Read the story “A Special Place.” Then answer Numbers 1 through 10.

A Special Place

Jill was very happy. Her teacher was taking the class to the city library.

“Please keep quiet inside,” the teacher reminded them. “A library is a quiet place.”

One part of the library seemed special to Jill. It was a quiet little nook in the children’s section. The corner had a soft blue chair that faced a large window. The window looked out on the street. You could see the park across the street.

“We call that the ‘catbird seat’,” the librarian told Jill. “We call it that for a funny reason. It would be a fine spot for a cat to watch for birds.”

Jill looked out the window. She could see many birds in the park. Jill could also see people walking their dogs.
The library soon became Jill's favorite place. She went there often after school. It was quiet and relaxing. Jill could always find something to read there.

Jill was happiest when no one was in the catbird seat. When she sat there, she could look up from the book she was reading. Then she could see what was happening outside. From her special place, she could see drivers honking, trucks making deliveries, and people talking. But inside the library it was perfectly quiet.
Lesson 10  Decoding Practice

NAME ___________________________ Date ________________

1 Read this sentence from the story.

   It was a quiet little nook in the children’s section.

   What does the word *nook* mean in the sentence?

   A. book
   B. corner
   C. movie
   D. song

2 How did Jill discover the library?

   A. She read about it.
   B. She saw it from the park.
   C. She lived nearby.
   D. She went on a field trip.

3 When the children first entered the library, the teacher wanted them to remember to

   A. call that the catbird seat.
   B. please keep quiet.
   C. check out one or two books.
   D. look out the library windows.
4 Read this sentence from the story.

   It would be a fine spot for a cat to watch for birds.

   What does the word fine mean in the sentence?
   
   A. warm  
   B. funny  
   C. secret  
   D. good  

5 What do you think the catbird seat looks like? Use information and details provided in the story to help you write your answer.

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Lesson 10  Decoding Practice

NAME ___________________________  Date ________________

6. Which word describes how Jill probably feels when she is in the catbird seat?
   A. lonely
   B. angry
   C. peaceful
   D. bored

7. Jill enjoyed being in the library for all of the following reasons EXCEPT
   A. reading.
   B. watching.
   C. relaxing.
   D. exercising.

8. This story is MAINLY about a
   A. good book.
   B. special place.
   C. child’s hopes.
   D. kind librarian.

9. Which of these is in the nook?
   A. a blue chair
   B. a soft carpet
   C. a nice lamp
   D. a wooden table
Suppose you sat in the catbird seat for an hour one Saturday afternoon. What do you think you would see? Use information and details provided in the story to help you write your answer.

Writing Tip: Read the parts of the story that tell about what you can see from the catbird seat. What other things might you see like these?