



Test Your Y.Q. (Yiddish intelligence Quotient)

1. True or False: Many words we use in English can be traced to Yiddish.
2. Yiddish is a language that has its roots in other languages, including:
 - a) German and Hebrew.
 - b) Hebrew and Polish.
 - c) French and Polish.
 - d) *Oy gevalt* – all of the above!
3. A *bubbelah* is a:
 - a) Drink with bubbles in it.
 - b) Delicious pastry you can *nosh*.
 - c) “Little grandmother,” but it’s also used to mean “sweetie.”
 - d) Horse that pulls a milk wagon.
4. You use your *tuchus* for:
 - a) Sitting.
 - b) Playing the piano.
 - c) Writing a letter to your *bubbe*.
 - d) Baking a delicious pastry you can *nosh*.
5. What’s all this about *noshing*? You are making me hungry. I’d like to *nosh*:
 - a) A bagel (did you know that *bagel* was a Yiddish word? It is related to another delicious bread, the *bialy*, which is like a flat bagel with a dimple instead of a hole and with flour, onions or garlic on it).
 - b) A *schtikl* cake (a little bit of cake).
 - c) *Rugelach* (cookies with jam, nuts, chocolate or all three rolled inside).
 - d) All of the above!
6. In *When Life Gives You O.J.*, Zelly’s grandpa Ace uses a lot of Yiddish words. Why does he do this?
 - a) He grew up hearing them, so they are familiar and comfortable to him.
 - b) He wants to keep Yiddish alive by teaching them to his grandchildren.
 - c) They express exactly what he wants to say - like when he yells “MESHUGGENE!” at politicians he doesn’t like on television - in a way that English doesn’t.
 - d) All of the above.



ANSWERS FOR "TEST YOUR Y.Q."

1. True, 2. D, 3. C, 4. A (but also B & C, because who plays the piano or writes letters standing up?), 5. D, 6. D

Art from the jacket of *When Life Gives You OJ* © 2011 by David Goldin