

Read the following poem to find out what happens when the speaker's mother sleeps late. Then answer the questions that follow.

## Mummy Slept Late and Daddy Fixed Breakfast

by John Ciardi

Daddy fixed the breakfast.  
He made us each a waffle.  
It looked like gravel pudding.  
It tasted something awful.

“Ha, ha,” he said, “I’ll try again.  
This time I’ll get it right.”  
But what I got was in between  
Bituminous and anthracite.\*

“A little too well done? Oh well,  
I’ll have to start all over.”  
That time what landed on my plate  
Looked like a manhole cover.

I tried to cut it with a fork:  
The fork gave off a spark.  
I tried a knife and twisted it  
Into a question mark.

I tried it with a hack-saw.  
I tried it with a torch.  
It didn’t even make a dent.  
It didn’t even scorch.

The next time Dad gets breakfast  
When Mummy’s sleeping late,  
I think I’ll skip the waffles.  
I’d rather eat the plate.



\***bituminous and anthracite:** types of coal

1. What is the *main* purpose of this poem?

- A to tell how a family works
- B to give a cooking lesson
- C to send a strong message
- D to tell an amusing story

Category: Cognition  
Objective (G5): 2.04  
Thinking Skill: Analyzing  
Difficulty Level: Medium  
Key: D

2. In stanza 2, to what do "bituminous and anthracite" refer?

- A how burned the waffle was
- B how sweet the waffle tasted
- C how good the waffle looked
- D how strange the waffle smelled

Category: Interpretation  
Objective (G5): 2.01  
Thinking Skill: Analyzing  
Difficulty Level: Easy  
Key: A

3. Which word best describes the speaker's tone?

- A annoyed
- B caring
- C mean
- D playful

Category: Interpretation  
Objective (G5): 3.01  
Thinking Skill: Analyzing  
Difficulty Level: Medium  
Key: D

4. To what does the speaker compare the waffles?

- A a hack-saw
- B gravel
- C old wood
- D a plate

Category: Critical Stance  
Objective (G5): 3.01  
Thinking Skill: Knowledge  
Difficulty Level: Medium  
Key: B

5. The next time Mummy sleeps late, what will the narrator probably do for breakfast?

- A wait until Mummy wakes up
- B help Daddy fix breakfast
- C make waffles for Mummy
- D ask Daddy to make waffles

Category: Interpretation  
Objective (G5): 2.02  
Thinking Skill: Generating  
Difficulty Level: Easy  
Key: A

6. How does the narrator *most likely* feel at the end of this poem?

- A hungry
- B sleepy
- C sticky
- D thirsty

Category: Interpretation  
Objective (G5): 3.01  
Thinking Skill: Generating  
Difficulty Level: Easy  
Key: A

7. What strategy does the author use to show the result of Daddy's cooking?

- A asking questions
- B describing Daddy's reaction
- C using exaggeration
- D using personification

Category: Critical Stance  
Objective (G5): 2.04  
Thinking Skill: Analyzing  
Difficulty Level: Medium  
Key: C