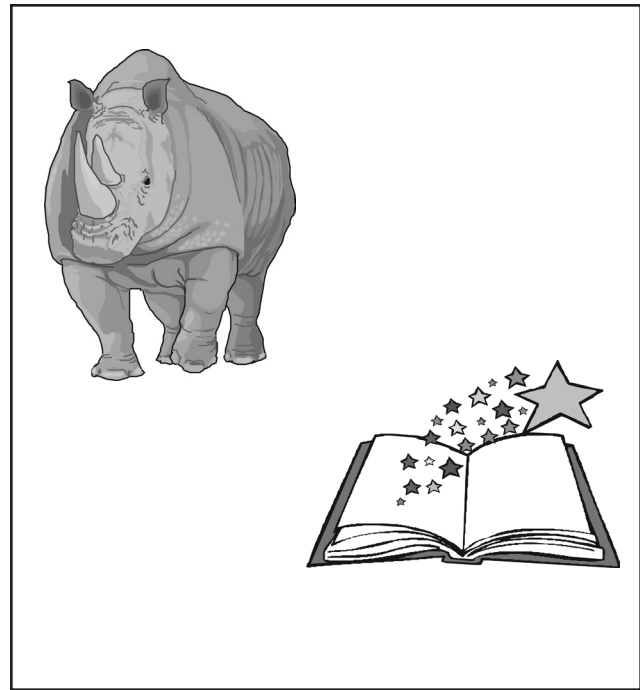


9. “How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin”
From *Just So Stories* (Excerpt)
by Rudyard Kipling

A ¹The Rhinoceros took off his skin and carried it over his shoulder as he came down to the beach to bathe. ²In those days it buttoned underneath with three buttons and looked like a waterproof.* ³He said nothing whatever about the Parsee’s cake, because he had eaten it all; and he never had any manners, then, since, or henceforward. ⁴He waddled straight into the water and blew bubbles through his nose, leaving his skin on the beach.

B ⁵Presently the Parsee came by and found the skin, and he smiled one smile that ran all round his face two times. ⁶Then he danced three times round the skin and rubbed his hands. ⁷Then he went to his camp and filled his hat with cake-crumbs, for the Parsee never ate anything but cake, and never swept out his camp. ⁸He took that skin and he shook that skin, and he scrubbed that skin, and he rubbed that skin just as full of old, dry, stale, tickly cake-crumbs and some burned currants as ever it could *possibly* hold. ⁹Then he climbed to the top of his palm tree and waited for the Rhinoceros to come out of the water and put it on.

C ¹⁰And the Rhinoceros did. ¹¹He buttoned it up with the three buttons, and it tickled like cake-crumbs in bed. ¹²Then he wanted to scratch, but that made it worse; and then he lay down on the sands



and rolled and rolled and rolled, and every time he rolled the cake-crumbs tickled him worse and worse and worse. ¹³Then he ran to the palm tree and rubbed and rubbed and rubbed himself against it. ¹⁴He rubbed so much and so hard that he rubbed his skin into a great fold over his shoulders, and another fold underneath, where the buttons used to be (but he rubbed the buttons off), and he rubbed some more folds over his legs. ¹⁵And it spoiled his temper, but it didn’t make the least difference to the cake-crumbs. ¹⁶They were inside his skin and they tickled. ¹⁷So he went home, very angry indeed and horribly scratchy; and from that day to this every rhinoceros has great folds in his skin and a very bad temper, all on account of the cake-crumbs inside.

*waterproof: British word for raincoat

DIRECTIONS: Choose or write the best answer to each of the following questions using the evidence provided in the passage. When required, list specific sentence numbers or paragraph letters from the story to support the answer.

1. Which of the following is a form of literature that *best* describes the passage?

A. science fiction
B. fantasy
C. biography
D. nonfiction

2. Why did the Parsee put cake-crumbs in the rhinoceros's skin?

Give the number of the sentence that best supports the example. ____

3. Which of these key events is NOT described in detail?
- A. the Rhinoceros's taking off of his skin
B. the Rhinoceros's eating of the Parsee's cake
C. the Parsee's putting cake-crumbs into the Rhinoceros's skin
D. the Parsee's finding of the Rhinoceros's skin

4. Give two reasons why cake-crumbs were available for the Parsee to put in the Rhinoceros's skin.

Give the number of the sentence that best supports the answer. ____

5. Name one thing about the Rhinoceros that changed in the story and describe the change.

Give the number of the sentence that best supports the answer. ____

6. Which of these facts about Rhinoceroses in general is NOT listed in the story?
- A. They have a single horn.
B. They have bad tempers.
C. They have great folds in their skin.
D. They can blow bubbles through their nose.

7. Put the following events in the order in which they occurred in the passage.

____ The Rhinoceros takes off his skin.

____ The Parsee puts cake-crumbs in Rhinoceros's skin.

____ The Rhinoceros rubs against tree.

____ The Rhinoceros rolls in sand.

____ The Parsee climbs to top of palm tree.

8. Which of these would be a good moral for the story?
- A. One good turn deserves another.
B. Don't count your chickens till they're hatched.
C. You get what you pay for.
D. The punishment can be worse than the crime.

Answers

9. "How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin" (p. 26)

1. Which of the following is a form of literature that *best* describes the passage? (literary form)
- A. science fiction
 - B. fantasy**
 - C. biography
 - D. nonfiction

Explanation: The elements of whimsy and logical impossibility classify it as fantasy.

2. Why did the Parsee put cake-crumbs in the Rhinoceros's skin?
(inference, cause/effect)

The Parsee probably wanted to get back at the Rhinoceros for eating all of the Parsee's cake.

1 best evidence sentence: **3**

3. Which of these key events is NOT described in detail? (key event)
- A. The Rhinoceros's taking off of his skin
 - B. The Rhinoceros's eating of the Parsee's cake**
 - C. The Parsee's putting cake-crumbs into the Rhinoceros's skin
 - D. The Parsee's finding of the Rhinoceros's skin

4. Give two reasons why cake-crumbs were available for the Parsee to put in the Rhinoceros's skin.
(cause/effect)

- 1) The Parsee ate only cake.
- 2) He never swept out his camp.

1 best evidence sentence: **7**

5. Name one thing about the rhinoceros that changed in the story and describe the change. (compare/contrast)

His skin changed. He now has great folds in his skin and the buttons are gone. (Also acceptable: **He gained a very bad temper.**)

1 best evidence sentence: **14** or **17**

6. Which of these facts about rhinoceroses in general is NOT listed in the story? (generalization, illustration use)
- A. They have a single horn.**
 - B. They have bad tempers.
 - C. They have great folds in their skin.
 - D. They can blow bubbles through their nose.

Explanation: A is the only choice not listed in the story. It is reinforced, however, by the illustration, which shows a horn.

7. Put the following events in the order in which they occurred in the passage. (sequence events)

- 1** The Rhinoceros takes off his skin. (1)
- 2** The Parsee puts cake-crumbs in Rhinoceros's skin. (8)
- 5** The Rhinoceros rubs against tree. (13)
- 4** The Rhinoceros rolls in sand. (12)
- 3** The Parsee climbs to top of palm tree. (9)

8. Which of these would be a good moral for the story? (inference, theme)

- A. One good turn deserves another.
- B. Don't count your chickens till they're hatched.
- C. You get what you pay for.
- D. The punishment can be worse than the crime.**

Explanation: The Rhinoceros ate all of the Parsee's cake, most likely creating a temporary situation. But the Parsee gave the Rhinoceros a permanent skin change.