Welcome to the Oasis
Story By: Andrew Frinkle

The camel was very thirsty. He had been walking for days, and his last drink had been weeks ago. His wide toes spread out upon the hot sand as he dragged his feet forward one more time. It was so hard to go on.

When would he reach water? He was normally good at holding out for water for weeks, but this was really stretching his ability to wait. The sun beat down on him like a hot hammer, and he was reaching the end of his reserves of energy. If he didn’t find water and food soon, he knew he would perish.

He staggered along, dragging his weary limbs a few more steps toward the ridge of another dune. It was easier to walk along the top of a hill, rather than along the bottom. Either way, with the sun overhead, there was no shade. Oh, how that would feel, to be in the shade, cooling his mouth with a sip of water.

At the top of the dune, he thought he caught a glimpse of something distant and green. Was it a mirage, a trick of the heat and light? Was there really something green? Plants needed water, and water made things green. There could be some grasses to chew, with juices and water inside them. Maybe there was even more to eat and drink?

He picked up his pace and moved at a trot. It was all he could do, though he wanted to run. That distant green resolved itself into leaves and grasses and the brown trunks of a couple trees. Sweet-smelling grasses swayed in the winds, shaded by the tall trees.

With a few last stumbling steps, the camel arrived at the oasis. He clambered up to a small spring, no bigger than a step across, and slurped until he could drink no more. Then, he stood in the shade and cropped the grasses around him.

He was saved! With a little rest, he could soon move on to his destination.
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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What kind of place is the camel in?
   A. the jungle
   B. a forest
   C. the desert
   D. the mountains

2. What is the camel searching for?
   A. shelter
   B. his owner
   C. a new home
   D. food and water

3. How does the camel feel in the beginning of the story?
   A. He’s weary and losing hope.
   B. He’s happy and cheerful.
   C. He never gives up hope.
   D. He’s not worried at all.

4. What does the camel come across?
   A. an oasis
   B. a jug of water
   C. a bunch of food
   D. gold

5. YES OR NO: Does the camel seem like it will survive?
   A. Yes
   B. No
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