Today, you will read two stories titled “Ming Lo Moves the Mountain” and “Madame Rhinoceros and Her Dress.” As you read, think about the actions of the characters and the events of the stories. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.

Read the story titled “Ming Lo Moves the Mountain” by Arnold Lobel. Then answer Questions 1 through 3.
Ming Lo and his wife lived in a house at the bottom of a large mountain. They loved their house, but they did not love the mountain.

Rocks and stones broke loose from the cliffs. They dropped down onto the house of Ming Lo. The roof was full of holes. Clouds formed on the top of the mountain. Heavy rain fell from the clouds onto this roof that was full of holes. The rooms inside were damp and drippy.

When the sun did shine, it never warmed the house of Ming Lo. The mountain always cast a dark shadow. The flowers and vegetables in the garden grew thin and sparse.

"This mountain brings us nothing but unhappiness," said the wife of Ming Lo. "Husband, you must move the mountain so that we may enjoy our house in peace."

"My dear wife," said Ming Lo, "how can one small man such as I move a large mountain such as this?"

"How should I know?" said his wife. "There is a wise man who lives in the village. Go and ask him."

Ming Lo hurried to the village. When he found the wise man, he said, "I want to move the mountain that is near my house."

The wise man thought for a long time. Wisps of smoke curled from his pipe.

Finally he said, "Go home, Ming Lo. Cut down the tallest, thickest tree you can find. Push this tree against the side of the mountain with all your strength. This is the way that you will move the mountain."

Ming Lo ran home. He cut down the tallest, thickest tree that he could find. Ming Lo and his wife held tightly to the tree. Running as fast as they could run, they pushed the tree against the side of the mountain.
The tree split in half. Ming Lo and his wife fell on their heads. The mountain did not move an inch.

"Go back to the wise man," said the wife of Ming Lo. "Ask him to think of another way to move the mountain."

Again the wise man thought for a long time. Rings of smoke blew from this pipe.

Finally he said, "Go home, Ming Lo. Take the pots and pans from your kitchen. Hold a spoon in each one of your hands. With these spoons, hit the pots and pans as hard as you can. Raise your voice in loud shouts and cries. The mountain will be frightened by the noise. This is the way that you will move the mountain."

Ming Lo ran home. He took the pots and pans from his kitchen. Ming Lo and his wife held a spoon in each one of their four hands. They shouted and cried. They hit the pots and pans as hard as they could.

They made a great noise. Flocks of birds flew out of the trees, but the mountain did not move at all.

"Go back to the wise man," cried the wife of Ming Lo. "We must find a way to move the mountain!"

Ming Lo watched as the wise man thought for a very long time. Clouds of smoke billowed from his pipe.

Finally he said, "Go home, Ming Lo. Bake many cakes and loaves of bread. Bring these to the spirit who lives at the top of the mountain. The spirit is always hungry. He will be happy to receive your gifts. He will grant your every wish. This is the way that you will move the mountain."

Ming Lo ran home. With his wife, he baked platters of cakes and baskets of bread. Together they began the steep climb to the top of the mountain where the spirit lived.
They felt a strong wind as they struggled up the high cliffs. It whistled and howled.

Soon the air was filled with flying cakes and loaves of bread. There was nothing left for the spirit and the mountain did not move.

Without waiting for his wife to say a word, Ming Lo went quickly back to the wise man.

"Help me to move this mountain so that I may enjoy my house in peace!" cried Ming Lo.

The wise man sat in deep thought for a long, long time. There was so much smoke coming from his pipe that he could hardly be seen.

Finally he said, "Go home, Ming Lo. Take your house apart, stick by stick. Gather all these sticks that are the pieces of your house. Collect all of the things that are your possessions. Bind everything into bundles with rope and twine. Carry these bundles in your arms and on the top of your head. Face the mountain and close your eyes.

"Having done all this," said the wise man, "you will step to the dance of the moving mountain. You will put your left foot in a place that is in back of your right foot. Then you will put your right foot in a place that is in back of your left foot. You must do this again and again for many hours. When you open your eyes, you will see that the mountain has moved far away."

"This is a strange dance, said Ming Lo, "but if it makes the mountain move, I will do it at once."

Ming Lo ran home. He took his house apart, stick by stick. He gathered all of the sticks and collected all of the things that were his possessions.

Ming Lo and his wife bound everything into bundles with rope and twine. They carried the bundles in their arms and on the tops of their heads.
Then Ming Lo showed his wife how to do the dance of the moving mountain. They faced the mountain and closed their eyes. Carefully, they began to move their feet to the steps of the dance.

They each put their left foot in a place that was behind their right foot. Then they each put their right foot in a place that was behind their left foot.

The neighbors saw Ming Lo and his wife walking backward across the fields with all of their possessions.

It was an odd sight and they watched in wonder.

After many hours had passed, Ming Lo and his wife opened their eyes.

“Look,” cried Ming Lo, “our dance has done its work! The mountain has moved far away!”

Stick by stick, they rebuilt their house. They unpacked all of their possessions and made themselves at home.

Ming Lo and his wife lived the rest of their lives under an open sky and a warm sun. When rain fell, it came down gently on a roof that had no holes.

They often looked at the mountain that was small in the distance. There was happiness in their hearts for they both knew that they had made the mountain move.
1. Part A

What does damp mean as it is used in Paragraph 2 of “Ming Lo Moves the Mountain?”

a. dark
b. wet
c. full of holes
d. cold

Part B

Which statement best supports the answer to Part A?

a. “Rocks and stones broke loose from the cliffs. They dropped down onto the house...”
b. “When the sun did shine, it never warmed the house of Ming Lo.”
c. “The mountain always cast a dark shadow.”
d. “Heavy rain fell from the clouds onto this roof that was full of holes.”

2. Part A

What do the details of the story show about how Ming Lo and his wife feel about the mountain?

a. It makes them sad.
b. It makes them feel cold all the time.
c. They don’t like it.
d. They think it’s too large.
Part B

Which detail from “Min Lo Moves the Mountain” supports the answer to Part A?

a. “This mountain brings us nothing but unhappiness”
b. “They loved their house but they did not love the mountain.”
c. “Ming Lo and his wife lived in a house at the bottom of a large mountain.”
d. “When the sun did shine, it never warmed the house of Min Lo.”

3. Part A

What is the main idea in the story?

a. Ming Lo and his wife are unhappy living next to the mountain.
b. Ming Lo is not very intelligent.
c. Ming Lo solves his problem but does not understand how.
d. Ming Lo’s wife is bossy.

Part B

Which detail from the story best supports the answer to Part A?

a. “…how can one small man such as I move a large mountain….”
b. “‘Go back to the wise man,’ cried the wife of Ming Lo. “
c. “This mountain brings us nothing but unhappiness.”
d. “‘Look’, cried Ming Lo, ‘our dance has done its work! The mountain has moved far away!’”
MADAME RHINOCEROS AND HER DRESS

1. Madame Rhinoceros saw a dress in the window of a shop. It was covered with polka dots and flowers. It was adorned with ribbons and lace. She admired it for a moment and then entered the shop.
2. "That dress in the window," said Madame Rhinoceros to a salesperson, "I would like to try it on."
3. Madame Rhinoceros put on the dress. She looked at herself in the mirror. "I do not think this dress is at all attractive on me," she said.
4. "But Madame," said the salesperson, "you are completely wrong. This dress makes you look glamorous and alluring."
5. "If only I were sure," said Madame Rhinoceros.
6. "Ah, Madame," said the salesperson, "everyone who sees you wearing this dress will be filled with admiration and envy."
7. "Do you really think so?" asked Madame Rhinoceros, turning around and around in front of the mirror.
8. "Absolutely," said the salesperson. "You have my word."
9. "Very well," said Madame Rhinoceros, "I will buy the dress, and I will wear it now."
10. Madame Rhinoceros left the shop. As she walked up the avenue, she saw that people were smiling and laughing at her.
12. She saw some people who were shaking their heads and frowning.
14. She continued up the avenue. Everyone who saw her stopped and stared. Madame Rhinoceros felt more glamorous and alluring with every step.
4. Part A

What does attractive mean as it is used in Paragraph 3 of “Madame Rhinoceros and Her Dress”?

a. jealous
b. fancy
c. beautiful
d. flowery

Part B

Which statement best supports the answer to Part A?

a. “...This dress makes you look glamorous and alluring.”
b. “...everyone who sees you wearing this dress will be filled with admiration and envy.”
c. “It was adorned with ribbons and lace.”
d. “It was covered with polka dots and flowers.”

5. Part A

Which statement best describes how Madame Rhinoceros feels as she walked down the street in her new dress?

a. She feels silly.
b. She feels worried.
c. She feels happy.
d. She feels beautiful.
Part B

Which statement best supports the answer to Part A?

a. “...she saw that people were smiling and laughing at her.”
b. “She saw some people who were shaking their heads and frowning.”
c. “She...felt more glamorous and alluring with every step.”
d. “Everyone who saw her stopped and stared.”

6. Part A

Which statement best describes how Madame Rhinoceros’ feelings changed from the beginning of the story to the end?

a. She decides she looks good in the dress.
b. She is unsure about buying the dress.
c. She decides she wants to buy the dress.
d. She feels ugly in the dress.

Part B

Which statement best supports the answer to Part A?

a. “Very well,’ said Madame Rhinoceros, ‘I will buy the dress...’”
b. “I do not think this dress is at all attractive on me.”
c. “Madame Rhinoceros felt more glamorous and alluring with every step.”
d. “Do you really think so?’ asked Madame Rhinoceros.”
Refer to the stories “Ming Lo Moves the Mountain” and “Madame Rhinoceros and Her Dress.” Then answer Question 7.

7. In “Ming Lo Moves the Mountain” and “Madame Rhinoceros and Her Dress,” the main characters believe something that isn’t true.

Write an essay that explains what Ming Lo believes and what Madame Rhinoceros believes, and why believing these things made them happier. Use what you read in the stories to support your essay.