

**The Van Gogh Café**  
CCSS Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Score: / 9

**Directions:**

Use what you know about **The Van Gogh Café** to answer each of the following questions.

1. What does the author mean when she writes that, "the Van Gogh Café gets its magic because the building used to be theater"?

- A A magician used to own the theater.
- B The theater and café were built on a magic piece of land.
- C Anything can happen on a theater stage, and that creates magic.
- D Everybody loves the theater.

2. How do Clara's actions throughout the story support the theme that anything is possible?

- A She is impatient and never trusts when something strange happens.
- B She works and goes to school and doesn't pay attention to anything else.
- C She worries about everything and tries to fix any problems right away.
- D Clara notices the unexpected and is patient for the magic to happen.

3. What happened to Marc after lightning struck the Van Gogh Café?

- A He closed the café because the electricity was broken.
- B He never burned any more food and started writing poetry that told the future.
- C He started burning all the food because he was too busy writing poems.
- D He became sad and did not want to work anymore.

4. In the chapter, "The Writer", it says that Clara "fascinates" the writer. Based on clues in the paragraph, what are synonyms for "fascinates"?

- A interests, catches the attention of
- B scares, makes him feel uneasy
- C helps, serves
- D bores, makes him sleep

CCSS Assessment

5. Who are the main characters in *The Van Gogh Café*? (RL.4.5)

- A Marc and Clara
- B the writer
- C the possum and the gull
- D the regular customers from the town

6. The story is told by a narrator, but, in the end, we can infer who is really telling the story. Who is it? (RL.4.6)

- A It is Clara, but she didn't want anyone to know she had written the stories.
- B It is "the star", because he wanted to be famous again.
- C It is "the writer", who almost gave up on writing until he sat at the café.
- D It is Clara's mother, because she misses Clara and is imagining what her life is like.

7. If this story were made into a play or movie, what would be important in the visual representation and/or the set? (RL.4.7)

- A Clara must have long brown hair.
- B The phonograph, hen, pie carousel, and the neon sign are important to the set.
- C The town must be named Flowers.
- D Clara's mom should be added to the story and should work at the café also.

8. What is a pattern we can notice as we read chapter to chapter in this story? (RL.4.9)

- A Clara is the one in control of all the magic.
- B The magic in the café does not help anyone, it only harms.
- C There is not really any magic. Clara has a good imagination.
- D Once the magic has done its job, it goes away and something new happens.

9. What is the genre of *The Van Gogh Café*? (RL.4.10)

- A It is Clara's memoir of her childhood.
- B It is a biography of Vincent Van Gogh.
- C It is a fantasy – a magical fiction story.
- D It is a folktale that has been passed down through many generations.

Common Core Assessment:  
One question for each Reading  
Informational OR Reading Literature  
standard (1-9)



Answer Key

