

Read the following passage and answer questions 1 through 5.

Strawberries



- 1 Several members from the Lansdale Garden Club came to Ben's school to announce a "Container Garden" contest. To enter, a student could grow any type of plant in a pot. In three months, the Garden Club members would return to judge the plants. They would choose winners and award gift certificates for plants and gardening supplies.
- 2 Ben's grandmother loved working in her garden, and her birthday was coming up. If Ben won, he could give her the gift certificate!
- 3 First, he checked out a gardening book from the library. It was full of colorful pictures. There were daisy patches, rose beds, and ponds of water lilies. There were even pansies in pots. None of these inspired Ben. He couldn't decide what he wanted to grow.
- 4 In a shed behind his house, Ben found a bag of potting soil leaning against a wall. Next to the bag was a funny-looking pot. It was knee high and measured about ten inches across the top. Sticking out from the rounded sides of the pot were seven little pockets.
- 5 Ben went back to his gardening book and looked until he found a picture just like it. The pot was called a strawberry jar. The picture showed strawberry plants with dark, fuzzy leaves, tiny white blossoms, and ripe red fruit spilling from the top and the pockets.
- 6 Ben showed his mom the picture and asked, "Can I use the soil and pot that are in the shed? Then I'll only need to buy strawberry plants."
- 7 His mom agreed and drove him to the garden shop. Ben had six dollars he had saved for Grandma's gift. He bought two six-packs of tiny strawberry plants and still had three dollars left.
- 8 At home Ben filled the pot with soil and tucked the long roots of the strawberry

plants into the soil-filled top and pockets. Since the plants were newly planted, he watered them every day.

- 9 He was disappointed when the green leaves started turning yellow. In the library book, Ben looked in the chapter called "Troubleshooting." He learned that too much water could cause yellow leaves. The article suggested watering only when the soil felt dry.
- 10 As he reviewed the book, Ben learned that his plants needed more than water. They also needed nutrients to help them grow. Ben's mother had two kinds of plant food. One was for leafy houseplants, and the other was for plants with flowers, fruits, or vegetables. Ben began adding the second kind of plant food to the water for the strawberry plants.
- 11 After a couple of weeks, white flowers began to appear. Ben continued caring for the plants. The day for judging the contest finally arrived. The jar overflowed with healthy green leaves, papery white blossoms, and bright-red strawberries. It was hard for the judges to find a place to attach the deep-blue first place ribbon!
- 12 Grandma's favorite birthday gift was the pot of strawberries. When she saw the gift certificate, she told Ben they would share it. After all, they were both gardeners now!

1 **Which sentence is the *best* summary for this passage?**

- A Ben used a library book that was full of colorful pictures to help him decide what he wanted to plant in a pot.
Ben entered a plant-growing contest at school, learned
- B all about growing strawberry plants, and won first place with his strawberry jar entry.
- C Ben used the money he had saved to buy two six-packs of tiny strawberry plants with which to enter the contest.
Ben had a problem, looked in a book to find out what to
- D do, and used plant food so his plants would bear flowers and fruit.

2 **Ben decided on the plants he wanted to grow when he —**

- F looked up a pot in the gardening book
- G remembered his mother had plant food
- H saw a commercial about strawberries
- J visited the garden shop

3 **Ben solved his problem with the yellow leaves by —**

- A changing how often he watered them
- B using a bigger pot
- C changing their potting soil
- D calling the garden shop

4 **The author *most likely* wrote this passage to —**

- F convince readers to garden by advertising plants
- G entertain readers with an informative story
- H give step-by-step instructions on how to plant strawberries
- J express a concern about mistakes made in growing plants

5 **In paragraph 3, the word inspired means —**

- A interested
- B comforted
- C warned
- D deserved