

Quick Check

Scratching a Good Story

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What is Tyler's main problem?
 - Ⓐ He has a talking pen.
 - Ⓑ He doesn't know what to write.
 - Ⓒ A boy steals his green cap.
 - Ⓓ He wants to play in the park.
2. The important event near the end of the story, or the turning point, is called the _____.
 - Ⓐ climax
 - Ⓑ character
 - Ⓒ dialogue
 - Ⓓ scheme
3. What does the pen tell Tyler is the best solution to writer's block?
 - Ⓐ to stop and go play outside for awhile
 - Ⓑ to start over on clean paper
 - Ⓒ to just end the story
 - Ⓓ to just keep writing
4. Why didn't Mountain give Jackson back his green cap?
 - Ⓐ He needed it for his hat collection.
 - Ⓑ He was using it to cover up his green hair.
 - Ⓒ He liked the way it fit on his head.
 - Ⓓ He didn't have any friends.
5. In Tyler's story, what does Jackson do after Mountain steals his cap?
 - Ⓐ He complains to a teacher.
 - Ⓑ He transfers to another school.
 - Ⓒ He hides in the bathroom.
 - Ⓓ He runs home.

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Name _____ Date _____

6. What do you think the author's purpose was in writing this book?
 - Ⓐ to explain the elements of a good story
 - Ⓑ to entertain readers with a fun story about a boy and his talking pen
 - Ⓒ to show readers the similarities between Tyler and Jackson
 - Ⓓ both A and B
7. How are the characters of Jackson and Mountain alike?
 - Ⓐ They are both really small.
 - Ⓑ They both have a lot of friends.
 - Ⓒ They both stare and frown a lot.
 - Ⓓ They both look different and want other kids to like them.
8. Where did Tyler get the idea for his main character, Jackson?
 - Ⓐ He borrowed it from another book he read.
 - Ⓑ He had a friend who dyed her hair blue.
 - Ⓒ The talking pen made it up.
 - Ⓓ He saw it in a movie.
9. Read this sentence: *Tyler creates **conflict** within his story.* What is **conflict**?
 - Ⓐ the sequence of events in a story
 - Ⓑ the point at which a character is introduced
 - Ⓒ a disagreement of ideas or opinions between people or groups
 - Ⓓ the beginning of a story
10. Read the following sentences: *You can always go back and revise, or make changes. Revision is very important in storytelling.* Do these sentences inform, persuade, or entertain readers?
 - Ⓐ inform
 - Ⓑ persuade and inform
 - Ⓒ entertain
 - Ⓓ inform and entertain
11. **Extended Response:** Why do you think the character of Jackson thinks everyone is always laughing at him?
12. **Extended Response:** How will you go about writing your next story? Explain.

Quick Check Answer Sheet

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Main Comprehension Skill: Author's Purpose

1. Ⓑ *Problem and Solution*
2. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
3. Ⓓ *Problem and Solution*
4. Ⓑ *Cause and Effect*
5. Ⓒ *Sequence Events*
6. Ⓓ *Author's Purpose*
7. Ⓓ *Compare and Contrast*
8. Ⓑ *Main Idea and Details*
9. Ⓒ *Vocabulary*
10. Ⓐ *Author's Purpose*
11. Answers will vary but should include any conclusions drawn from the story and personal experience. Answers could include ideas such as that he is embarrassed about his hair, kids can sometimes be mean to other kids who look different, and so on.
12. Answers will vary according to personal experiences and opinions but should include some of the advice the pen gave Tyler, for example, *draw ideas from the people and things surrounding you, keep writing through writer's block, make your characters interesting, make sure you have a conflict, and so on.*