The Native Americans of California tell this story about a cricket who chased away a mountain lion. The mountain lion jumped onto a hollow log and sat down. Before he had settled down, a cricket hopped out of the log and scolded him.

“Get off my roof, trespasser!” Cricket yelled.

Lion just looked at Cricket. He could not believe that this tiny creature was telling him what to do. He climbed off the log and crouched low on the ground, eye to eye with Cricket.

“I am the chief of the whole animal tribe,” said Lion haughtily. “I can do as I please. Why, I could crush your house with one paw!”

“If you did, you’d be sorry,” said Cricket. “My cousin will come after you if you do anything like that.”

“I am not afraid of any insect,” Lion growled. “Tell your cousin to meet us here tomorrow. If he can make me run away, I will never bother you again. If he can’t, well, you better get ready to move.”

The next morning, Lion returned to Cricket’s log. As he called out to Cricket, he heard a buzzing in his ear. Suddenly that ear began to sting and itch, and Lion howled in pain.

“Meet my cousin, Mosquito,” said Cricket.

Lion scratched his ear furiously, shook his head, and begged Cricket to make Mosquito leave him alone.

“That’s enough, Cousin,” said Cricket. Mosquito flew out of Lion’s ear. Lion bounded away as fast as he could. And he never came back.
Answer the questions below.

1. Why did Cricket scream at Lion?
   A. Lion threatened Cricket.
   B. Lion crushed Cricket’s house.
   C. Lion sat on Cricket’s log.
   D. Lion made too much noise.

2. What caused Lion’s ear to sting?
   F. Cricket was yelling at him.
   G. Mosquito was buzzing in it.
   H. Lion was shaking his head.
   J. Lion was scratching his ear.

3. What was the effect of Lion’s meeting with Mosquito?
   A. Lion ran away.
   B. Lion threatened Cricket.
   C. Lion slapped Mosquito.
   D. Lion challenged Cricket.

4. How would you describe the change in Lion at the end of the story?
   F. He became less boastful.
   G. He became less patient.
   H. He became more foolish.
   J. He became more angry.

5. Why do you think people would enjoy a story about a cricket who chased away a lion?

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Common Core State Standards

Questions 1–4: 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 5: Literature 1. Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says and when drawing inferences from the text.