**Peter Possum’s Playful Trick**

*by Margaret Chaplin Campbell*

Peter Possum\* opened one eye. The

sun was setting. “Time to get up,” said

Peter Possum. He opened both eyes and

gazed about. Everything looked upside

down. That was because Peter Possum

sometimes hung upside down. He would

wrap his long tail around a tree branch and

let his head hang down.

Peter Possum pulled himself up to the

branch and unwrapped his tail. He was

right side up again. Now everything looked

just right.

He climbed down the tree trunk. “I’m

hungry,” he said. “What do I want today?

Not eggs. Not insects. I feel in the mood for

some garbage.”

Off he started toward the Laceys’

garbage can. Mrs. Lacey was a good cook.

Her table scraps were delicious. “Watch out

for Old Dog Tiger,” Peter told himself.

“Watch out for Peter Possum,” Old

Dog Tiger was saying to himself. “Protect

the garbage can from Peter Possum.”

Old Dog Tiger hid behind the garbage

can and waited as Peter Possum came

hurrying along as fast as he could. “I’m in

the mood for a ham sandwich,” said

Peter Possum.

Old Dog Tiger watched and waited.

“I’m in the mood for a possum sandwich,”

thought Old Dog Tiger.

\***possum**: same as opossum

Rattle, rattle. Peter Possum started

pushing the lid from the can. Old Dog Tiger

leaped out. “Snarl! Ruff! Growl!”

“Oh! Oh!” yelled Peter Possum.

“What can I do? Old Dog Tiger is too close. I cannot run. I cannot hide. I cannot even

climb.” PLOP! Peter Possum flopped over on the ground. He lay very still. He did not

move when Old Dog Tiger sniffed him. He

did not open his eyes. He did not make a

single sound.

“Look what I’ve done,” said Old Dog

Tiger. “I scared that possum to death. I’ll

get my master. He will be proud of me.” Off

he ran.

Peter Possum opened his eyes. Old

Dog Tiger was gone. Peter Possum laughed.

“I fooled him with my playful trick,”

he said. “I pretended to be dead. That’s

called ‘playing possum.’ I am very good at

it.”

Away he trotted, safe and sound and

very much alive.

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

selection?

A to give the reader scientific

information

B to persuade the reader to give

food to possums

C to teach the reader how to protect

garbage cans from possums

D to entertain the reader with an

enjoyable story about a possum

2. What is this selection ***mostly*** about?

A Peter Possum going to the

garbage can looking for food

B Peter Possum saving himself

from Old Dog Tiger by tricking

him

C Old Dog Tiger hiding behind the

garbage can waiting for

Peter Possum

D Old Dog Tiger running home to

tell his master that he scared

Peter Possum to death

3. Which statement lets the reader know

that this is a make-believe story?

A Peter Possum climbed down the

tree trunk.

B Peter Possum said, “I’m hungry.

What do I want today?”

C Peter Possum started pushing the

lid from the can.

D Peter Possum lay very still on the

ground.

4. How would Peter Possum most likely

describe himself when he pretends to

be dead?

A angry

B careless

C clever

D sad

5. Which word ***best*** describes

Old Dog Tiger as he runs to tell his

master that he scared the possum to

death?

A angry

B curious

C happy

D lonely

**End of Set**