Name _____ Date _____

How a Narrator's Point of View Shapes a Story and Theme: The Day the Power Went Out

Directions: Read the story of one dark afternoon. Notice who is speaking as you answer.

The Day the Power Went Out

The power died at 4:12 on Saturday afternoon, right in the middle of my game. The screen went black. The refrigerator stopped humming. Our whole house turned into a cave.

"Everything is ruined," I announced.

Nobody agreed with me. My little brother, Zeke, was already dragging couch cushions across the floor to build a fort. Grandpa came in from the porch, rubbing his hands together as if someone had handed him a present. "Listen to that," he said. "Not one beep."

I listened. All I heard was nothing, which was exactly the problem.

Grandpa lit a fat candle and set it on the table. It gave off a weak yellow glow that reached about as far as my elbows. He shuffled a deck of cards. "Come on, Bea. One hand."

One hand turned into six. Grandpa cheated badly, on purpose, and Zeke laughed until he tipped over. Somewhere in there I stopped checking the dead screen. The candle did not seem weak anymore. It made a small gold room inside the big dark one, and all three of us fit inside it.

At 7:30 the lights snapped on. The refrigerator hummed. My game blinked awake, right where I had left it.

"Back to the beeps," Grandpa sighed.

I looked at the cards in my hand. Then I reached over and switched the lamp off again. "One more hand," I said.

1. Which theme does "The Day the Power Went Out" best support?

A. Games on a screen are a waste of time.
B. Older people know more than children about having fun.
C. A family should always keep candles and cards in the house.
D. Something that feels like a loss can turn out to be a gift.

2. Bea is upset when the power dies, and her words make the outage sound huge. Which detail from the story shows her doing this?

A. She says the whole house turned into a cave.

B. She says the candle was as bright as the sun.

C. She says the fort filled the whole room.

D. She says the outage lasted a hundred years.

3. At first, Grandpa does not see the outage the way Bea does. Which detail does the story give to show the difference?

A. He rubs his hands together as if he had been handed a present.

B. He says he has waited all week long for a big storm.

C. He says that screens are bad for a young person's eyes.

D. He unplugs the refrigerator so that it will stay quiet.

4. How does Bea describe the candle's light when Grandpa first lights it, and what does that show?

A. She calls it cozy, which shows she has forgotten her game.

B. She calls it blinding, which shows she is ready for bed.

C. She calls it weak, which shows she is afraid of the dark.

D. She calls it weak, which shows she still wants the power back.

5. By the end, Bea sees the outage in a new way. Which two details from the story show the change? Select two.

☐ A. She switches the lamp off again.

☐ B. She stops checking the dead screen.

☐ C. She builds a fort with Zeke.

☐ D. She asks Grandpa to fix the lights.

☐ E. She hides the deck of cards.

6. How would the first part of the story most likely sound if Grandpa were the one narrating it?

A. The quiet would sound like a treat.

B. The cards would sound like a chore.

C. The quiet would sound like a danger.

D. The dark would sound like a punishment.

7. Because Bea narrates the story, what must a reader work out from clues?

A. what Grandpa and Zeke are thinking

B. what Bea hears when she stops to listen

C. what Zeke builds on the floor

D. what time the power went out