Name _____ Date _____

How a Character Changes: The Apology

Directions: Read the scene. Then answer each question.

The Apology

It was just a joke, Owen told himself for the third time that morning. On Sunday night he had posted a photo of Theo's comic in the class group chat with the caption *Theo's Masterpiece*, and twelve laughing faces had piled up under it before he went to bed.

At lunch, Theo carried his tray right past their usual table and sat down with the chess club instead. Owen shrugged and opened his milk. If Theo couldn't take a joke, that was Theo's problem.

In art class, Owen glanced across the room. Theo had his sketchbook open to the comic about a robot who dreamed of becoming a chef. He had been drawing it since September, and Owen was the only person he had ever shown it to. As Owen watched, Theo carefully tore the page out, folded it in half, and pushed it to the bottom of his backpack.

Owen's stomach dropped. Theo hadn't been showing the comic to the whole class. He had been trusting Owen with it.

After school, Owen found Theo unlocking his bike. He had planned to say *Sorry, but it was just a joke*, but now those words sounded wrong. "I'm sorry I posted your comic," he said instead. "You showed it to me because you trusted me, and I turned it into something to laugh at. I already deleted it."

Theo didn't answer for a long moment. Then he unzipped his backpack, pulled out the folded page, and smoothed it flat against his knee. "The robot finally bakes a cake in the next part," he said. "Maybe I'll show you. Maybe."

1. The scene begins: "It was just a joke, Owen told himself for the third time that morning." What does this sentence show about Owen at the start?

A. He is trying to convince himself that he did nothing wrong.
B. He is proud that Theo asked him to post the comic.
C. He thinks the joke is so funny that he keeps retelling it.
D. He has already apologized to Theo three times.

2. Which two details show how Theo responds to the post? Select two.

☐ A. "Owen shrugged and opened his milk."
☐ B. "twelve laughing faces had piled up under it"
☐ C. "Owen's stomach dropped."
☐ D. "Theo carefully tore the page out, folded it in half, and pushed it to the bottom of his backpack"
☐ E. "Theo carried his tray right past their usual table and sat down with the chess club instead"

3. How does the part at lunch, when Theo sits with the chess club, fit into the plot?

A. It is the moment Owen decides to apologize.

B. It explains how Theo first started drawing comics.

C. It shows the conflict growing, because Theo pulls away and Owen still blames him.

D. It solves the problem between Owen and Theo.

4. Which part of the scene makes Owen begin to see the post differently?

A. Seeing the laughing faces under the post on Sunday night

B. Watching Theo tear the comic out of his sketchbook in art class

C. Finding Theo unlocking his bike after school

D. Watching Theo sit with the chess club at lunch

5. Read these sentences: "Theo hadn't been showing the comic to the whole class. He had been trusting Owen with it." What does Owen understand now that he did not understand before?

A. The comic was not as good as Owen had thought.

B. Theo had asked Owen to post the comic for him.

C. Posting the comic broke the trust Theo had placed in him.

D. Theo had wanted the whole class to see the comic.

6. After school, Owen had planned to say "Sorry, but it was just a joke" to Theo. Why does he say something different?

A. He decides that the post was funny after all.

B. He realizes that calling it a joke would be an excuse, not a real apology.

C. Theo tells him not to talk about the joke.

D. He forgets the words he had planned to say.

7. How does Theo respond to Owen's apology at the end of the scene?

A. He tells Owen that they can never be friends again.

B. He laughs and says the post was funny after all.

C. He throws the folded page into the trash.

D. He starts to trust Owen again, though not completely yet.

8. Which statement describes how Owen changes over the course of the scene?

A. He goes from liking Theo's comic to thinking it is silly.

B. He goes from being Theo's friend to joining the chess club.

C. He goes from feeling guilty to feeling proud of the post.

D. He goes from brushing off Theo's hurt to taking responsibility for causing it.