Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Dog and the Cows

One day a smart but tired dog came to a green pasture where three cows were grazing. He thought the quiet happy cows would be good company.

However, the cows came over and formed a half-circle so that he could not go forward or go left or right to enter the pasture.

“Why should we share our pasture with you?” one said sternly.

“Because I’m tired of being alone, and I don’t eat grass,” the dog said.

The cows murmured to each other. “All right, you may stay,” they said.

When the farmer arrived, the dog remembered his old job. Suddenly he barked and ran and nipped at the cows’ ankles to herd them over to the farmer. The farmer laughed and patted the dog’s head. He took the dog home, but the dog had to sleep in the barn with the cows, who took some time to forgive him.
Answer the questions below.

1. Why did the cows form a half-circle?
   A. They were grazing in the same small area.
   B. They were blocking the dog’s way.
   C. The best grass grew in that corner of the pasture.
   D. The farmer had called them over.

2. What is the climax of this story?
   F. The farmer arrives.
   G. The dog herds the cows.
   H. The farmer takes the dog home.
   J. The cows forgive the dog.

3. Which of the following events happened first?
   A. The cows formed a half-circle.
   B. The farmer took the dog home.
   C. The dog learned to herd cows.
   D. The cows murmured to the dog.

4. What is the dog’s reason for herding the cows?

Common Core State Standards

Questions 1, 2, 4: Literature 2. Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text. Question 3: Literature 1. Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says and when drawing inferences from the text.