Name _____ Date _____

A Narrator's Point of View: The New Kid Tells It

Directions: Read the scene. Then answer each question.

Third School, First Lunch

This is my third new school in two years, so I already know how it works. The first lunch decides everything. If you sit at the wrong table on the first day, you're stuck there until June.

I stood at the edge of the cafeteria, holding my tray with both hands. The room was a giant fish tank, and every other fish already knew which way to swim. I told myself to walk like I belonged there, but my feet did not listen.

The only open seat was at a table by the window, where four girls were sharing a bag of pretzels and talking all at once. When I sat down at the end of their table, one of them looked right at me and burst out laughing, and then all four were laughing.

My face went hot. I stared at my tray and counted the peas, one by one, so I would not have to look at anybody. Here we go again, I thought. Day one, and I'm already the joke.

"Sorry, sorry," the girl said, wiping her eyes. "Lena just told us her little brother tried to mail a sandwich to their grandma." She slid the pretzels down the table toward me and said, "I'm Rosa, and you can have some if you want."

When I finally looked up, nobody was looking at my tray or my shoes, because they were all looking at Lena, who was shaking her head and grinning.

"He used three stamps," Lena said, holding up three fingers, "and he still thinks it should have worked."

I took a pretzel, and it was the first thing all morning that I didn't have to think about. Maybe the first lunch doesn't decide everything, I thought. Or maybe it just did.

1. Who tells this story, and from which point of view?

A. The narrator tells it in second person, speaking to the reader as *you*.

B. The new student tells it in first person, using *I* and *me*.

C. Rosa tells it in first person, using *I* and *me*.

D. An outside narrator tells it in third person, using *she* and *they*.

2. The narrator says, "The first lunch decides everything." What does this belief show about the narrator?

A. The narrator has never been a new student before.

B. Changing schools so often has made the narrator worry about fitting in.

C. The narrator does not care where anyone sits.

D. The narrator thinks lunch is the most important meal of the day.

3. Read this sentence from the scene: "The room was a giant fish tank, and every other fish already knew which way to swim." What does it reveal about how the narrator sees the cafeteria?

A. The cafeteria has a large fish tank by the window.

B. The narrator feels calm, like a fish floating in water.

C. Everyone else seems to know where to go, but the narrator feels lost.

D. The cafeteria smells like fish and needs to be cleaned.

4. Which two details show how uncomfortable the narrator feels when the girls start laughing? Select two.

☐ A. "they were all looking at Lena, who was shaking her head and grinning"

☐ B. "I stared at my tray and counted the peas"

☐ C. "My face went hot."

☐ D. "I took a pretzel"

☐ E. "four girls were sharing a bag of pretzels"

5. Which words from the scene tell the narrator's thoughts instead of describing an action?

A. "I stood at the edge of the cafeteria, holding my tray with both hands."

B. "Here we go again, I thought."

C. "When I finally looked up"

D. "I took a pretzel"

6. When the girls laugh, the narrator thinks, "Day one, and I'm already the joke." What does the rest of the scene show about this thought?

A. It was wrong, because the girls were laughing at a video on a phone.

B. It was right, because Rosa tells the narrator to find another seat.

C. It was wrong, because the girls were laughing at Lena's story.

D. It was right, because the girls were laughing at the narrator's shoes.

7. Suppose Rosa told this scene instead of the new student. What would the reader find out sooner?

A. Which table the new student will sit at in June

B. Why the four girls burst out laughing

C. What the new student was thinking while counting the peas

D. Why the new student's family keeps moving

8. The scene ends: "Maybe the first lunch doesn't decide everything, I thought. Or maybe it just did." How does this ending fit with the rest of the scene?

A. It shows that the narrator is sure another move is coming soon.

B. It shows that the narrator still feels like the joke of the table.

C. It shows the narrator starting to feel hopeful after expecting the worst.

D. It shows that the narrator plans to sit somewhere else tomorrow.