

Reading Comprehension

Questions 1 through 5 refer to the following passage. Circle the correct answer.

Where is This Woman's Home?

I feel I have never had a home. All my life moving from place to place. The only thing that remained the same, that was stable, was Oklahoma. Even the landscape never changed. The towns there never grew up into cities. The people were the same each year, wearing the same clothing, saying the same things.

The search for a homeland is part of the Chickasaw migration legend. It was ordained by the deities and began in the past when the people lived in the land of the "setting sun." During the days they would walk over the land, searching for their home. The priests carried a pole. They carried it in their hands by day and planted it each night.

During the night it moved about and by morning it would be pointing the direction they were to travel. For a while it commanded the people to journey east, toward the morning sun. They crossed the Mississippi River eventually, and on the other side, the pole finally ceased to move during the night. The land they settled, crops were planted. It became known as the Old Fields. But one morning the pole leaned westward. The people gathered together and began the long journey back. They abandoned their village but did not feel sorry because the pole had commanded it.

And I am still moving, looking for a home. I don't know if I will ever escape my tradition, my past. It goes with me everywhere like a shadow.

1. How does the author describe herself?

She feels as if she is

- a. searching for a place to call home
- b. doomed to stay in Oklahoma
- c. tired of the sameness in her life
- d. living in the past
- e. being shadowed by failure

2. Who do the Chickasaw believe is responsible for making them move?

- a. the priests
- b. white people
- c. themselves
- d. the gods
- e. Oklahoma

3. Why did the Chickasaw not feel sad when they left their homes in the east?

- a. They knew they were headed to a better place to live.
- b. They had been forced to move east to begin with.
- c. They were returning to their ancient homeland.
- d. Their fields had become too old and worn out.
- e. It was simply part of their beliefs to follow the pole.

4. Which of the following best summarizes the main idea?

The writer

- a. has always lived in Oklahoma and plans to stay there
- b. feels trapped by tradition and wants to move far away
- c. understands that her sense of search is part of her Chickasaw heritage
- d. thinks the most important thing is to find a stable home
- e. believes the people in Oklahoma are all the same

5. How does the statement “I don’t know if I will ever escape my tradition” support the main idea?

It shows that the writer

- a. accepts that she is Chickasaw
- b. is trying to escape moving around
- c. lives in a more modern time
- d. believes in the power of Indian legends
- e. does not know what will happen