Patrick and his father did not agree about Daylight Savings Time. Patrick thought the only good thing about Daylight Savings Time was that people got to sleep an hour longer the night it ended. And then, Patrick thought, since it was just making up for an hour they’d given up earlier, it didn’t even count.

Patrick’s father said when people got up an hour earlier in the summer, they used electric lights for an hour less each day, which saved energy. Patrick responded that reliable scientific studies had debunked this. Patrick pointed out that Daylight Savings Time was first suggested by Benjamin Franklin in 1784 – as a joke. Patrick agreed with Benjamin Franklin. Patrick said the only thing Daylight Savings Time did was make him an hour late for something once a year.

“Well, no one will be late in our house this year,” Patrick’s father said. “I’m going to reset all the clocks tonight.”

“Do you have to set them an hour ahead or an hour back?” Patrick asked.

“Spring forward, fall back,” his father said. “That makes it easy to remember. In the spring, we set our clocks ahead one hour. In the fall, when Daylight Savings Time ends, we move them back one hour. I’m taking care of the clocks before we go to bed, so now you’ll have no excuse to be late tomorrow. We’re getting up early to go fishing.”

“Whatever,” Patrick said.

Patrick’s father was busy changing clocks that night. “Gee, I had no idea we had so many clocks,” he said.

Not only was there a clock in each room, plus clock radios and alarm clocks in each bedroom, there was also a clock in the oven, one in each of their three computers, one in the DVD player, and another in the stereo. There was a clock in each of their mobile phones, and one in each car. There was a clock in the coffee maker, and in the microwave oven. Patrick’s father was surprised at all the appliances with clocks. “Why does a toaster need a clock?” he wondered. By the time he went to bed, he was very sleepy.

The house was very quiet when Patrick got up the next morning. He was afraid he was late again, and everyone had left without him. But according to the all the clocks in the kitchen, he was on time. Patrick made himself breakfast. After eating, he checked his parents’ bedroom. His mother and father were both sound asleep, despite the quiet ticking of the alarm clock on his father’s nightstand. The clock was working, but the alarm wasn’t. His father had been so sleepy from resetting all the clocks in the house that he had forgotten to set the alarms.

Patrick went back downstairs and watched cartoons with his little brother until his parents woke up. “There are benefits to Daylight Savings Time after all,” Patrick said.
SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. In this story, who thinks Daylight Savings Time is a good thing?
   a. Patrick
   b. Patrick’s father
   c. Patrick’s little brother
   d. Patrick’s mother

2. Who first proposed Daylight Savings Time?
   a. Patrick’s father
   b. Thomas Jefferson
   c. Benjamin Franklin
   d. No one knows.

3. What does Patrick’s father plan to do the next day?
   a. reset the clocks
   b. go fishing
   c. read about Benjamin Franklin
   d. sleep late

4. How many computers does Patrick’s family have?
   a. one
   b. two
   c. three
   d. four

5. How many alarm clocks are on Patrick’s father’s nightstand the next morning?
   a. 9
   b. 10
   c. 11
   d. 1

6. Who oversleeps in this story?
   a. Patrick’s father
   b. Patrick’s brother
   c. Patrick
   d. Benjamin Franklin
SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK

Answer these questions in complete sentences.

1. According to Patrick’s father, what is the main benefit of Daylight Savings Time?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

2. According to Patrick, what is the main benefit of Daylight Savings Time?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

3. Was Benjamin Franklin a supporter of Daylight Savings Time? How do you know?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

4. What surprised Patrick’s father?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

5. Do you think Patrick likes to fish? Why or why not?

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

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Reading Comprehension/Fiction

SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK

Name _____________________________________ Date _______________________

Answer this question using information from the text and your own experience, research, understanding, etc.

What do you think are the benefits of Daylight Savings Time, if any? What are the drawbacks, if any? Is there a time when DST has affected your life?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

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____________________________________________________________________
SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK

ANSWERS
MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. c
5. d
6. a

SHORT ANSWER

Answers will vary. Accept reasonable responses that include the ideas below.

1. It saves energy.
2. You get an extra hour of sleep when it is over (Or: there is no benefit, according to Patrick).
3. No. He suggested it as a joke.
4. Patrick’s father was surprised at how many clocks they had in the house.
5. Probably not – he watches cartoons with his brother instead of waking his father to go fishing.

ESSAY

Answers will vary. Accept reasonable responses.