This selection tells what happened when Chipmunk and Bear had a disagreement. Read the selection and answer the questions that follow.

**Chipmunk and Bear**  
*a story from the Iroquois people retold by Joseph Bruchac*

Long ago, back in the days when the animals could talk, Bear was out walking around. As he walked, Bear was boasting. “Humph!” he said. “I am the strongest of all the animals. Humph!” he said. “I am the biggest of all the animals. Humph!” he said. “I can do anything because I am Bear. If I want anyone to do my bidding, I only have to tell them because I am Bear. I, Bear, can do anything.”

Just as Bear said that, a little voice down near the ground spoke up. It said, “You cannot do everything.” Bear looked down. There was Chipmunk, sticking his head out of his hole.

Bear looked down at him and said, “I, Bear, can do anything I wish.”

“If this is so,” said Chipmunk, “can you tell the sun not to come up in the morning?”

Bear thought for a moment and said, “Yes. That I can do. I, Bear, can tell the sun not to rise. In fact, tomorrow, the sun will not come up.”

“That is good,” said Chipmunk. “I will stay and watch.” And the two sat down right there. The sun was just going down, and Bear and Chipmunk turned to face the east and wait for the sun not to come up the next morning.

As they sat there through the night, Bear was chanting under his breath. He was saying, “The sun will not come up. The sun will not come up. I, Bear, command it. The sun will not come up.”

But sitting next to him, Chipmunk was saying, “The sun is going to rise. The sun is going to rise.”

As Bear chanted as hard as he could, facing the direction of the sun and telling it not to come up, the sun lifted above the horizon. It was a new day, and the sun had come up.

Chipmunk began to laugh. He rolled over and over with laughter. “Bear is a fool!” he said. “Bear is so foolish! The sun came up, the sun came up! The sun came up!”

Suddenly Whomp! a big paw came down on top of Chipmunk. Bear looked down as he held Chipmunk there on the ground, and he said, “Indeed the sun did come up. But you will never see another sunrise!”

Chipmunk knew now how foolish he had been. He thought quickly. “Oh Bear,” he said, “you are right to kill me. I am a foolish little Chipmunk. I am worthless and I mean nothing in the world. You, Bear, are the greatest of all, and if only you would lift your paw a little bit so that I could catch my breath, I would tell you how wonderful you are before you kill me.”

Bear said, “That is a good idea.” He lifted up his paw just a little bit, and Chipmunk scooted out and ran for his hole as fast as he could go. Bear’s big paw whipped out and Whoosh! Bear’s claws scraped right down Chipmunk’s back just as he dove into his hole.

Chipmunk stayed in his hole all through the winter while those wounds on his back healed up. And when he came out in the spring, he had stripes on his back. To this day, if you see Chipmunk, you will see those stripes, and it may remind you, as it reminds Chipmunk, to be careful whom you make fun of. You may be the one who is foolish in the long run.

That is how that story of Chipmunk and Bear goes. Ho? Hey.
1. Why did the author most likely begin his story by saying, “Long ago, back in the days when the animals could talk”?

A. to tell the reader who the main characters will be
B. to show the reader that the story will be sad
C. to let the reader know what kind of story he is telling
D. to show the reader that the story will be funny

2. What is this story meant to explain?

A. why the sun rises every morning
B. why chipmunks and bears are enemies
C. why bears are dangerous animals
D. why chipmunks have stripes down their backs

3. The first paragraph states that “Bear was boasting.” What does this mean?

A. Bear was trying to make new friends.
B. Bear was saying that he was the best animal.
C. Bear was looking for new trails in the forest.
D. Bear was trying to frighten the smaller animals.

4. Why does Bear agree to try to stop the sun from rising?

A. He really believes that he has that much power.
B. He is trying to trick Chipmunk so he can eat him.
C. He is ashamed to admit that he has no power.
D. He is hoping that the day will be too cloudy to see the sun.
5. Why does Chipmunk ask Bear if he can keep the sun from rising?
   A He plans to compare his powers to Bear's.
   B He is impressed by what Bear is saying.
   C He is curious about how smart Bear is.
   D He wants to show that Bear is foolish.

6. How does Bear most likely feel when the sun comes up in the morning?
   A angry
   B concerned
   C excited
   D pleased

7. What is the purpose of using words such as whomp and whoosh in the selection?
   A to help explain Chipmunk's actions
   B to create the sound of what is happening
   C to show what the characters feel about what is happening
   D to show what Bear feels about what is happening

8. What lesson should Chipmunk have learned from his experience with Bear?
   A Be sure that you can really do what you brag about.
   B It can be dangerous to tease people who act foolishly.
   C It is better to be strong than smart.
   D Even the most powerful people have their weaknesses.

End of Set
### Answers to
**Grade 4  Reading Comprehension Sample Items**

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