Name _____ Date _____

Describing a Character with Evidence and Finding the Central Message: The New Goalie

Directions: Read the story about Dara. Use details from the story to answer each question. Choose one answer unless the question asks you to choose two.

The New Goalie

Dara had never wanted to play goalie. But the soccer team's goalie had moved away, and Coach Ruiz needed someone by Saturday.

"I'll try," Dara said. Her voice came out smaller than she meant it to. What if she let the whole team down?

All week she stayed after practice. She asked Milo to shoot at her until the streetlights came on. Each time the ball got past her, she wrote the spot in a notebook: low left, low left, high right. By Friday, most of the marks said low left.

On Saturday, the first shot of the game flew past her into the net. Low left. Her teammates groaned.

"My fault," Dara called. "I leaned the wrong way." She did not look at the ground. She watched the striker's feet.

In the second half, the same striker broke free. Dara remembered her notebook. She took one step to her left before the kick. The ball smacked into her gloves.

The game ended in a tie. Milo ran over. "You saved us!"

Dara shook her head. "You took a hundred shots at me this week," she said. "That save was half yours."

That night she opened the notebook and started a new page.

1. What is the central message of "The New Goalie"?

A. Steady practice and learning from mistakes can make a person better at a hard job.
B. One mistake at the start of a game can spoil the rest of it.
C. When you face a hard job, you have to figure it out on your own.
D. When you reach a goal, it is time to leave that challenge behind and try a new one.

2. How does Dara feel about playing goalie at the start of the story?

A. unsure, but willing to try
B. proud that she was picked
C. sure that she will do well
D. angry at her coach

3. Dara works hard to get ready for the game. Which detail does the story give as proof?

A. She asks Coach Ruiz for an extra lesson.

B. She watches goalies on television each night.

C. She runs around the field each morning.

D. She stays after practice all week.

4. Dara keeps a notebook to help her play goalie. Which two details show how she uses it? Select two.

☐ A. She remembers her notebook when the striker breaks free in the second half.

☐ B. While she practices with Milo, she writes down the spot each time a shot gets past her.

☐ C. She shows the notebook to Coach Ruiz.

☐ D. She copies drills from a library book.

☐ E. She draws the field on the first page.

5. What does Dara's response to the first goal show about her?

A. She needs someone else to tell her what to do next.

B. She uses a joke to get over a mistake.

C. She lets her anger take over.

D. She can admit a mistake and stay focused.

6. After the game, Milo says that Dara saved the team. What does her answer show about her?

A. She shares the credit for the save.

B. She thinks she deserves all the credit for the save.

C. She is still upset about the first goal.

D. She thinks the save was mostly luck.

7. Dara uses what she learned in practice during the game. What in the story shows this?

A. She calls to a teammate, who blocks the shot.

B. She steps to her left before the kick and stops the ball.

C. She runs out and kicks the ball away from the striker.

D. She dives to her right and tips the ball over the net.