

### Problem Solved

Once there was an old man. He had a rooster that crowed every morning. The neighbors did not like this, so they came to visit the old man. They talked to him about his **bothersome** rooster. They asked him to keep his noisy rooster quiet. The old man replied that he couldn't get rid of the rooster, but he promised to fix the situation within a week.

The following morning, the rooster crowed, and a donkey was braying. It was very loud. The neighbors came straight to the old man and complained. The old man reminded them that he promised quiet in a week. The neighbors went back home.

The next morning, the rooster, the donkey, and a cow made a lot of noise. The cow could moo as loud as the donkey. And the rooster crowed just as loud as the other two animals. The loud noises woke all the neighbors up. By now, they had little sleep and all were very grumpy. So grumpy, in fact, that two of the neighbors had a fight over who got to talk with the old man. Finally, they decided to march over together to demand some peace and quiet. The old man reminded them of his promise.

This continued each day for a week. Each morning a new animal would join the noise. The noise grew louder and louder. By the end of the week, the neighbors marched to the old man and demanded he fix the noise. The old man promised that all would be quiet by morning.

The following morning, only the rooster remained. He crowed just once. The neighbors couldn't believe it! The morning was so peaceful and calm. They went to the old man to thank him for his kindness.

1. What does the word **bothersome** mean?
  - a. silly
  - b. intelligent
  - c. annoying
  - d. hard working
2. Why did the neighbors come to visit the old man?
  - a. They wanted to buy a rooster of their own.
  - b. They wanted to get the old man to make the rooster be quiet.
  - c. They wanted him to share his animals with them.
  - d. They thought he might have their lost rooster.
3. What was the effect of having the cow, donkey, and rooster be noisy?
  - a. The neighbors fought over who got to talk with the old man.
  - b. Everyone woke up and decided to move.
  - c. The neighbors held a meeting and voted who got to talk with the old man.
  - d. The cow tried to bray louder than the rooster crowed.
4. Why did the neighbors thank the old man for his kindness?
  - a. The old man gave them all the animals.
  - b. They were happy that only the rooster crowed.
  - c. The neighbors did not thank the old man.
  - d. They thanked him because he helped them get more sleep.
5. How did the old man solve his problem?
  - a. He got rid of the rooster.
  - b. He added more animals to his farm.
  - c. He created more noise so that the rooster's crowing didn't seem so loud.
  - d. He got rid of all his animals.

## Answer Key

1. c
2. b
3. a
4. b
5. c