

April Fool's Day

"Ah, ha! Gotcha!"

People say, whenever April
Rolls around. A **ritual**¹ of trickery.
It's always the same. We say,
"Look!" when nothing's there. Everyone

Forgets for a second that today is not like
Other days. It seems that no
One tells the truth today. Do you
Like to play tricks?
So do I.

Don't look now. There's
A hairy spider on your head. Ah, ha! Made
You look!

Please, don't get mad. I'm
Only kidding around. Nothing serious.
Eek! Why did you say there was a spider on
Me?

¹ **ritual**: a formal and customarily repeated act or series of acts

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. On April Fool's Day, the poet likes all of the following EXCEPT

- A playing tricks
- B kidding around
- C the ritual of trickery
- D being tricked

2. Read this stanza from the poem:

Don't look now. There's
A hairy spider on your head. Ah, ha! Made
You look!

What is the purpose of this stanza?

- A It shows how much the author dislikes spiders.
- B It is an example of an April Fool's Day trick.
- C It describes a spider landing on the author's head.
- D It explains how someone might enjoy getting tricked.

3. Which of the following conclusions about the poet is supported by the poem?

- A The poet likes to celebrate April Fool's Day.
- B The poet thinks April Fool's Day is very childish.
- C The poet is trying to put an end to April Fool's Day.
- D The poet wishes that every day were April Fool's Day.

4. Read these lines from the poem:

People say, whenever April
Rolls around. A ritual of trickery.

Based on the text, the word **trickery** means

- A deceit
- B honesty
- C happiness
- D friendship

5. The primary purpose of this poem is to describe

- A how the poet feels about April Fool's Day
- B the ways that people can mislead and trick others
- C why April Fool's Day has such ridiculous rituals
- D the kinds of people that enjoy playing April Fool's Day tricks

6. How did the poet react when a trick was played on her?

7. Whom is the poet speaking to in the poem? How do you know? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

According to the poet, _____ people play tricks on April Fool's Day, they are just kidding around.

- A when
- B as
- C after
- D since

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

The poet plays tricks on April Fool's Day to take part in the ritual of trickery.

Who? _____

(does) What? _____

When? _____

Why? to take part in the ritual of trickery

10. **Vocabulary Word:** ritual: a formal and customarily repeated act or series of acts.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 220

Featured Text Structure: N/A

Passage Summary: "April Fool's Day" is an acrostic poem, where the first letter of each line spells a phrase that is the subject of the poem. The poem's title, which is also the subject, is about the ritual of trickery on April Fool's Day.

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- A playing tricks
- B kidding around
- C the ritual of trickery
- D **being tricked**

2. Read this stanza from the poem:

Don't look now. There's
A hairy spider on your head. Ah, ha! Made
You look!

What is the purpose of this stanza?

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- A **deceit**
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5. The primary purpose of this poem is to describe

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- B the ways that people can mislead and trick others
- C why April Fool's Day has such ridiculous rituals
- D the kinds of people that enjoy playing April Fool's Day tricks

6. How did the poet react when a trick was played on her?

Suggested answer: She screamed, "Eek!" [stanza 4]

7. Whom is the poet speaking to in the poem? How do you know? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

Suggested answer: The poet is speaking to the reader. She uses the word "you" to address the reader throughout the poem. For example, the poet asks, "Do you like to play tricks?" [stanza 2]

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

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- B as
- C after
- D since

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

The poet plays tricks on April Fool's Day to take part in the ritual of trickery.

Who? **the poet**

(does) What? **plays tricks**

When? **on April Fool's Day**

Why? to take part in the ritual of trickery

10. **Vocabulary Word:** ritual: a formal and customarily repeated act or series of acts.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: Answers may vary.