

THE INVENTION OF VITA-WONK

[Comprehension Check]

Question 1. Choose the right answer.

(i) Mr Willy Wonka is

(a) a cook, (b) an inventor, (c) a manager.

(ii) Wonka-Vite makes people

(a) older, (b) younger.

(iii) Mr Wonka wants to invent a new thing which will make people

(a) younger, (b) older.

Answer:

- i. (b) an inventor
- ii. (b) younger
- iii. (b) older

Question 2. Can anyone's age be a minus number? What does "minus 87" mean?

Answer: No, age cannot be in a minus number. It is calculated from our birth date. Minus 87 means that the person will have to wait for 87 years more to take birth.

Question 3: Mr Wonka begins by asking himself two questions. What are they?

(i) What is _____?

(ii) What lives _____?

Answer: Two questions which Mr Wonka asked himself are:

(i) What is the oldest living thing in the world?

(ii) What lives longer than anything else?

[Working with the text]

Question 1. (i) What trees does Mr Wonka mention? Which tree does he say lives the longest?

(ii) How long does this tree live? Where can you find it?

Answer: (i) Mr Wonka mentions the following trees:

- Douglas fir
- Oak
- Cedar
- Bristlecone pine

He says that the Bristlecone pine lives the longest.

(ii) This tree lives for over 4000 years. One can find this on the slopes of Wheeler Peak in Nevada, U.S.A.

Question 2. How many of the oldest living things can you remember from Mr Wonka's list? (Don't look back at the story!) Do you think all these things really exist, or are some of them purely imaginary?

Answer: Below are the list of oldest living things which Mr Wonka mentioned in the story:

- A 4000-year-old bristlecone pine
- A 168-year-old Russian farmer
- A 200-year-old tortoise
- A 51-year-old horse
- A 36-year-old cat
- A 207-year-old giant rat
- A 97-year-old grimalkin
- A 700-year-old cattalo
- A 36-year-old-flea

I think most of them exist while some others are purely imaginary. Like a 36 year old cat.

Question 3. Why does Mr Wonka collect items from the oldest things? Do you think this is the right way to begin his invention?

Answer: Mr Wonka collected the items from the oldest things because he wanted to invent an item which can make people older.

Note: Second part to be done by student

Question 4. What happens to the volunteer who swallows four drops of the new invention? What is the name of the invention?

Answer: The moment when the volunteer swallowed four drops, he began wrinkling and shrivelling up all over and his hair started dropping off and his teeth started falling out and suddenly become seventy-five years old! The name of the invention was Vita-Wonk.