Name _____ Date _____

Dramatic Irony: What the Reader Knows

Directions: Read the scene. Keep track of what you know that Rafi does not. Then answer each question.

Rafi's Birthday

At four o'clock, Rafi's older sister, Amara, sent a text to six of his closest friends: *Cake is hidden in the dryer. Everyone at our house by 5:30. Jonah, keep him busy until then!* Within a minute, all six friends had answered, promising to be there on time.

Across town, Rafi sat on the edge of a ramp at the skate park, scowling at his phone while the afternoon light faded behind the bleachers. It was his birthday, and not one person had said a word about it all day, not even Amara, who usually woke him up by singing a terrible song outside his bedroom door.

"Want to head home?" Jonah asked, glancing at the time for the fourth time in ten minutes before quickly changing his mind. "Actually, never mind, let's do one more run."

Rafi narrowed his eyes and asked why Jonah kept looking at his phone.

"No reason," Jonah said, a little too quickly. "My mom wants me to buy milk later, or something like that."

"Whatever," Rafi said, getting to his feet and brushing the dust off his jeans. "I'm going to the library, since nobody at my house remembers what day it is anyway."

Jonah's face went pale, because the library was on the far side of town from Rafi's house and stayed open until eight o'clock, long after the cake was supposed to come out of the dryer. "How about I walk you home instead?" he asked, his voice cracking slightly.

Rafi shrugged, tucked his skateboard under his arm and started toward the gate. "Fine, but if anyone at my house even mentions birthdays, I'm going straight to my room."

Jonah turned away so that Rafi wouldn't see him grin.

1. What does the reader learn in the first paragraph that Rafi does not know?

A. Jonah's mom needs milk for dinner.

B. His sister and friends are secretly getting ready to celebrate his birthday at his house.

C. Amara has forgotten that it is Rafi's birthday.

D. The library closes early on weekends.

2. As he sits at the skate park, Rafi thinks that "not one person had said a word about it all day" on his birthday. How does what the reader knows change the way this thought comes across?

A. The reader learns that Rafi is lying about his birthday.

B. The reader knows people did remember, so Rafi's disappointment rests on a mistake.

C. The reader agrees that everyone forgot about his birthday.

D. The reader thinks Amara is angry at Rafi.

3. Jonah keeps checking the time, and when Rafi asks why, he says that his mom wants him to buy milk, "or something like that." Why is this moment funny to the reader?

A. The reader knows that Jonah wants to go to the library.

B. The reader thinks Jonah is bored with skating.

C. The reader knows that Jonah is stalling to keep Rafi busy until 5:30.

D. The reader knows that Jonah is late for a dentist appointment.

4. Rafi announces, "I'm going to the library," as he gets to his feet. Why does this create suspense for the reader?

A. The reader is worried that the library will be closed.

B. The reader thinks Rafi will get lost on the way.

C. The reader knows that Rafi's library books are overdue.

D. The reader knows that a trip across town could ruin the surprise waiting at his house.

5. Which two details show Jonah reacting to Amara's plan or trying to protect it? Select two.

☐ A. "Rafi narrowed his eyes"

☐ B. "let's do one more run"

☐ C. "tucked his skateboard under his arm"

☐ D. "scowling at his phone"

☐ E. "Jonah's face went pale"

6. Rafi warns that "if anyone at my house even mentions birthdays, I'm going straight to my room." Why is this line funny to the reader?

A. It shows that Rafi refuses to go home.

B. It shows that Rafi dislikes his family.

C. It shows that Rafi has figured out the plan.

D. The reader knows a whole celebration is waiting for him at his house.

7. The scene ends: "Jonah turned away so that Rafi wouldn't see him grin." What does this ending show?

A. Jonah is embarrassed that he forgot Rafi's birthday.

B. Jonah thinks Rafi's skateboard looks silly.

C. Jonah plans to trick Rafi into going to the library.

D. Jonah is hiding his excitement about the celebration waiting at Rafi's house.

8. Suppose the scene had not started with Amara's text. How would the reader's experience change?

A. The reader would share Rafi's gloom at first and learn about the surprise only partway through.

B. The reader would know even more than Jonah does.

C. The scene would be more suspenseful, because the reader would know the plan.

D. Nothing about the reader's experience would change.