

Name _____

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.**The Earth Album**

Tom woke up from a nap, remembering fall in Vermont. He had just had a dream about maple trees in October, his favorite month. In his mind's eye, the trees were a dozen shades of red, yellow, and orange.

Last October, Tom's family had spent a week at a lodge in Vermont. One day they went for a walk that led them deep into the autumn woods. The trail ended at a river, where they stopped to fish. Tom's dad cooked their catch for dinner. Of course, they wouldn't be going back to Vermont for a long time.

Tom was glad he had put together a big photo album to help him remember the important events in his life. He flipped through the pages until he reached a school picture of his class from last year. Tom had a sad expression on his face, even though his parents had not yet told him of their plans. Tom wondered whether any of his friends were thinking about him right now. No, they were all probably doing ordinary things like biking, playing baseball, or even studying.

Just then, Tom's mother stepped into his cabin and said, "I have great news. Captain James says the spaceship is making excellent time. We will be landing on Planet Turnas tomorrow morning."

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 What was the author’s main purpose in this story?

- A** to make the reader want to travel in space
- B** to entertain the reader with an unusual situation
- C** to express feelings about the main character
- D** to inform the reader about space travel

2 In this story, where are Tom and his family?

- F** staying at a lodge in Vermont
- G** walking in the woods
- H** landing on the planet Turnas
- J** traveling on a spaceship

3 The author includes the sentence, “Of course, they wouldn’t be going back to Vermont for a long time.” Why do you think the author does this?

- A** to give readers a clue that something has changed for Tom
- B** to show that Tom is moving to a new school in a new state
- C** to describe why Tom likes the woods best during autumn
- D** to explain how visiting the lodge had left Tom unhappy

4 Why do you think the author has Tom look through the photo album?

- F** to tell all the places that Tom has been
- G** to reveal that Tom is good with a camera
- H** to show that Tom is thinking of the past
- J** to explain what Tom was dreaming about

5 Why did the author wait to say where Tom was until the end?

Common Core State Standards

Questions 1–5: Literature 1. Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.