

“Griffin’s Talents”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



Griffin plays the violin.

He takes lessons after school on Tuesdays.

Griffin’s violin teacher is Mr. Thomas. Mr. Thomas tells Griffin to practice every day.

Griffin practices his violin on most days.

On the days Griffin does not practice his violin, he plays soccer with his friends or fixes old clocks for fun.

“You are a boy of many talents,” Griffin’s parents tell him. “That means you are good at doing many things.”

Griffin likes it when his parents say this to him.

He loves playing the violin. He loves playing soccer. He loves fixing clocks. Griffin loves to do many things, but he does not have the time to do them all every day.

Questions:

1) What does Griffin play?

- I. tennis
- II. soccer
- III. the violin

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

2) When does Griffin take violin lessons?

- A. on Tuesdays after soccer
- B. on Thursdays after soccer
- C. on Tuesdays after school
- D. on Thursdays after school

3) When does Mr. Thomas tell Griffin to practice?

- A. every day
- B. most days
- C. only on Tuesdays
- D. when he wants to

4) When does Griffin practice the violin?

- A. every day
- B. most days
- C. never
- D. only on Tuesdays

Questions (continued):

5) How does Griffin feel about the violin?

- A. He loves it.
- B. He thinks it is hard.
- C. He hates to practice.
- D. He does not like the sound.

6) What things does Griffin love to do?

- I. read books
- II. fix old clocks
- III. play soccer with his friends

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

7) What does Mr. Thomas teach Griffin?

- A. to play soccer
- B. to fix old clocks
- C. to play the violin
- D. to build birdhouses

8) If you have **many talents**, this means you

- A. want to do a lot
- B. are good at playing the violin
- C. are busy doing many things
- D. are good at doing a lot of things

9) Why does Griffin not play the violin every day?

- A. He does not like the violin.
- B. He wants to play the piano.
- C. He is busy doing other things.
- D. His mom says not to play every day.

Do you have a talent? What is it? Would you like to have a talent?

Answers and Explanations

- 1) **C**
The story does not say that Griffin plays tennis. This eliminates **option (I)**. In paragraph 5, we learn that Griffin “plays soccer with his friends.” This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 1, we learn that Griffin plays the violin. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.
- 2) **C**
Paragraph 1 tells us, “Griffin plays the violin.” Paragraph 2 tells us “he takes lessons after school on Tuesdays.” Therefore **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.
- 3) **A**
In paragraph 3, we learn that “Mr. Thomas tells Griffin to practice every day.” Therefore **(A)** is correct.

Griffin actually does practice “most days,” but that is not what Mr. Thomas tells him. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Griffin only takes lessons on Tuesdays, but he should practice every day. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The story does not contain information to support **(D)**. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.
- 4) **B**
According to paragraph 4, “Griffin practices his violin on most days.” Therefore **(B)** is correct.

In paragraph 3 we learn that “Mr. Thomas tells Griffin to practice every day,” but that is not in fact what Griffin does. He only practices “most days.” Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The story does not contain information to support **(C)**. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Griffin takes lessons on Tuesdays, but he practices “most days.” Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.
- 5) **A**
At the end of the story, we learn that Griffin “loves playing the violin.” Therefore **(A)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.
- 6) **C**
The story does not say anything about Griffin loving to read. This eliminates **option (I)**. In paragraph 8, we learn that Griffin “loves fixing clocks.” This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 8, we also learn that Griffin “loves playing soccer.” This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.
- 7) **C**
In paragraph 3, we learn, “Griffin’s violin teacher is Mr. Thomas.” We can understand that this means Mr. Thomas teaches Griffin how to play the violin. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

8) **D**

In paragraph 6, Griffin's parents tell him, "You are a boy of many talents." They go on to tell him, "That means you are good at doing many things." We can understand from this information that *having many talents* means being *good at doing a lot of things*. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

9) **C**

In paragraph 5, we learn, "On the days Griffin does not practice his violin, he plays soccer with his friends or fixes old clocks for fun." Using this information, we can understand that Griffin sometimes does not practice the violin because he is busy doing other things. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The story does not contain information to support answer choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.