The Hidden Corn: A Mayan Legend

1 Long ago, corn was hidden inside a large rock and no one knew that it was there. One day, a group of black ants saw a tiny crack in the rock and crawled inside, where they found the corn and tasted it. It was so good that they carried out some kernels to eat later. However, a few of the kernels were too heavy to carry far, so the ants left them behind.

2 Fox came by and found the kernels. He quickly ate them and exclaimed, “How delicious! Now if I could only find some more!” All day long, Fox stayed near the place where he'd found the kernels, looking for more. Finally, when the sun was almost gone and there was just a thin glow of gold left on the horizon, Fox saw the ants making their way to the rock. They entered the tiny crack and later came out loaded down with kernels of corn. After they had left, Fox pried at the crack, but he couldn't get inside the rock. Again he had to be content with eating the kernels the ants could not carry away.

3 When Fox returned home, all the other animals saw how happy and well fed he was. They asked him why, but Fox would not say. So the animals made a plan to find out. That night, they followed Fox to the rock. They saw him eating the corn and they tried it too. “How delicious!” they exclaimed. When they found out that the black ants were bringing the corn out from the rock, they asked them if they would bring out more. The ants agreed but found that they could not bring out nearly enough for all the animals.

4 So the animals asked the red ants and the rat to help, but neither could fit through the crack. Finally, they went to Man and said, “If you will help us, we will give you the secret of this delicious food.” Man asked the thunder gods for help, and they sent for Yaluk, the most powerful.

5 Yaluk asked the woodpecker to tap on the thinnest part of the rock and then hide his head. In an instant, Yaluk tossed down a great lightning bolt at the spot where the woodpecker had tapped. The rock burst open, and thousands of golden ears of corn poured out.

6 And so it was that Man and all the animals received the gift of corn. The only unfortunate thing was that when Yaluk threw down his lightning bolt, the woodpecker forgot to hide his head. A piece of rock hit him and his head began to bleed. That is why to this day the woodpecker has a red head.
1 How did Fox first find the corn?
   A He saw the black ants carrying the kernels.
   B He found some kernels lying on the ground.
   C He saw it through a tiny crack in the rock where it was hidden.
   D He stepped on the rock where it was hidden.

2 At the beginning of the story, Fox and the black ants are the only ones enjoying the gift of corn. Who is enjoying it at the end?
   F the red ants and the rat
   G Yaluk and the other thunder gods
   H Man and all the animals
   J the woodpecker

3 A “just so” story is one in which the events of the story explain a fact of nature, as in “How the Leopard Got His Spots.” Look at the following lines from this legend and pick the one that sounds like part of a “just so” story.
   A “Fox pried at the crack, but he couldn’t get inside the rock.”
   B “Man asked the thunder gods for help.”
   C “Yaluk tossed down a great lightning bolt.”
   D “The woodpecker has a red head.”

4 Why does the writer of this legend call corn a “gift”? 
   F Corn was a very important food for the Mayas.
   G Corn is the color of gold.
   H Corn is very rare and needs special conditions to grow.
   J Gift-giving is very important in the Mayan culture.

5 Choose a passage in this story in which the visual imagery is especially vivid. Explain how the words used in this passage helped to create a clear picture in your mind.
Nombre: __________________________________________ Fecha: _______________________

1. A B C D
2. F G H J
3. A B C D
4. F G H J

5. READ
THINK
EXPLAIN

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Pizza, ensaladas y ... helado de fresas

1. Juanito es un chico muy gracioso, inteligente y simpático. Le gusta practicar deportes, jugar videojuegos y montar en bicicleta, pero no le gusta mucho ni ir a la escuela ni estudiar. Y tampoco le gusta comer muchas cosas. Sus comidas favoritas son la pizza, las ensaladas y ... el helado de fresas. Nunca come otras cosas; siempre come pizza, ensaladas y ... helado de fresas. No necesita otras comidas.

2. En el desayuno generalmente come una ensalada de frutas, pero unos días toma una ensalada de papas. En el almuerzo de la escuela come pizza con queso y jamón. Si tiene mucha hambre también toma una ensalada de lechuga y tomates o una ensalada de verduras. Sus amigos quieren compartir sus comidas con él, pero Juanito nunca prueba nuevas comidas. Le encantan las de siempre: la pizza, las ensaladas y ... el helado de fresas.

3. En casa por la noche siempre come lo mismo: pizza (los sábados la come con queso, jamón, judías verdes y cebolla), una ensalada de verduras o frutas y ... un helado de fresas.

4. Todos los días, sin variar: pizza, ensalada y ... helado de fresas. Pero un día ¡no hay ni pizza, ni ensalada ni helado en casa! La mamá de Juanito prepara algo diferente: un sándwich de jamón y queso. Como Juanito tiene MUCHA hambre, prueba un poquito ... ¿Crees que le gusta?

5. Como le gustan las pizzas con jamón y queso ... ¡Le encanta el sándwich de jamón y queso! Ahora Juanito come pizza, ensaladas, helado de fresas y ... sándwiches de jamón y queso.
How would you describe Juanito?

A He likes to play videogames and study.
B He’s a nice kid who likes to read about different foods.
C He’s fun to be with, but he spends too much time making pizzas.
D He’s a nice kid who doesn’t have much variety in his diet.

Based on the context, what do you think the word *prueba* means in paragraph 2?

F shares
G proves
H tries
J prepares

Which statement is not true?

A Juanito’s friends never want to share their food with him.
B Juanito eats pizza everyday.
C Juanito’s diet doesn’t have much variety.
D Sometimes Juanito has potato salad for breakfast.

Juanito never varies the way he has his

F breakfast.
G ice cream.
H pizza.
J salads.

Escribe una lista de otros ingredientes para las pizzas de Juanito.

Plan a weekly menu for Juanito—in Spanish—with the foods you think he should be eating. Remember to label the days of the week, the meals of the day, and any snack (*la merienda*) you think Juanito should have.
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