

Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Old Bookstore

As I stand on the corner of Eighth Street and Walnut Avenue, a glass skyscraper towers overhead. Its shadow is deep and cool. It's an impressive building, but I remember something better.

I've lived in this neighborhood all my life, and I remember when a bookstore stood here. The front of the store was painted blue. A bell jingled when my friends and I shoved open the door. Inside, the air smelled like books and chocolate chip cookies. The display window always held an electric fan that blew that cookie-and-book smell into the street.

The fan was the only fast-moving thing in the place. A black-haired woman and her tall husband sat on stools behind the counter, reading. "How about a cookie?" the woman always offered us, smiling and pointing to a glass platter on the counter.

On Saturdays, there were storytellers in costumes of scientists, astronauts, or farmers. They stood in the middle of the shop spinning tales, and I sprawled on the floor with my friends, listening. It was the best way to spend a Saturday morning—better than cartoons, better than sleeping late.

This tall building, reflecting blue sky in its glass, is here now. This part of town has always been busy, an area where everything always moved fast. Cars zipped around this corner. Buses roared down the street. That's why the old bookstore was so great. It slowed life down for us, almost like something out of a science fiction novel.

Turn the page.

Answer the questions below.

1 What words in paragraph 2 tell the reader that the bookstore was there before the skyscraper?

- A** I've lived in this neighborhood
- B** I remember when a bookstore stood here
- C** my friends and I shoved open the door
- D** The front of the store was painted blue.

2 Why did the author describe how the store smelled?

- F** to explain why the bookstore closed
- G** to encourage readers to visit a bookstore
- H** to make readers laugh at the idea
- J** to make the store seem more appealing

3 The author probably chose the title “The Old Bookstore” because the story is mostly about

- A** the importance of reading.
- B** the smell of cookies.
- C** a part of the past.
- D** a busy street.

4 What was the main reason the author wrote this story?

- F** to share a pleasant memory
- G** to tell where the skyscraper stood
- H** to entertain readers with a funny story
- J** to convince readers to buy books

5 Why did the author include a description of the skyscraper?

The author wanted readers to know how much things have changed and to compare the bookstore with the skyscraper.
