Name _____ Date _____

Comparing Two Characters and Theme: The Twins' Science Fair

Directions: Read the story about twins at a science fair. Use details from the story to answer.

The Twins' Science Fair

The science fair was three days away, and the twins had their question: which paper bridge can hold the most pennies?

Anya wrote a plan before she touched a single sheet. Each bridge would cross the same gap between two books. Pennies would go on one at a time. Every count would go in her notebook, and every bridge would be tested three times.

Theo lasted about ten minutes. "We already know the folded one wins," he groaned. "Can we try something new?" While Anya counted, he pleated a sheet into tight zigzags, like a paper fan, and set it across the books. It held so many pennies that he ran out.

"That is not on the plan," Anya said.

"The plan is boring," said Theo.

On fair day, the zigzag bridge sat in the middle of their table. A judge pointed at it. "How many pennies does this one hold?"

"Tons," Theo said. The judge waited. Anya opened her notebook, but the row for the zigzag bridge was empty.

Theo's ears turned red. Anya took a breath. "We can find out right now," she said. "Three tests."

Theo was already folding. His fingers flew, and three new bridges stood ready before Anya had found her pencil. She stacked the pennies and counted out loud. For once he kept quiet and watched the numbers go down on the page.

"Your notebook needed my bridge," Theo whispered.

"Your bridge needed my notebook," Anya whispered back.

1. Which theme does "The Twins' Science Fair" best support?
   A. The fastest worker on a team deserves the most credit.
   B. Careful planning always matters more than a clever new idea.
   C. A brother and sister should never share a single project.
   D. Two different ways of working can do more together than either can alone.

2. How do the twins differ in the way they start the project?

A. Anya writes a plan first, and Theo wants to try something new.

B. Anya writes a plan first, and Theo copies it into his own notebook.

C. Anya asks a judge for the rules, and Theo reads them aloud.

D. Anya builds the first bridge, and Theo counts the pennies.

3. Anya likes to work in a careful, steady way. Which detail from the story is an example of this?

A. She plans to test every bridge three times.

B. She tapes the books down so that they cannot slide.

C. She measures each sheet of paper with a ruler.

D. She weighs the pennies before she uses them.

4. What do Theo's actions show about him when the plan bores him?

A. He would rather watch Anya than build anything.

B. He would rather copy an idea from a book.

C. He would rather invent something than repeat a test.

D. He would rather quit than lose the science fair.

5. At the fair, the twins react in different ways to the judge's question. Which two details from the story show how they react? Select two.

☐ A. Theo answers with a guess.

☐ B. Theo hides the bridge under the table.

☐ C. Anya looks in her notebook for the number.

☐ D. Theo reads the answer from a chart.

☐ E. Anya tells the judge to ask Theo.

6. How are the twins alike at the end of the story?

A. Each one decides to enter the fair alone next year.

B. Each one wishes that the old plan had never changed.

C. Each one sees that the project needed what the other one did.

D. Each one thinks the judge asked an unfair question.

7. By the end, Theo respects the way Anya works. Which detail does the story give to show his respect?

A. He asks her to check each one of his folds.

B. He keeps quiet and watches the numbers go down on the page.

C. He offers to copy all of her notes over neatly.

D. He tells the judge that the whole plan was hers.