Name _____ Date _____

Theme from a Character's Response to a Challenge: The Spelling Bee

Directions: Read the story about a spelling bee. Find support in the story for each answer you choose.

The Spelling Bee

For six weeks Luz had studied a stack of four hundred word cards, and by the morning of the school spelling bee she could spell every one.

Six spellers were left on the stage when the judge leaned toward her microphone. "Your word is *aqueduct*," she said.

Luz felt her stomach drop, because that word was not on a single one of her cards. She would have to use whatever else she knew. "May I have the definition, please?" she asked.

"An aqueduct is a channel built to carry water over a long distance," the judge answered.

Water made Luz think of *aquarium* and *aquatic*, and a duct was a pipe, like the air ducts on the gym ceiling. She fitted the two pieces together and spelled *aquaduct*, with an A after the U.

A bell rang once. "I am sorry," the judge said. "*Aqueduct* is spelled with an E after the U, not an A."

Luz had missed by one letter, and she walked to the folding chairs with her face burning. For a minute she wished she had never signed up.

Soon Remy missed his word too and dropped into the chair beside her with his arms folded. "That word was not fair," he muttered. "I am finished with spelling bees."

Luz opened the notebook in her lap. She wrote *aqueduct* at the top of a clean page, circled the E, and added a heading underneath: *Words That Break the Pattern*.

"I am not finished," she told him. "I just found out what to study next."

1. Which theme does "The Spelling Bee" best support?
   A. It is wiser to skip a contest than to risk losing it.
   B. Hard work is sure to be rewarded with a win.
   C. A mistake can show a person what to learn next.
   D. When something is new to you, it is safest to do what you have always done.

2. How does Luz come up with her spelling of the judge's word?

A. She sounds it out one letter at a time.
B. She pictures a page where she once saw it.
C. She repeats the way the judge said each part.
D. She joins two word parts that she already knows.

3. Luz's weeks of study do not cover everything. Which detail from the story shows this?

A. She studies one stack of cards and leaves a second stack untouched.
B. She skips the cards with the longest words on them.
C. Time runs out before she can finish her cards.
D. The word she must spell is not on a single one of her cards.

4. After each of them misses a word, how do Remy and Luz respond?

A. Remy sits down without a word, and Luz says she wants to go home.
B. Remy asks the judge for another try, and Luz starts a page of words to study.
C. Remy and Luz each ask the judge for another try.
D. Remy says he is finished with spelling bees, and Luz starts a page of words to study.

5. Right after the bell, Luz is upset. Which two details from the story show this? Select two.

☐ A. She drops her notebook on the floor.
☐ B. She covers her eyes with her hands.
☐ C. She wishes she had never signed up.
☐ D. Her face burns as she walks to the chairs.
☐ E. She hurries out of the gym.

6. Luz does not guess blindly at the judge's word. Which detail does the story give that shows this?

A. She asks which language the word comes from.
B. She asks to hear the word in a sentence.
C. She asks the judge to say the word again.
D. She asks for the definition.

7. Which choice is the best summary of "The Spelling Bee"?

A. Luz and Remy each miss a word at the spelling bee. Remy says the word he was given was not fair.
B. At the spelling bee, Luz misses an unfamiliar word by one letter and feels upset. She opens her notebook to a clean page and asks Remy to study with her.
C. At the spelling bee, Luz misses an unfamiliar word by one letter and feels upset. She opens her notebook to a clean page and tells Remy she is not finished.
D. Luz studies four hundred word cards for six weeks. At the school spelling bee, she is one of six spellers left on the stage.