The Case of the Missing Case

Miss Taree, the world-famous detective, was reading the morning newspaper. “Fiddle Fest 500,” she read aloud. “A world famous violinist will be joined by 499 fiddlers, adults, and children alike.”

Suddenly, the phone rang. It was the world-famous violinist calling to say that his violin case had gone missing from the hall. Miss Taree met him onstage exactly ten minutes later.

Miss Taree asked the janitor if he had seen the missing case. The janitor said, “There is no missing case. I put all 500 violin cases in the storeroom this morning!” Then Miss Taree asked the famous violinist to describe his case. He said it was big, black, curvy, and had no name tag.

She separated the big and small cases into two piles. Next, she sorted the big cases into two piles, black and brown. She kept on sorting this way until she had a pile of twenty big, black, curvy cases with no name tags.

Then she inquired what was in the missing case. “Just my lunch,” said the violinist. “A sardine sandwich, a big slice of blue cheese and some pickled cabbage.”

Miss Taree began sniffing the big, black, curvy cases without name tags. “Yuck, I think I found it,” she said, holding her nose and a violin case.

The violinist grabbed the case and opened it. “Yes! You’ve solved the case of the missing case!”
Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

1. What does Miss Taree do in the passage?
   - She plays in Fiddle Fest 500.
   - She makes a new friend.
   - She guards violin cases.
   - She solves a mystery.

2. Read this sentence from the passage.
   
   She separated the big and small cases into two piles.
   
   Which phrase is a clue to the meaning of the word separated in the sentence above?
   - and small
   - cases into
   - the big
   - two piles

3. What did Miss Taree do AFTER the violinist described his case but BEFORE finding the missing case?
   - She sorted the cases.
   - She read the newspaper.
   - She answered the phone.
   - She talked to the janitor.

4. How does Miss Taree finally find the violinist’s case?
   - She asks him how big it is.
   - She asks him what color it is.
   - She asks him what shape it is.
   - She asks him what is in the case.

5. Is Miss Taree a good detective? Why or why not? Support your answer with at least two details from the passage. Write your response on another sheet of paper.