

**A Fable**

Once upon a time, a little, hungry mouse was wandering about a garden looking for something to eat. Presently, a delicious smell made her nostrils quiver with excitement, and so, as her mother had taught her when she was young, she followed her nose. Her nose led her to a great, round castle, tall and strong, and made of metal.

The mouse looked up at the castle, with its big, round roof, and wondered if it were possible to find a way in. So she went round and round the castle, tapping upon its hard wall with her tiny, sharp teeth. But alas! She could find no entrance. So she sat down and looked at it hungrily. The delicious scent was now so strong that her mouth began to water. "At last", she cried out in a hungry, little voice. "Oh, if only I could get in!" and then a great, hollow voice, which nearly frightened her to death, roared, "Are you talking to me?". It was the castle speaking.

Fear made the mouse dumb for a while but presently she said, "Please castle, do let me in!". "Castle!" boomed the voice, "how dare you call me Castle! I'm a Dustbin!"

**Answer the following questions in FULL SENTENCES!**

1. Why was the mouse wandering about the garden?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

2. What happens to the mouse when she gets excited?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

3. Why was she excited?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

4. What did her mother teach her?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

5. Where did the little mouse's nose lead her?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

6. What do you think it was that the mouse was smelling?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

7. She could not get into the castle because

a) she did not tap hard enough      b) her teeth were not sharp enough      c) there was no entrance      (1)

8. "Fear made the mouse dumb". This means that the mouse

a) could not hear      b) could not talk      c) could not walk      (1)

9. Choose words in the passage that are similar in meaning to

lovely \_\_\_\_\_ (2)