Name _____ Date _____

How One Scene Fits the Whole Story: The Missing Trophy

Directions: Read the story. Each scene has its own heading. Then answer each question.

The Missing Trophy

Monday Morning

The glass case outside the gym had a long crack across the front, and the shelf inside was empty. The district championship trophy was gone. By first period, everyone had heard the same rumor: Marcus, the new seventh grader on the team, had been the last person standing by the case after practice on Friday.

Lunch

Nobody sat near Marcus at lunch. Someone had stuck a note on his locker with one word on it, *Thief?*, and he ate his sandwich without looking up. Jada watched him from two tables away. She had been at that practice too, and she realized that no one had actually seen Marcus take anything.

Tuesday Morning

Before the first bell, Mr. Hale, the custodian, set the trophy back on the shelf behind brand-new glass. "Marcus spotted that crack on Friday and came to find me," he told the crowd in the hallway. "I locked the trophy in the office until I could fix the case. That kid probably saved it."

Tuesday Lunch

On her way to the cafeteria, Jada peeled the note off Marcus's locker and dropped it in the recycling bin. Then she carried her tray straight to his table. A few teammates followed her, and then a few more. Marcus looked up, surprised, and slid his backpack off the empty chair beside him.

1. The story is told in four scenes. Match each scene to the part of the plot it is.
Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Monday Morning
2. _____ Lunch
3. _____ Tuesday Morning
4. _____ Tuesday Lunch

A. Climax
B. Resolution
C. Rising action
D. Exposition

2. The first scene says, "By first period, everyone had heard the same rumor" about Marcus. How does this detail fit into the rest of the story?

A. It shows that only a few friends knew about the missing trophy.
B. It proves that Marcus really took the trophy.
C. It explains how the glass in the case got cracked.
D. It shows that the rumor spreads fast, before students hear what really happened.

3. What would the story lose if the scene called "Lunch" were cut?

A. The reader would not see how the rumor hurt Marcus before the truth came out.

B. The reader would never find out where the trophy had been.

C. The reader would not know that Marcus is on the team.

D. The reader would never learn that the trophy was missing.

4. Read this sentence about Jada: "She had been at that practice too, and she realized that no one had actually seen Marcus take anything." How does it fit into the rest of the story?

A. It shows that Jada wants Marcus off the team.

B. It shows that Jada saw Marcus take the trophy.

C. It proves that Marcus could not have taken the trophy.

D. It shows Jada starting to doubt the rumor, which prepares for what she does at the end.

5. Which two details from earlier in the story make more sense after Mr. Hale explains what happened? Select two.

☐ A. "Jada watched him from two tables away"

☐ B. "the new seventh grader on the team"

☐ C. "The glass case outside the gym"

☐ D. "standing by the case after practice on Friday"

☐ E. "a long crack across the front"

6. The last scene takes place at lunch, just like an earlier scene. What has changed?

A. Marcus is still eating alone without looking up.

B. Someone sticks a second note on Marcus's locker.

C. This time, students choose to sit with Marcus instead of avoiding him.

D. Jada sits two tables away from Marcus again.

7. Read the last sentence of the story: "Marcus looked up, surprised, and slid his backpack off the empty chair beside him." How does this sentence fit the ending?

A. It shows Marcus making room for the others, so the story ends with him welcomed instead of alone.

B. It shows that Marcus is getting ready to leave the table.

C. It shows that Marcus has been hiding the trophy in his backpack.

D. It shows that Marcus wants to be left alone.

8. How does the order of the scenes help build the story's message about rumors?

A. The reader sees the rumor hurt Marcus before learning that he did nothing wrong.

B. Each scene is told by a different character, so the reader hears every side.

C. The scenes jump back in time to show what happened at Friday's practice.

D. The reader learns the truth first, so the rumor never seems believable.