One morning, Princess Adrienne decided she did not want to read or study, so she rang for the royal magician.

“I wish to see you do your wonderful magic and make every one of these dreadful books disappear — at once!” she said.

“But... but... you are supposed to be studying the books!” protested the magician.

“You are here, in the presence of a princess!” she said. “Do not object to my request. Get rid of the books — and every book in this kingdom! Give them to the birds!”

The magician mumbled something, and suddenly the books were gone. Soon, the princess was playing ball and listening to the hushed sound of the murmuring brook. She swung on trees, collected rocks, and did all the things children think of to do on sunny days! At noon, she ran home for lunch.
A great crowd of people had pushed and shoved their way into the king's hall. They were crying and shouting and acting as if something terrible had happened.

"I was making a wagon," said one man to the king. "When I looked for the book that tells me what to do, it was gone!"

"I was playing the piano," said another. "My music book flew out the window."

"I-I didn't think of that," said the princess, lowering her head. The people paused.

"I wanted to play," the princess confessed. "I told the magician to send all the books away. I'm sorry."

"Well, find the books!" roared the indignant king. "Find every book and promptly put it back where it belongs!"

For days, the princess and the people searched. Then one day, they found the books in every bird nest in the kingdom! Each nest was filled with books, magazines, and newspapers!

When all the books were returned to their proper places, the princess sat back and opened one.

"Listen to what this book says!" she cried.

"Never make a wish without thinking about how everyone feels about the matter. I like that!"

— adapted by Pat Cusick
**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

Write the letter of the best answer for each question.

1. How did Adrienne feel about being a princess?
   A. She didn’t like it.
   B. She was shy about it.
   C. She never thought about it.
   D. She was proud of it.

2. Which person seemed afraid of the princess?
   A. the king
   B. the wagon maker
   C. the magician
   D. the piano player

3. When Adrienne found out what her request had done, how did she feel?
   A. angry
   B. happy
   C. calm
   D. sorry

4. When the king found out what Adrienne had done, how did he feel?
   A. angry
   B. sorry
   C. joyful
   D. afraid

5. Why did a crowd gather in the king’s hall?
   A. They wanted to see the funny birds’ nests.
   B. They came for the magic show.
   C. They wanted to tell the king about their disappearing books.
   D. They wanted to see the princess punished.

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**VOCABULARY**

Find each vocabulary word in the selection. The words and sentences around it will help you figure out its meaning.

Write the letter of the best definition of the underlined word.

1. Princess Adrienne did not want to read any of the dreadful books.
   A. very unpleasant
   B. exciting
   C. very difficult
   D. having to do with learning

2. The princess loved to listen to the murmuring brook.
   A. violent
   B. covered with ice and snow
   C. making low, steady sounds
   D. moving quickly

3. “I told the magician to send the books away,” the princess confessed.
   A. said proudly
   B. admitted doing something wrong
   C. said in a bored way
   D. said in a bossy way

4. The indignant king ordered that the books be found.
   A. angry
   B. interested
   C. giant
   D. happy

5. The books need to be put back promptly.
   A. tomorrow
   B. slowly and carefully
   C. gently
   D. in a quick and timely manner