The Ant Explorer

Once a little sugar ant made up his mind to roam--
To fare away far away, far away from home.
He had eaten all his breakfast, and he had his ma's consent
To see what he should chance to see and here's the way he went--
Up and down a fern frond, round and round a stone,
Down a gloomy gully where he loathed to be alone,
Up a mighty mountain range, seven inches high,
Through the fearful forest grass that nearly hid the sky,
Out along a bracken bridge, bending in the moss,
Till he reached a dreadful desert that was feet and feet across.
'Twas a dry, deserted desert, and a trackless land to tread,
He wished that he was home again and tucked-up tight in bed.
His little legs were wobbly, his strength was nearly spent,
And so he turned around again and here's the way he went--
Back away from desert lands feet and feet across,
Back along the bracken bridge bending in the moss,
Through the fearful forest grass shutting out the sky,
Up a mighty mountain range seven inches high,
Down a gloomy gully, where he loathed to be alone,
Up and down a fern frond and round and round a stone.
A dreary ant, a weary ant, resolved no more to roam,
He staggered up the garden path and popped back home.

"The Ant Explorer," from ROUNDABOUT by C.J. Dennis, illustrated by Catherine Garant.
1. The following lines suggest that the grass is—

"Through the fearful forest grass that nearly hid the sky"

A. scary.
B. tall and almost hides the sky.
C. as tall as the sky.
D. wet.

2. The poet chooses to use the story in the poem mainly to—

F. show how the ant learned an important lesson.
G. entertain the reader.
H. show strong emotion.
J. show the personality of the ant.

3. In the poem, the poet uses the repetition of some of the lines to show—

A. the path the ant took to and from his journey.
B. rhyme.
C. the ant’s emotion.
D. the danger in the ant’s journey.

4. The poet shows that the ant—

F. is tired.
G. is strong.
H. is determined.
J. learned a lesson.
5 What is the main idea of the poem?

A Ants travel long distances.
B Ants like to explore new places.
C A mother ant teaches a lesson.
D The path one chooses may be long and difficult.

6 Read these lines of the poem.

Till he reached a dreadful desert that was feet and feet across. 'Twas a dry, deserted desert, and a trackless land to tread, He wished that he was home again and tucked-up tight in bed.

An important idea in these lines is that the—

F desert is deadly.
G ant dislikes deserts.
H desert is hot and wide.
J danger of the desert made the ant miss the comforts of home.
**Title of the Selection** The Ant Explorer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOMEONE</th>
<th>a little sugar ant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Character</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WANTED</td>
<td>to roam far away from home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
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<td>BUT</td>
<td>he found his travel to be lonely and difficult</td>
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<td>Problem</td>
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<td>SO</td>
<td>he turned around and went back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solution</td>
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<td>THEN</td>
<td>dreary and weary resolved to roam away from home no more</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome</td>
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</tbody>
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The words in uppercase letters are useful in writing a summary.

A little sugar ant wanted to roam far away from home, but he found his travel to be lonely and difficult. So he turned around and went back. Then dreary and weary resolved to roam away from home no more.

**Teacher Answer Key:**