

1 _____

23 Let's Shake on It

What could be simpler than shaking fruit from a tree? Well, the job is a lot tougher than you might think. There is definitely a right way and a wrong way to shake a fruit tree. And a person who is a good apple tree shaker may not be a good cherry tree shaker. Different fruits take different shakes.

As a rule, a slow, hard shake is best. This makes the fruit fall much faster than a light, quick jiggle. Most fruits have a set number of shakes per minute that will do the best job of getting them out of the tree and onto the ground. To shake down plums, try shaking the tree four hundred times per minute, moving the tree two inches at each shake. Experts say you'll get three times more fruit from the tree than you will if you shake eleven hundred times per minute at one inch per shake. Cherries, because they are smaller, need more jarring. A good rate of shaking seems to be about twelve hundred shakes per minute. Apples, like plums, need about four hundred shakes.

Of course, some folks may choose to ignore all these expert directions for jiggling fruit. Can you actually imagine shaking a tree so many times? Besides, keeping track of all the numbers can be enough to drive some people up a tree.

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

Main Idea

1 _____

Mark the *main idea*

Answer

Score

 M

15

Mark the statement that is *too broad* B

5

Mark the statement that is *too narrow* N

5

a. Some tasks are more complicated than they look.

b. Shaking fruit trees can be a real art.

c. Different fruits require different amounts of shaking.

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Subject Matter

2

This passage is concerned with

- a. eating plums.
 b. how to shake fruit from a tree.
 c. the value of fruits and vegetables.
 d. ways in which people shake.

Supporting
Details

3

A smaller fruit normally requires

- a. a ladder.
 b. less shaking.
 c. two people per tree.
 d. more shaking.

Conclusion

4

From this passage we can conclude that

- a. good fruit pickers know how fast or slow to shake a tree.
 b. most of the fruits are badly bruised when they hit the ground.
 c. it really makes no difference how you shake a fruit tree.
 d. too much shaking can damage the branches.

Clarifying
Devices

5

The writer ends this story with

- a. a serious thought.
 b. a suggestion for other ways to get fruit from trees.
 c. a joke.
 d. a warning.

Vocabulary
in Context

6

The word set means

- a. tiresome.
 b. great.
 c. fixed.
 d. collected.

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 216.

Total
Score