

MY TREE



When I was three years old, my parents took me to a nursery. We bought a young apple tree. It was just a sapling. We drove it home in our car and planted it in our yard. I watered it once a day all summer long.

Some fruit trees don't give fruit right away. My apple tree was one of them. I had to wait five years! Finally, last year, the tree blossomed in the spring. It was covered with pinkish-white blossoms. A few months later, there were tiny, green apples on the branches. I counted six.

This year, I'm nine years old. My mother said there might be enough apples on my tree to bake a pie. I have already picked out a recipe from the cookbook. I will peel and cut the apples myself. My mom will help with the crust. Then we'll all eat the pie.

Another good thing about my tree is the shade it gives in the summer. I like to sit beneath it and read a book, or just watch the bees and butterflies and think.

My sister is now three years old. She's the age I was when we bought my tree. We'll all go to the nursery again this year and help her pick out a tree of her own. I hope she picks a cherry tree. The blossoms are pretty, and then we could also have cherry pies.

I told her she will have to wait for her tree to bear fruit. I don't know if she believes me or not. I didn't believe my parents at first, either. I'll share my apples with her until it does, and help her water her tree. I love my tree, and I'm happy for my sister that she will also get a tree of her own.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *MY TREE*

1. What do people buy at a nursery?
 - a. trees, plants, flowers and gardening supplies
 - b. watering cans
 - c. apple trees
 - d. young children

2. What should you do with a sapling?
 - a. wear it on your foot
 - b. harvest it
 - c. plant it in the ground
 - d. bury it

3. What did the narrator learn about fruit trees?
 - a. They are lots of fun to watch.
 - b. They are three years old.
 - c. They attract too many bees.
 - d. They don't bear fruit immediately.

4. How long might you wait for fruit from a young fruit tree?
 - a. a year or more
 - b. exactly five years
 - c. a generation
 - d. more than ten years

5. What sentence best shows the narrator is generous and helpful?
 - a. "I hope she picks a cherry tree."
 - b. "I had to wait five years!"
 - c. "Every summer, I watered it once a day all summer long."
 - d. "I'll share my apples with her until it does, and help her water her tree."

6. Which sentence best expresses the main idea of the text?
 - a. "This year, I'm nine years old."
 - b. "I love my tree, and I'm happy for my sister that she will get a tree of her own, too."
 - c. "I hope she picks a cherry tree."
 - d. "I will peel and cut the apples myself."

Name _____ Date _____

Write complete sentences to answer the questions below.

1. Imagine waiting five years for a tree to bear fruit. Describe.

2. Tell how choosing and planting the tree reminds you of an experience you have had (yourself or with your family or friends).

3. After reading the story what do you think is meant by “*nursery*”?

4. What did you learn about fruit trees that you did not know? In what situation might that new information be useful?

Answers to *MY TREE*

Multiple-choice

1. a
2. c
3. d
4. a
5. d
6. b

Short-answer

1. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
2. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)
3. *Nursery* = garden center, plant market, place where plants are sold.
4. (Answers may vary, accept reasonable answers.)