

## 42. *Sideways Stories From Wayside School* by Louis Sachar (Excerpt)



- A** <sup>1</sup>Joe counted the potatoes. <sup>2</sup>“Seven, five, three, one, two, four, six, eight. <sup>3</sup>There are eight potatoes, Mrs. Jewls.”
- B** <sup>4</sup>“No, there are eight,” said Mrs. Jewls.
- C** <sup>5</sup>“But that’s what I said,” said Joe. <sup>6</sup>“May I go to recess now?”
- D** <sup>7</sup>“No, you got the right answer, but you counted the wrong way again.”  
<sup>8</sup>She put three books on his desk. <sup>9</sup>“Count the books, Joe.”
- E** <sup>10</sup>Joe counted the books. <sup>11</sup>“A thousand, a million, three. <sup>12</sup>Three, Mrs. Jewls.”
- F** <sup>13</sup>“Correct,” said Mrs. Jewls.
- G** <sup>14</sup>“May I go to recess now?” Joe asked.
- H** <sup>15</sup>“No,” said Mrs. Jewls.
- I** <sup>16</sup>“May I have a potato?” asked Joe.
- J** <sup>17</sup>“No, listen to me. <sup>18</sup>One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten,” said Mrs. Jewls. <sup>19</sup>“Now you say it.”
- K** <sup>20</sup>“One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten,” said Joe.
- L** <sup>21</sup>“Very good!” said Mrs. Jewls. <sup>22</sup>She put six erasers on his desk. <sup>23</sup>“Now count the erasers, Joe, just the way I showed you.”
- M** <sup>24</sup>Joe counted the erasers. <sup>25</sup>“One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. <sup>26</sup>There are ten, Mrs. Jewls.”
- N** <sup>27</sup>“No,” said Mrs. Jewls.
- O** <sup>28</sup>“This doesn’t make any sense,” said Joe. <sup>29</sup>“When I count the wrong way I get the right answer, and when I count right I get the wrong answer.”
- P** <sup>30</sup>Mrs. Jewls hit her head against the wall five times. <sup>31</sup>“How many times did I hit my head against the wall?” she asked.
- Q** <sup>32</sup>“One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. <sup>33</sup>You hit your head against the wall ten times,” said Joe.
- R** <sup>34</sup>“No,” said Mrs. Jewls.
- S** <sup>35</sup>“Four, six, one, nine, five. <sup>36</sup>You hit your head five times,” said Joe.
- T** <sup>37</sup>Mrs. Jewls shook her head no and said, “Yes, that is right.”

**DIRECTIONS:** Circle the letter next to the correct answer or write the answer on the lines given. When asked, write the number of the sentence or the letter of the paragraph that is the best evidence.

1. Let’s say Mrs. Jewls gives Joe nine bananas. She tells him to count like she showed him in paragraph J. How many bananas will Joe say there are?
  - A. ten
  - B. nine
  - C. five
  - D. none

2. Let’s say Joe is given seven oranges. He is asked to tell how many there are. What does he say?

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Which 3 paragraphs are the best evidence? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

3. What would happen if Joe were to count correctly *and* get the right answer? Mrs. Jewls would
  - A. say he counted wrong.
  - B. say he got the wrong answer.
  - C. let him go to recess.
  - D. keep him inside to do math.

Which 2 sentences from paragraphs C and D are the best evidence? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

4. Let’s say Mrs. Jewls shows Joe eleven marbles. What two possible answers might he give?

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Explain your answer.

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5. Paragraphs C and D show how Mrs. Jewls helps Joe with counting. What would Mrs. Jewls probably do if a student had trouble with her alphabet letters? Mrs. Jewls would
  - A. not do anything.
  - B. punish her later.
  - C. send a book home.
  - D. help her at school.

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Reading Level: 2.2

1. Let's say Mrs. Jewls gives Joe nine bananas. She tells him to count like she showed him in paragraph J. How many bananas will Joe say there are?

A. **ten**  
 B. nine  
 C. five  
 D. none

Paragraphs J and M (also P and Q) show that Joe counts from one to ten and gives an answer of ten when he tries to count the way the teacher does.

2. Let's say Joe is given seven oranges. He is asked to tell how many there are. What does he say?

**He says there are seven.**

3 best evidence paragraphs: **A, E, S**

Joe comes up with the right number when he counts his own way (sentences 2, 11, and 35).

3. What would happen if Joe were to count correctly *and* get the right answer? Mrs. Jewls would

A. say he counted wrong.  
 B. say he got the wrong answer.  
 C. **let him go to recess.**  
 D. keep him inside to do math.

2 best evidence sentences from paragraphs C and D: **6, 7**

4. Let's say Mrs. Jewls shows Joe eleven marbles. What two possible answers might he give?

**He would say either ten or eleven.**

Explain your answer.

**He either counts her way and ends up with ten or he counts his way and ends up with the right answer.**

5. Paragraphs C and D show how Mrs. Jewls helps Joe with counting. What would Mrs. Jewls probably do if a student had trouble with her alphabet letters? Mrs. Jewls would

A. not do anything.  
 B. punish her later.  
 C. send a book home.  
 D. **help her at school.**

Since Mrs. Jewls is working with Joe on his counting during recess, it is reasonable to assume she would do something similar if a student had trouble with her letters.