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